

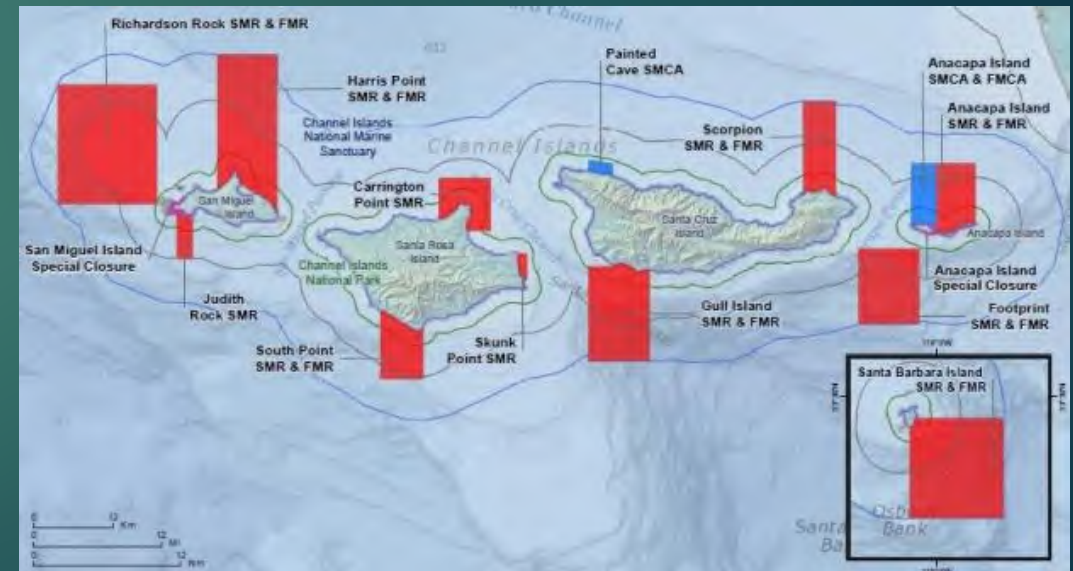
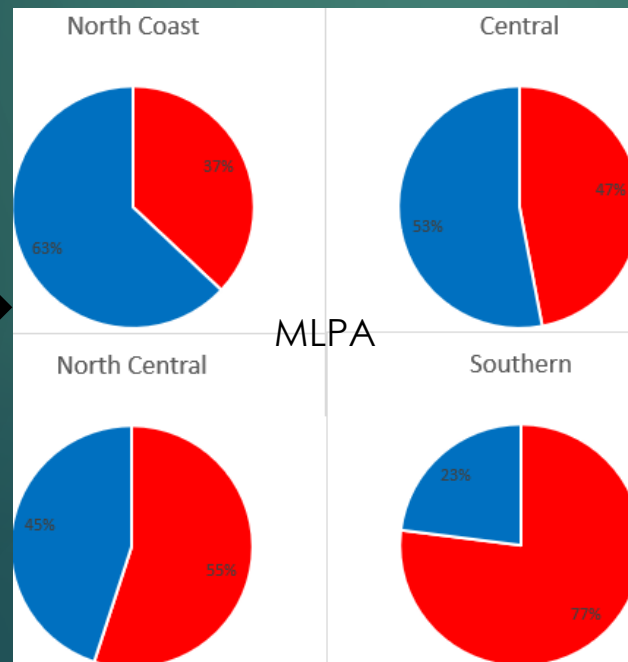
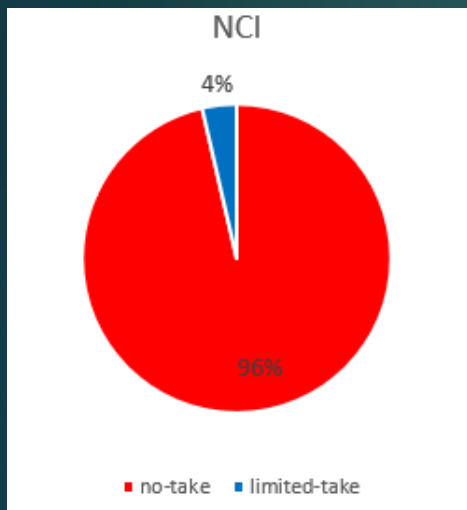


Breaking down Petition2023-15MPA

MLPA ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT OF THE NORTHERN CHANNEL ISLANDS

