

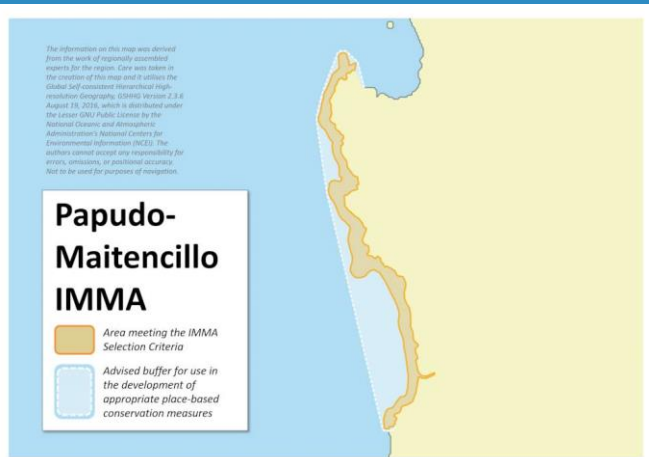
Papudo-Maitencillo IMMA

Description:

Papudo-Maitencillo is a zone located near a coastal upwelling centre that generates high primary productivity (Rutllant & Montecino, 2002). The IMMA encompasses habitat on the coastline on the mainland as well as Cachagua Island. This island and the waters between Bahía de Quintero and Cachagua have protected status as the “Cachagua Island National Monument”. The monument is administered by the National Forestry Corporation (CONAF), which prohibits the presence of people on the island. The marine otter is one of the marine mammal species that can be found in this area, with its activities confined to an area not wider than 50 m on land and 150 m offshore (Medina et al., 2007).

Criterion A: Species or Population Vulnerability

The marine otter is classified as Endangered (EN) on the IUCN Red List of threatened species (Valqui & Rheingantz, 2021) and also by the Chilean Regulation for the Classification of the Wild Species in Conservation Categories (clasificacionespecies.mma.gob.cl) on the basis of inferred future population decline due to habitat loss and other threats (Valqui & Rheingantz, 2021). In Chile, this species is subject to several threats including habitat loss, bycatch in artisanal fisheries and lethal attacks by dogs. Habitat loss in particular has fragmented otter populations (Medina-Vogel et al., 2008; Vianna et al., 2010). More than 30 dead marine otters have been found in the IMMA in the last ten years, most of them killed by dogs or with other evidence of trauma (Frederick Toro, Pers.Comm). Presently there is very little enforcement of the



Area Size

12 km²

Qualifying Species and Criteria

Marine otter – *Lontra felina*

Criterion A; B (2)

Marine Mammal Diversity

Grampus griseus, *Otaria byronia*

Summary

The Papudo-Maitencillo IMMA is located near a coastal upwelling zone that generates high primary productivity. This area is composed of a portion of coastline on the mainland and the protected Cachagua Island. This area is justified for its importance to the marine otter (*Lontra felina*), which is Endangered (EN) on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, as well as under domestic Chilean Regulation. Isla Cachagua hosts the highest density of otters in central Chile and is therefore important habitat for the species. The marine otter is expected to decline in the future due to habitat loss and other threats. There are few protection measures in place for marine otters in Chile.

measures to protect marine otters in the area of Papudo-Maitencillo.

Criterion B: Distribution and Abundance

Sub-criterion B2: Aggregations

The islands of Cachagua and the Quirilluca coastline have the highest densities of marine otters in the IMMA (Oliva et al., 2016). The greatest concentration of otters is in the vicinity of the Isla Cachagua (Oliva et al., 2016). However, the mainland coast opposite Cachagua Island also seems to represent an important habitat for this species (Gutiérrez et al., 2019). Since the home range described for this species is less than 4.5 km, the species will most likely be resident in the IMMA (Medina et al., 2007). An average density of 2.8 – 0.5 marine otters per km (range : 2.0 – 3.5 ind/km) has been estimated in the IMMA (Javier, Trivelli, and Chinchimen, unpublished data).

Supporting Information

Gutiérrez, L., Vargas, F., Pinto, P., Troncoso, W., Santos-Carvalho, M. and Sepúlveda, M. 2019. 'Impact of human activity on area use and activity patterns of the marine otter (*Lontra felina*) in central Chile'. Latin American Journal of Aquatic Research 47(1),122-128.

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Acknowledgements

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MARINE MAMMAL
PROTECTED AREAS
TASK FORCE



Bundesministerium
für Umwelt, Naturschutz,
Bau und Reaktorsicherheit



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PDF made available for download at
<https://www.marinemammalhabitat.org/portfolio-item/papudo-maitencillo-imma/>