

# Marine Life Protection Act Initiative



## **MLPA Staff and Master Plan Science Advisory Team Evaluation of MPA Packages Relative to MLPA Goal 3**

**Presentation to the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force  
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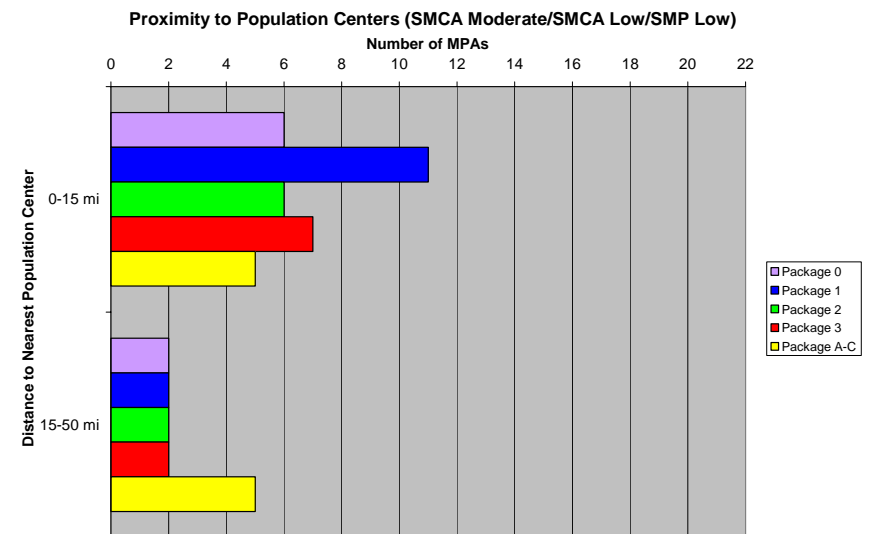
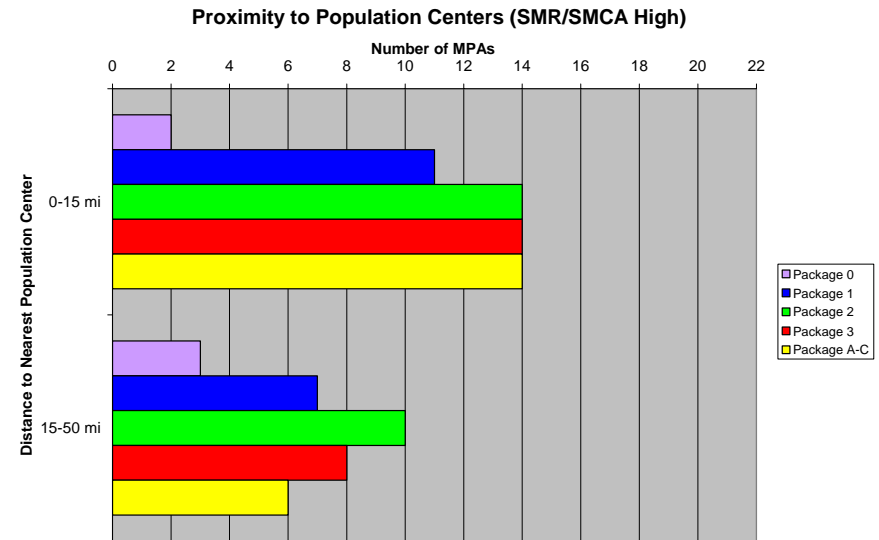
# MLPA Goal 3

- MLPA Goal 3: *“To improve recreational, educational, and study opportunities provided by marine ecosystems that are subject to minimal human disturbance, and to manage these uses in a manner consistent with protecting biodiversity.”* [Emphasis added]
- Approach of staff and SAT evaluation:
  - Recreational opportunities
    - Proximity of MPAs to major harbors and population centers
    - Stakeholder input and proponents’ rationale
  - Educational/study opportunities
    - SAT evaluation of habitat replication
    - Proximity of MPAs to major marine research institutions
    - Number of established monitoring sites inside MPAs