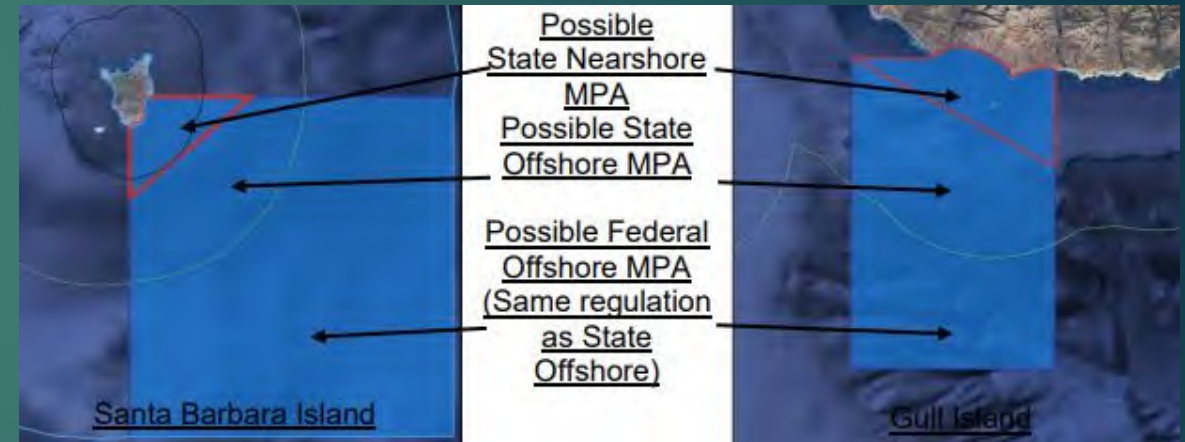
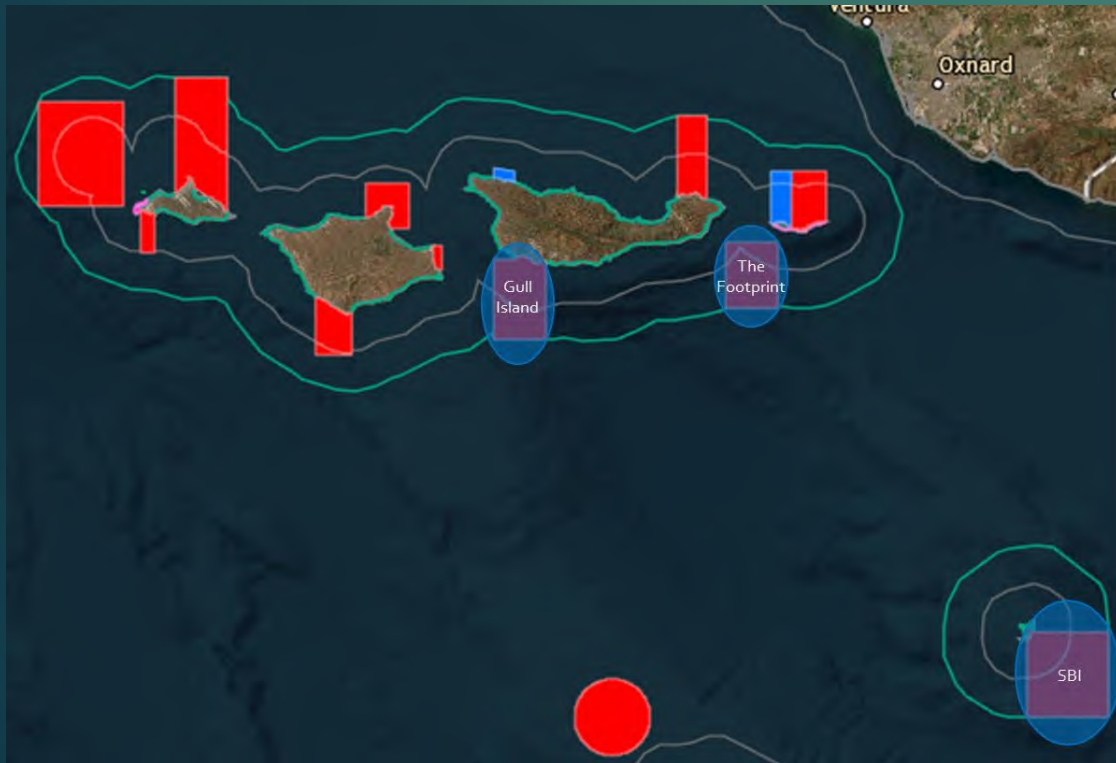
A Brief Overview: The Problem

- ▶ The Problem: Lack of limited take SMCAs and the NCI
- ▶ A clear adaptive management shift is present between the NCI designation process (2000-2002) and the coastal MLPA (2008-2012)
- ▶ This shift reflects the evolution of MPA design under Adaptive Management.



