

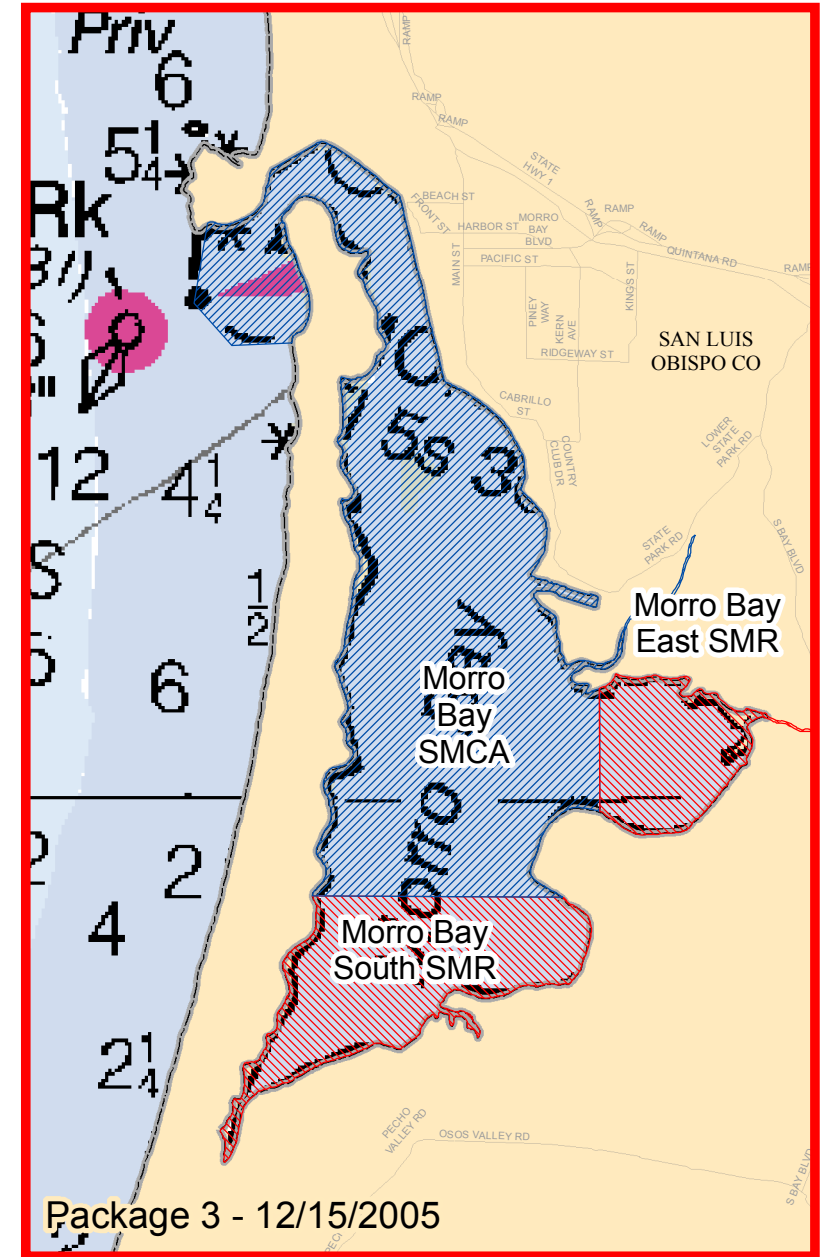
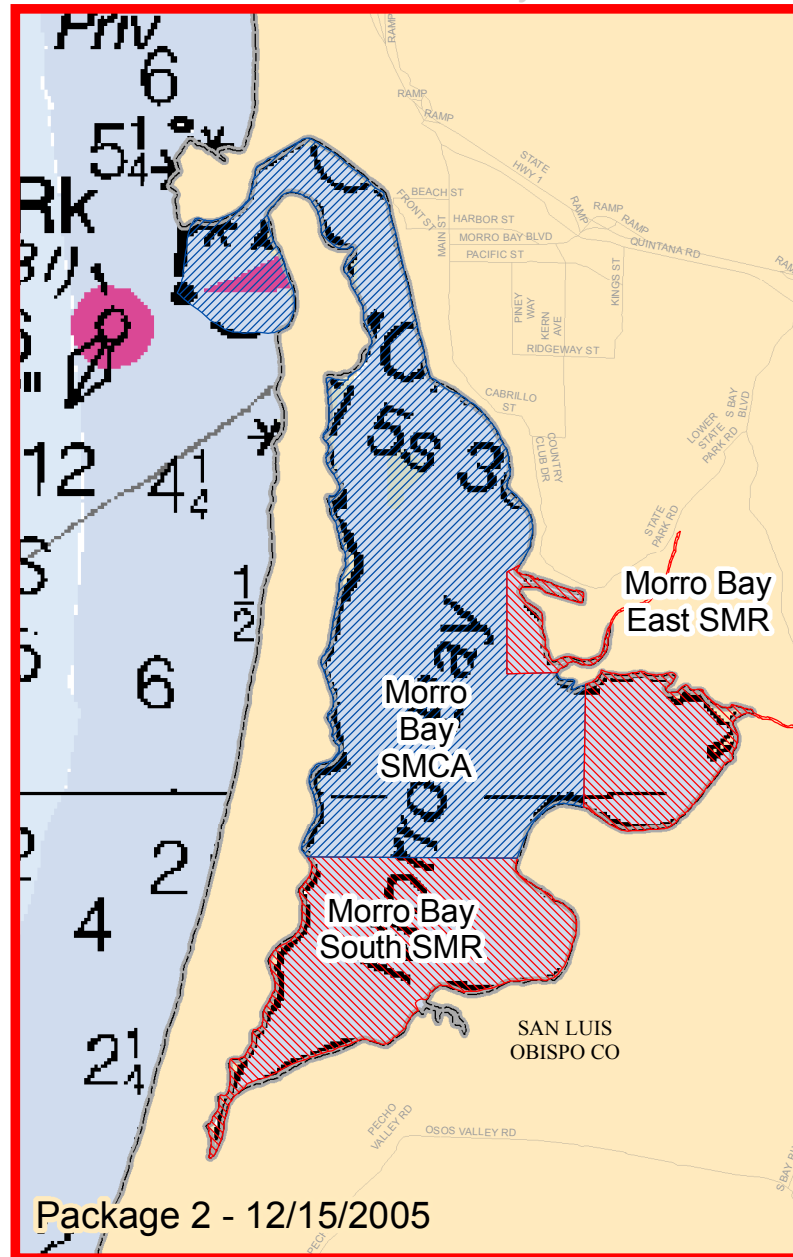
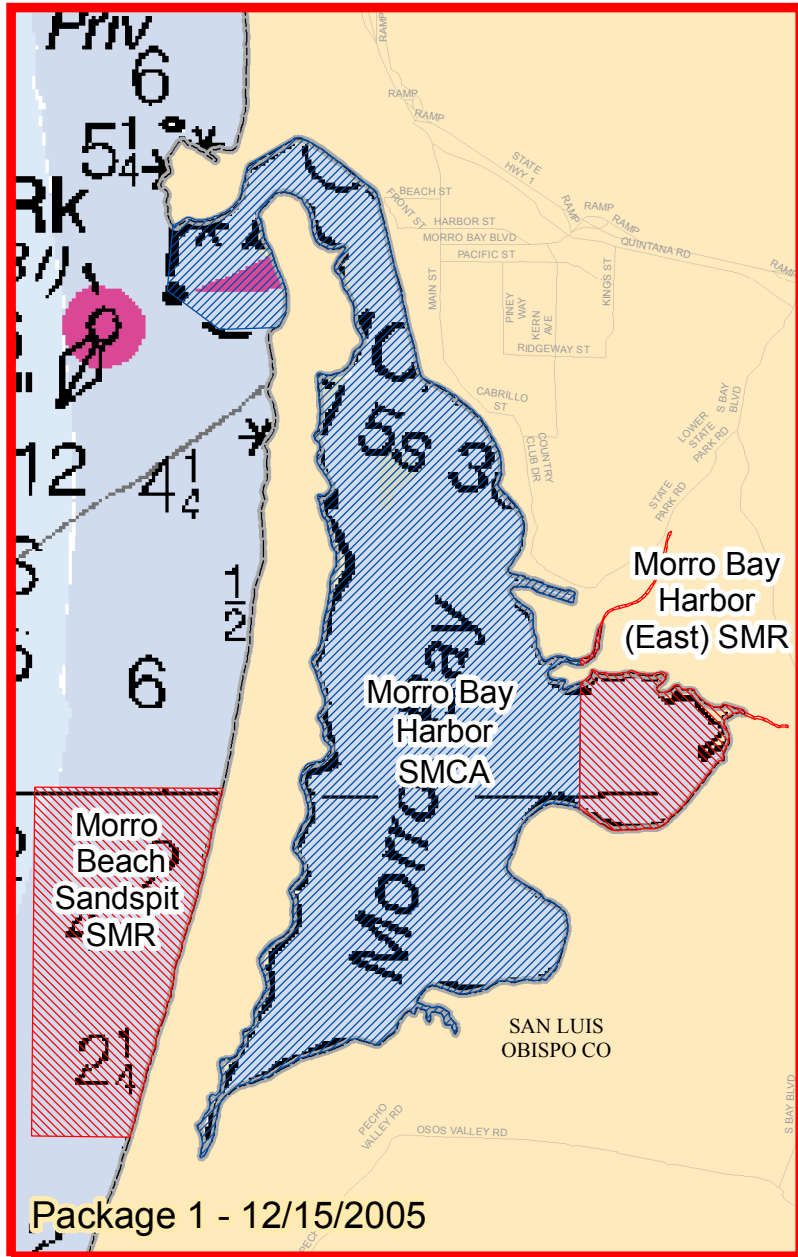
**California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
Central Coast Project**