# Recreational Opportunities

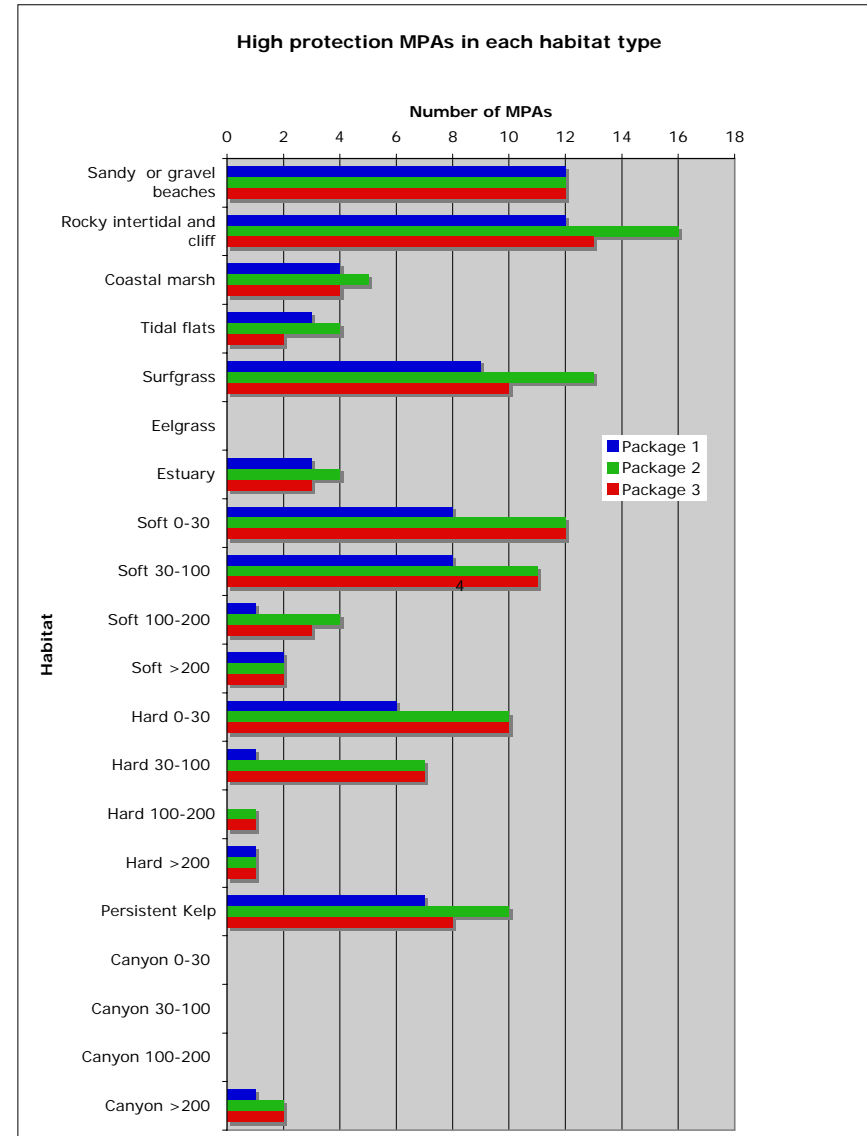


- Packages 2, 3 and AC have a few more high protection MPAs near ports and population centers.
- Package 1 has a few more low protection MPAs near ports and population centers.
- The numbers do not reflect user group concerns about highly valued sites (e.g. Monterey waterfront and Carmel Bay).
- Package 1 is generally preferred by consumptive users and Package 2 by non-consumptive users.