A Brief Overview: The Solution

- ▶ Pelagic or Highly Migratory Species take in, at most, three NCI MPAs
 - ▶ Hook-and-line, spear, and harpoon gears proposed
 - ▶ Amendments acknowledging concerns:
 - ▶ Retaining a High LOP under the MLPA and MPA Guide.



Level of Protection	MPA Types	Activities associated with this protection level
Very high	SMR	No take
High	SMCA	Coastal pelagic finfish and bonito (pelagic seine, dip net); pelagic finfish, bonito and white seabass (spearfishing); market squid (pelagic seine, dip net); jumbo squid (H&L-squid jigs); swordfish (harpoon); In water depth > 50m: pelagic finfish, bonito and white seabass (H&L);

MLPA LOP Framework (Southern Bioregion)

MLPA Protection Thresholds

- ▶ The MLPA does not require 'Very High' LOPs to meet ecosystem or connectivity goals.
- ▶ The petition's proposal still maintains a protection level that retains all functional protections under the MLPA guidelines.
 - ▶ 'Very High' to 'High.'
- ▶ An LOP change from 'Very High' to 'High' has:
 - ▶ No loss of ecosystem protection function
 - ▶ No loss in connectivity under the MLPA
- ▶ **Reduction in classification ≠ Demonstrated ecological protection or connectivity loss**

Ecosystem protections and connectivity maintained

Ecosystem protections and connectivity lost

	Level of Protection	MPA Types
	Very high	SMR
	High	SMCA
	Mod-high	SMCA
	Moderate	SMCA SMP
	Mod-low	SMCA SMP
	Low	SMCA SMP

MPA Function

- ▶ *“While the petitioner offers some take options to allow these MPAs to maintain their replicate status (e.g., nearshore limited take zones), they would no longer offer the highest levels of protection or serve their designed function in the MPA Network as SMRs/FMRs.”*
-CDFW review of 2023-15MPA
- ▶ These MPAs’ “designed function” is clear under the MLPA:
 - ▶ Follow the MLPA and Master Plan Objectives.
 - ▶ Ideally, achieve ecosystem level protection and connectivity of an MPA and MPA network respectively.
- ▶ All MPA functions remains intact under the MLPA ecosystem and connectivity objectives as defined in the MLPA and Master Plan.
- ▶ MPA Master Plan (2016) Goal 2, Objective 4:
 - ▶ *“Protect selected species and the habitats on which they depend while allowing some commercial and/or recreational harvest of migratory, highly mobile, or other species...”*

Interpreting Adaptive Management Under the DMR

- ▶ QUESTION 2A: DOES THE PROPOSED CHANGE ADVANCE ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE DECADAL MANAGEMENT REVIEW?
- ▶ “No. None of the options the petitioner proposes advance adaptive management recommendations from the Decadal Management Review (DMR). See Question 2a of Attachment 1 for the Decadal Management Review and adaptive management Recommendations.” –CDFW
- ▶ It must be noted, the DMR includes recommendations that support evaluating limited take in areas where it may be compatible with ecological protection, specifically around pelagic or highly migratory species.

Question 2a: Does the proposed change advance adaptive management recommendations in the Decadal Management Review?

Decadal Management Review

Adaptive Management Recommendations ←

Regulatory and Review Framework

4. Apply what is learned from the first Decadal Management Review to support proposed changes to the MPA Network and Management Program.