**Side-by-Side Comparison of Regional MPA
Packages 1, 2, 3 and AC**

Subregion 6b: Morro Bay

MLPA Central Coast Study Region: Subregion 6 Inset

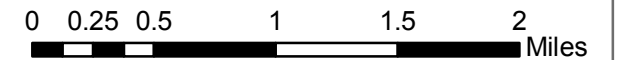
Morro Bay



A Comparison of Proposed MPA Packages 1, 2 and 3



Prepared by DFG
Marine Region GIS
1/18/2006



MLPA Central Coast Study Region: Subregion 6 Inset

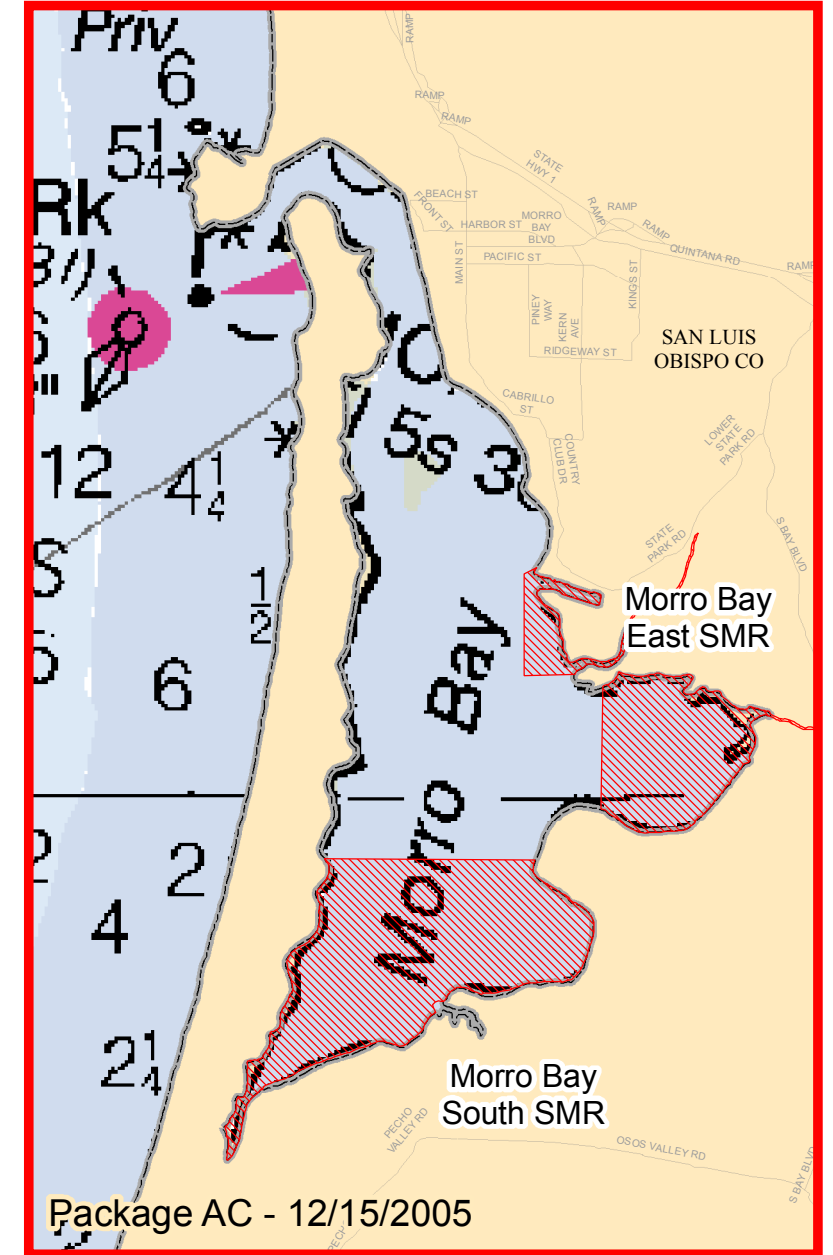
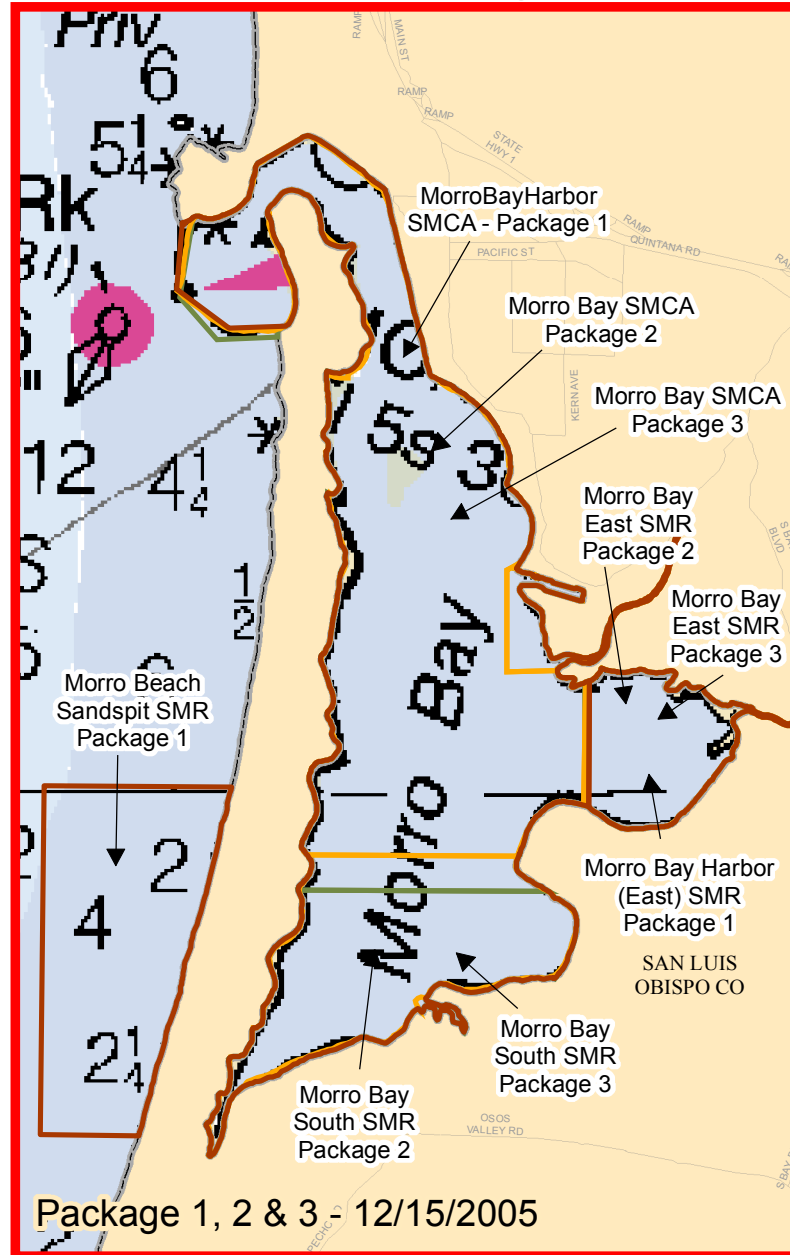
Morro Bay

