

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative



MLPA Staff and SAT Evaluation of MPA Packages Relative to MLPA Goal 3 and Replication of Habitats

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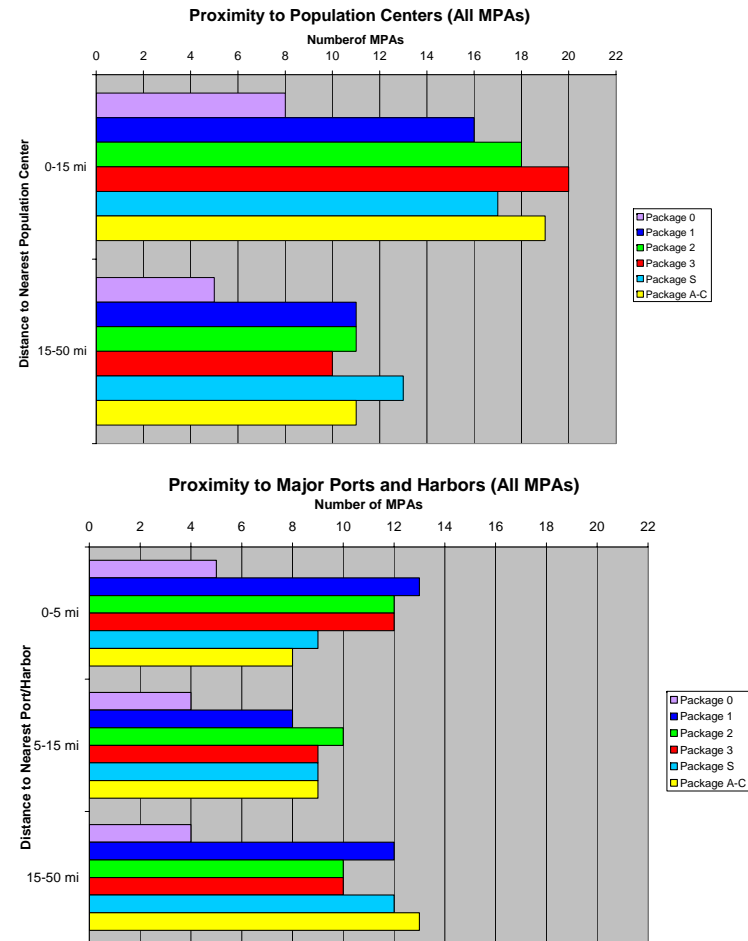
MLPA Goal 3

- 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 (also MLPA requirement)
 - Proximity of MPAs to major marine research institutions
 - Number of established monitoring sites inside MPAs



Recreational Opportunities

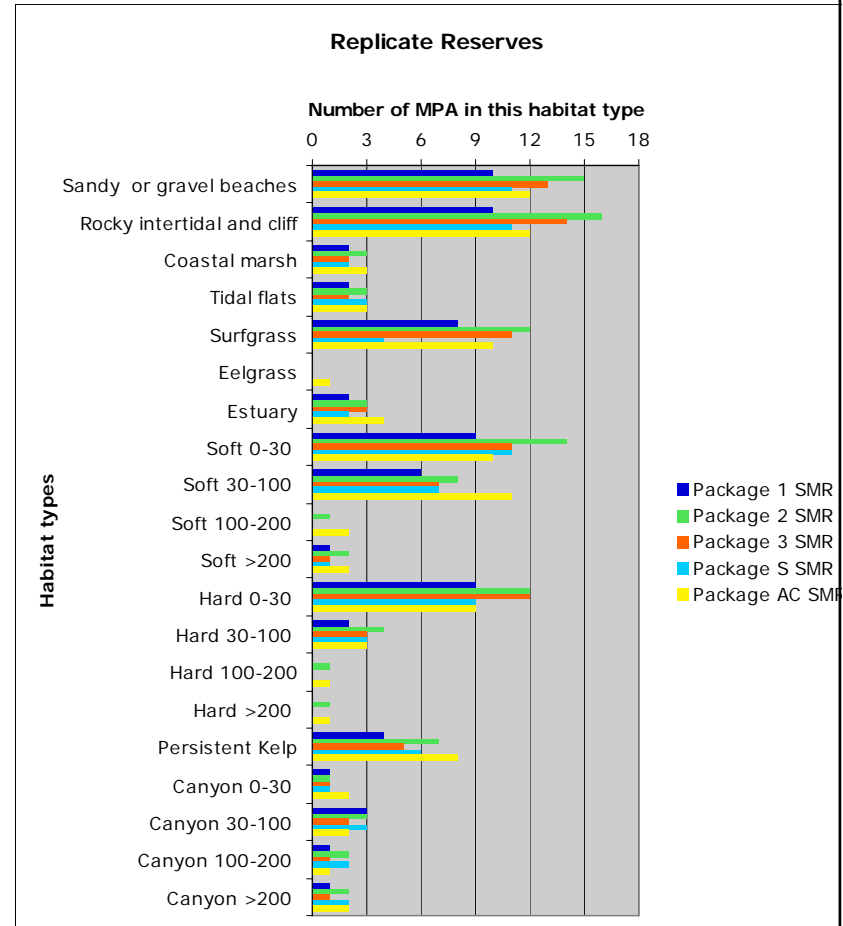
- Packages have comparable numbers of MPAs, including high protection MPAs, near population centers and ports.
- The numbers do not reflect user group concerns about differences among packages in highly valued sites (e.g. Monterey waterfront and Carmel Bay).
- Package 1 is generally preferred by consumptive users and Package 2 by non-consumptive users.