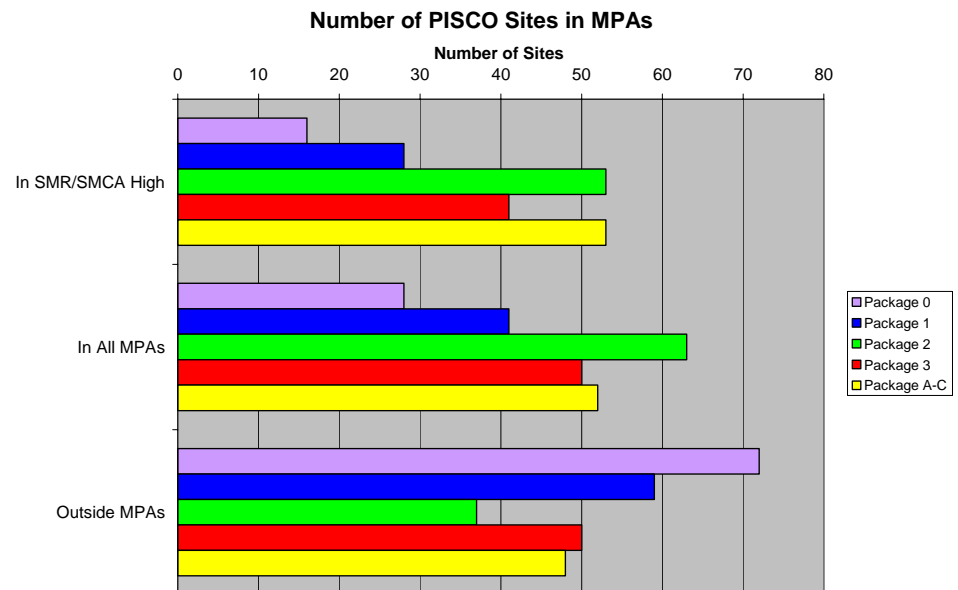
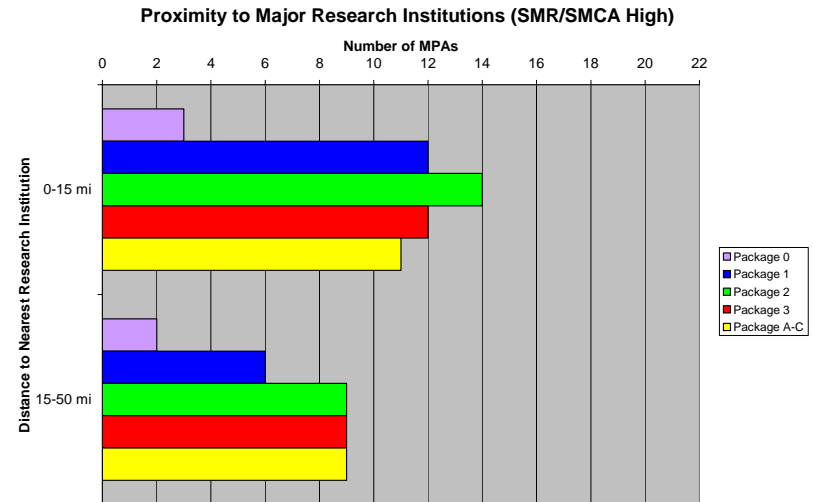
# Educational and Study Opportunities

- SAT Subteam Evaluation of Habitat Replication (S. Palumbi)
  - Packages have comparable replication of most habitats
  - All packages lack replication of some habitats, especially deepwater
- Staff Evaluation of Habitat Availability in Biogeographic Region
  - MLPA requirement for replication of all habitats in biogeographic region
  - Deepwater habitats (esp. >100m hard) and submarine canyons are *rare* in the rest of the *biogeographic region*
  - For those habitats, burden of replication falls on central coast



# Educational and Study Opportunities

- All packages have comparable number of high protection MPAs proposed near marine research institutions.
- Packages 2, 3 and AC have more established monitoring sites inside proposed MPAs than Package 1.





# Summary for MLPA Goal 3

- All packages provide improved recreational opportunities. Package 1 generally favored by consumptive users; Package 2 generally favored by non-consumptive users.
- All packages provide improved educational/study opportunities. Packages 2, 3 and AC include more established monitoring sites and propose expanding some well-studied SMRs.
- All packages lack replication of deepwater habitats that are rare outside the central coast study region