

# **California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group**

## **MPA Package 0 (Existing MPAs)**

**Map: North Central Coast Study Region**

**Map: South Central Coast Study Region**

**Staff Summary of Area and Habitats**

*Updated January 23, 2006*

# CCRSG Package 0: South Central Coast Study Region

## Marine Life Protection Act

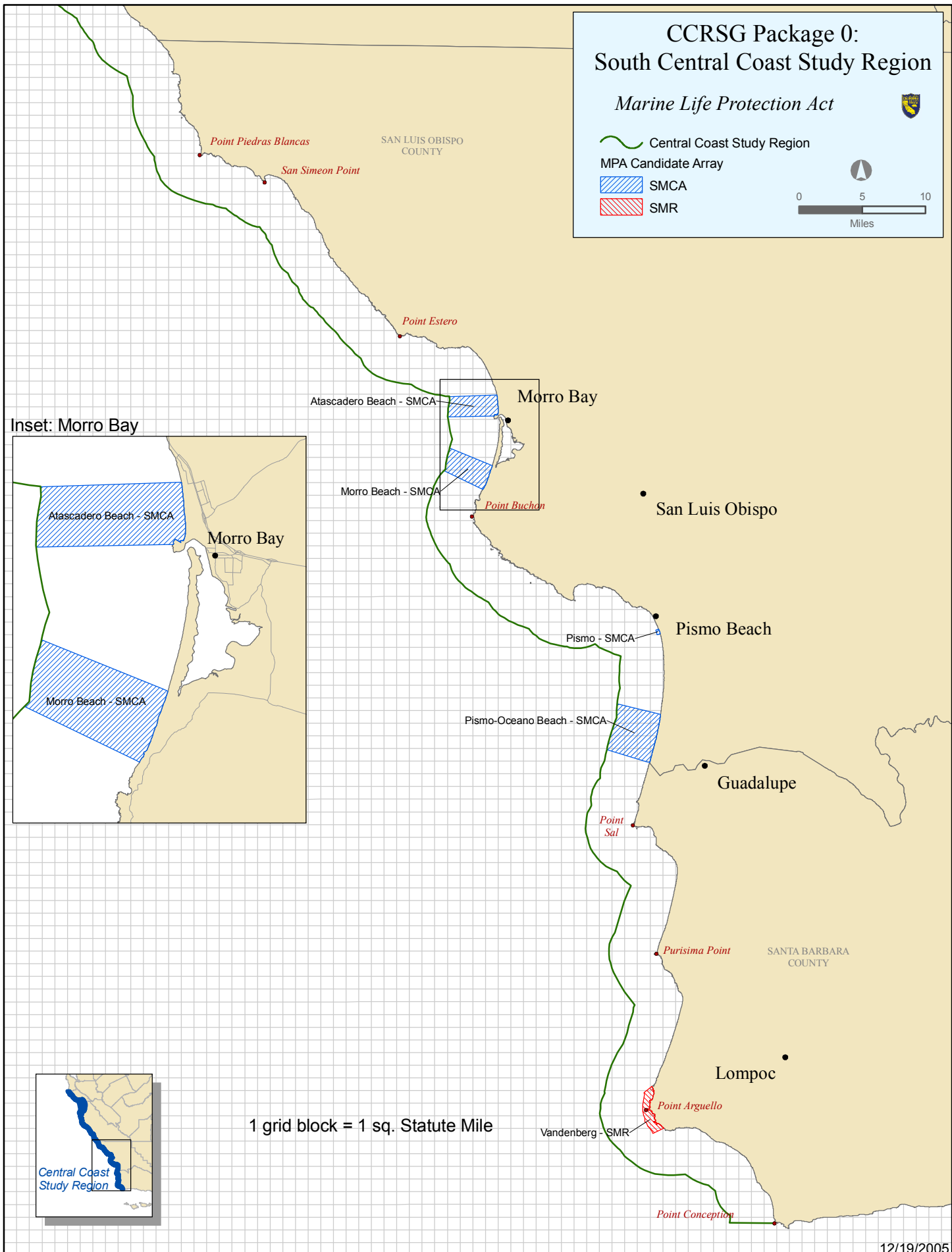
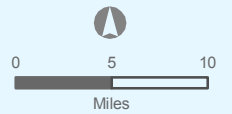


Central Coast Study Region

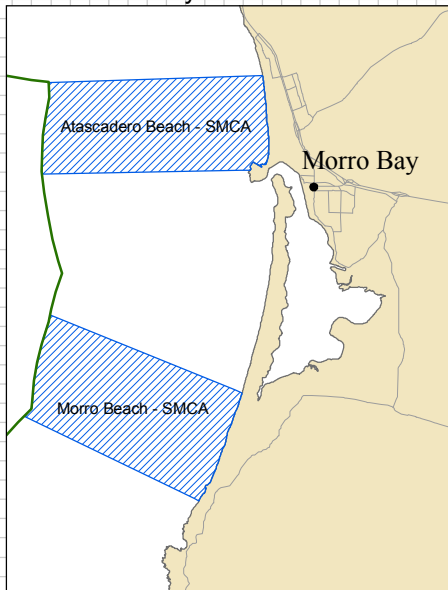
MPA Candidate Array

SMCA

SMR



Inset: Morro Bay



1 grid block = 1 sq. Statute Mile



**Marine Life Protection Act Initiative  
Central Coast Project  
Staff Summary of Area and Habitats in Package 0  
January 23, 2006**