Subregion 6 [inset]: Point Estero to Santa Maria River Areas of Convergence and Divergence among Packages 1, 2 and 3

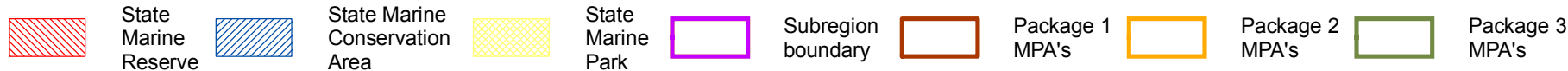
Morro Bay:

- **Convergence:** All packages propose greater protection for Morro Bay and include a SMCA in the central and northern part of the bay and a SMR in the eastern part of the bay.
- **Divergence:** Packages differ in designation for the southern part of Morro Bay. The main issue in the southern part of the bay is the tradeoff between ecological value (largest estuary in Central Coast study region with eelgrass beds, mudflats, marsh; nursery ground for flatfish and other species; important stop on the Pacific Flyway for Brants geese and other species) and fishing activities in the bay [recreational fishing, baitfish, mud shrimp, grass shrimp, and halibut fishing in the channel area ("shark alley")].

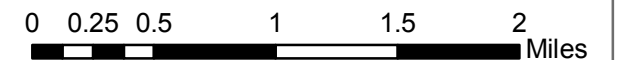
Divergence: Only Package 1 includes an SMR adjacent to the sandspit outside of Morro Bay. As described for subregion 6, this is part of an effort to protect Pismo clams and other invertebrates; however, Pismo clam populations are currently limited more by sea urchin predation than human harvest.



A Comparison of Proposed MPA Packages 1, 2, 3 and AC



Prepared by DFG
Marine Region GIS
1/18/2006



MLPA Central Coast Project: Proposed MPAs and Regulations in Packages 1, 2, 3 and AC

Subregion 6b (Morro Bay)

Package 1		Package 2		Package 3		Package AC	
MPA Name (Level of Protection)	Allowed/ Disallowed Uses	MPA Name (Level of Protection)	Allowed/ Disallowed Uses	MPA Name (Level of Protection)	Allowed/ Disallowed Uses	MPA Name (Level of Protection)	Allowed/ Disallowed Uses
Morro Bay Harbor State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA Low)	Recreational fishing allowed. Commercial oyster farming and bait receiving allowed. No commercial fishing.	Morro Bay State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA Low)	No commercial take. Mariculture allowed.	Morro Bay State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA Low)	Allows mariculture and recreational fishing		
		Morro Bay South State Marine Reserve (SMR)	No take.	Morro Bay South State Marine Reserve (SMR)	No take.	Morro Bay South State Marine Reserve (SMR)	No take.
Morro Bay Harbor East State Marine Reserve (SMR)	No commercial or recreational fishing permitted, including no take of invertebrates	Morro Bay East State Marine Reserve (SMR)	No take.	Morro Bay East State Marine Reserve (SMR)	No take.	Morro Bay East State Marine Reserve (SMR)	No take.
Morro Beach Sandspit State Marine Reserve (SMR)	No commercial or recreational fishing permitted, including take of invertebrates.						

SC = special closure, SMR = state marine reserve, SMP = state marine park, SMCA = state marine conservation area