Educational/Study Opportunities and Habitat Replication

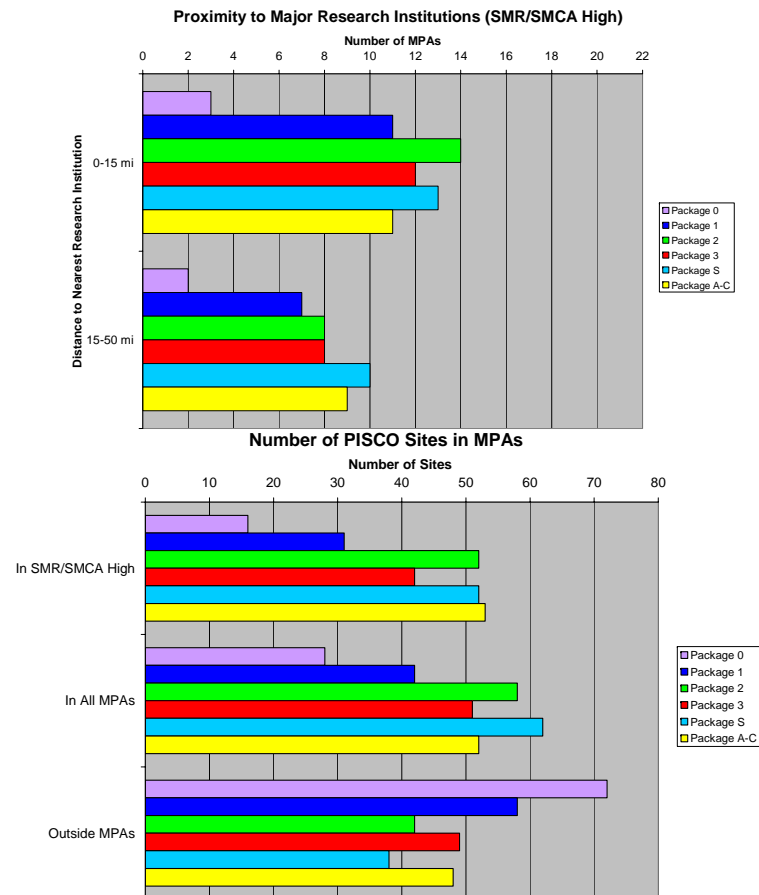
- SAT Subteam Evaluation of Habitat Replication (S. Palumbi)
 - Packages have comparable replication of most habitats
 - All packages lack replication of some habitats, especially deepwater habitats
- Staff Evaluation of habitats in SMRs (for biogeographical region)
 - Packages 2 and AC do best by having *at least 1* replicate of all habitats; other packages do not
 - Deepwater habitats and canyons *rare* in the rest of the *biogeographic region*; 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, S and AC have more established monitoring sites inside proposed MPAs than Package 1.





Summary for MLPA Goal 3 and Replication

- 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, S and AC include more established monitoring sites and propose expanding more well-studied SMRs than Package 1.
- All packages lack replication of some deepwater habitats that are rare outside the central coast study region