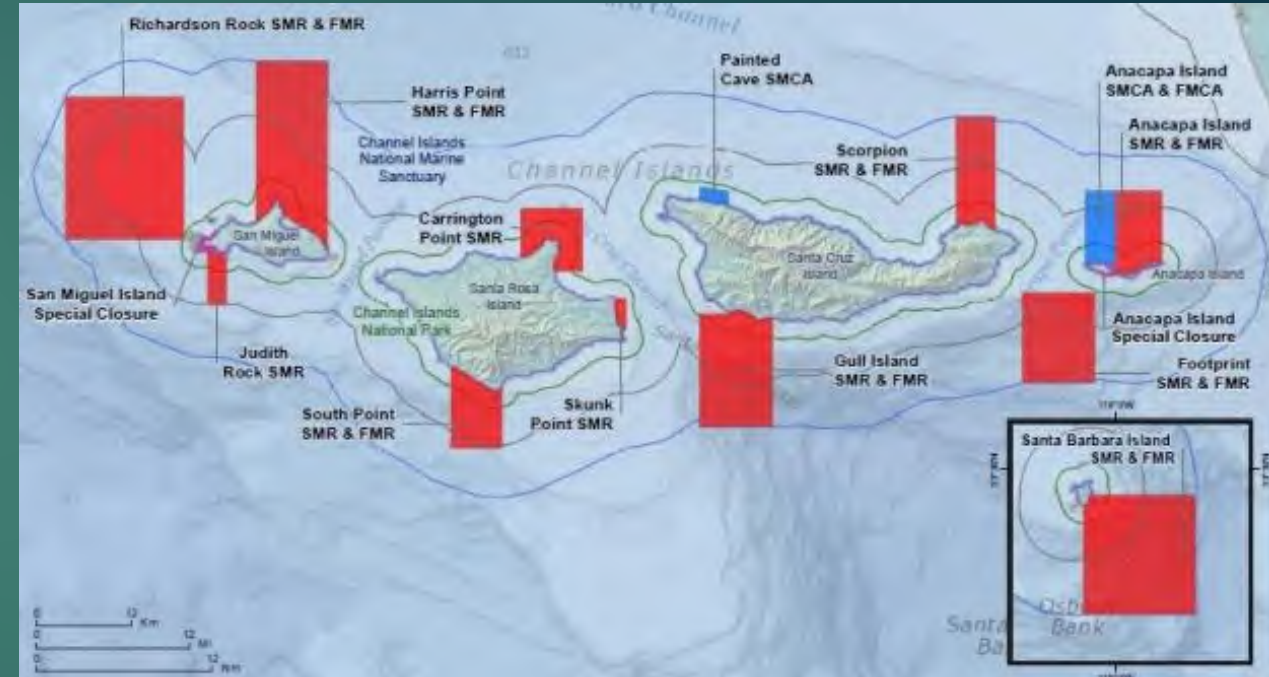
- Coordinate with CFGC to evaluate current and future proposed changes to Network design, individual MPAs, and current MPA Management Program priorities and policies in a manner consistent with the findings of this Review (see Appendix A for comprehensive recommendations list and Appendix G for outstanding petitions).
- Identify and utilize best science-based approaches to inform potential changes to the MPA Network in order to enhance Network performance.
- Coordinate with CDFW’s legislative office to remove obsolete sections of the Fish and Game Code concerning Marine Life and Fish Refuges to better align with updated designations in the Marine Managed Areas Improvement Act (MMAIA).

Regulatory and Review Framework

- Conduct annual engagement meetings with stakeholders to inform them about MPA Management Program activities that inform decadal reviews.
- Define clear management reporting goals, including the scale of reporting at the statewide, regional, or local scale.
- Ensure that adaptive management changes to individual MPAs and the MPA Network are evidence based.
- Simplify designations by changing no-take SMCA’s to SMR’s after maintenance of existing infrastructure is permitted.
- Return MPA fishing opportunities, especially in legacy fishing areas that were previously open to fishing.
- Allow take of migratory and pelagic species in MPAs that currently do not allow it.

The NCI beta-network

- ▶ The NCI process laid the foundation for the MLPA's LOP and conservation area balance
 - ▶ *"In these two cases, it was determined that the overall benefits of limited take status in these conservation areas might be studied in comparison to the overall benefits of no-take status in marine reserves."*
 - FEIS – CINMS Marine Zones (3.1.2.2)
 - ▶ Later, the MLPA SAT developed the LOP framework, stating a limited take of specifically pelagic species can still exceed the ecosystem protection goals set by the MLPA.
 - ▶ This is, by definition, new and relevant information that warrants reevaluation at the NCI under adaptive management.



Federal Overlap: CINMS

- ▶ Acknowledging the management challenges
- ▶ An “all or nothing” approach
- ▶ CINMS participation based on eventual results of the petition process
 - ▶ Waiting periods can be allotted to make any State/Federal changes at the same time



In Closing

- ▶ Petition2023-15 has been refined to only warrant changes that retain a 'High' Level of protection, maintaining connectivity, and ecosystem level protections
- ▶ Displays a clear adaptive management case at the NCI, evidenced by the coastal MLPA process itself new information not present during the NCI process, the MLPA LOP framework.
- ▶ A final question...