**Overall Summary for Package 0 (Existing Central Coast MPAs, 2005)**

Type of MPA	# Proposed	Area (mi <sup>2</sup> )	% of Study Region
<b>Special Closure (SC)</b>	1	2.20 mi <sup>2</sup>	0.19%
<b>State Marine Reserve (SMR)</b>	5	7.45 mi <sup>2</sup>	0.65%
<b>State Marine Park (SMP)</b>	0	0.00 mi <sup>2</sup>	0.00%
<b>State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA)</b>	7	33.50 mi <sup>2</sup>	2.91%
<b>All MPAs combined</b>	13	43.15 mi <sup>2</sup>	3.75%

**Individual MPAs in Package 0 (Existing Central Coast MPAs)**

MPA Name	Size (mi <sup>2</sup> )	Along-shore span (mi)	Depth range (ft)
Ano Nuevo SC (*)	2.20 mi <sup>2</sup>	5.52 mi	0-55 ft
Elkhorn Slough SMR	1.36 mi <sup>2</sup>	3.16 mi	0-10 ft
Hopkins SMR	0.15 mi <sup>2</sup>	0.52 mi	3-71 ft
Pacific Grove SMCA (*)	1.54 mi <sup>2</sup>	3.45 mi	0-65 ft
Carmel Bay SMCA (*)	2.80 mi <sup>2</sup>	3.11 mi	0-471 ft
Point Lobos SMR	1.19 mi <sup>2</sup>	1.96 mi	0-203 ft
Julia Pfeiffer Burns SMCA (*)	2.65 mi <sup>2</sup>	2.07 mi	3-628 ft
Big Creek SMR	2.27 mi <sup>2</sup>	2.19 mi	0-264 ft
Atascadero Beach SMCA (*)	6.33 mi <sup>2</sup>	1.61 mi	0-234 ft
Morro Beach SMCA (*)	6.82 mi <sup>2</sup>	1.96 mi	0-232 ft
Pismo SMCA (*)	0.08 mi <sup>2</sup>	0.38 mi	3-17 ft
Pismo-Oceano SMCA (*)	13.29 mi <sup>2</sup>	3.80 mi	0-133 ft
Vandenberg SMR	2.48 mi <sup>2</sup>	3.68 mi	3-65 ft

*Symbols following proposed MPA name indicate level of protection as determined by the Master Plan Science Advisory Team. (\*\*\*) indicates SMCA High, (\*\*) indicates SMCA Moderate, (\*) indicates SMCA Low, and (^) indicates SMP Low.*

### Habitat Representation in Package 0 (Existing Central Coast MPAs)

Habitat	Percentage of habitat in existing MPAs in study region <sup>1</sup>				
	SMR	SMP	SMCA	SC	Total MPAs
<b>Intertidal</b>					
Sandy or gravel beaches	2.36%	0.00%	6.45%	2.71%	11.51%
Rocky intertidal and cliff	7.99%	0.00%	6.07%	1.30%	15.36%
Coastal marsh	25.08%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.08%
Tidal flats	39.02%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	39.02%
<b>Seagrass beds (0-30m): Surfgrass</b>	6.05%	0.00%	7.34%	2.85%	16.23%
<b>Seagrass beds (0-30m): Eelgrass</b>	2.80%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	2.80%
<b>Estuary</b>	13.84%	0.00%	0.61%	0.00%	14.45%
<b>Soft bottom</b>					
0-30 meters	1.67%	0.00%	5.48%	0.70%	7.85%
30-100 meters	0.23%	0.00%	2.63%	0.00%	2.86%
100-200 meters	0.00%	0.00%	0.03%	0.00%	0.03%
>200 meters	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Hard bottom</b>					
0-30 meters	1.41%	0.00%	2.88%	0.45%	4.74%
30-100 meters	0.69%	0.00%	1.79%	0.00%	2.48%
100-200m	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
>200 meters	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Kelp forest</b>					
Average kelp ('89, '99, '02, '03)	3.35%	0.00%	6.23%	0.02%	9.61%
Persistent kelp	6.29%	0.00%	6.61%	0.00%	12.90%
<b>Submarine canyon</b>					
0-30 meters	0.00%	0.00%	31.86%	0.00%	31.86%
30-100 meters	0.00%	0.00%	1.58%	0.00%	1.58%
100-200 meters	0.00%	0.00%	0.17%	0.00%	0.17%
>200 meters	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

<sup>1</sup> Note: These are MPA designations, NOT levels of protection assigned by the SAT