

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative



Evaluation of Existing MPAs in the MLPA South Coast Study Region

Evan Fox, Principal Planner, MLPA Initiative

Presentation to the MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group

October 7, 2008 • El Segundo, CA



Key Tasks of the Stakeholder Group

Charge of the MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group includes:

- Evaluate existing state marine protected areas (MPAs) in relation to the goals of the MLPA and other guidance
- Develop alternative proposals for state MPAs



Options for Existing MPAs

For each existing MPA, the regional stakeholder group may recommend to:

- **Retain** – Include MPA without modification
- **Eliminate** – Not include the MPA in a proposal
- **Modify** – Adjust MPA boundaries, designation, and/or regulations



MPA Designations - SMR

State Marine Reserve (SMR)

- In an SMR *“it is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource...”*

[Public Resources Code, Section 36710(a)]

- Prohibits all extractive activities



MPA Designations - SMP

State Marine Park (SMP)

- In an SMP *“it is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living or nonliving marine resource for commercial exploitation purposes.”*

[Public Resources Code, Section 36710(b)]

- Prohibits all commercial extractive activities and potentially some recreational extractive activities



MPA Designations - SMCA

State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA)

- In an SMCA *“it is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource for commercial or recreational purposes, or a combination of commercial and recreational purposes, that the designating entity or managing agency determines would compromise protection of the species of interest, natural community, habitat, or geological features.”*
[Public Resources Code, Section 36710(c)]
- Limits some recreational and/or commercial extractive activities.



Other Non-MPA Designations

State Marine Recreational Management Area (SMRMA)

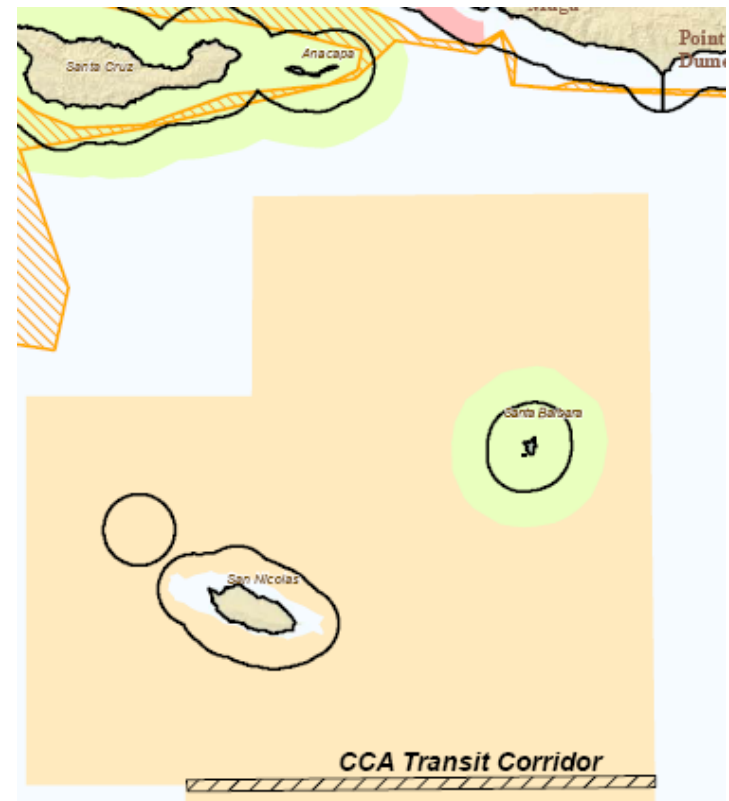
- Specified recreational opportunities may be protected, enhanced or restricted, while preserving basic resource values of the area.
[Public Resources Code, Section 36710(e)]
- In previous study regions, used in areas with waterfowl hunting

Special Closure

- Restricts access seasonally or year round to protect specific species
- In previous study regions used sparingly to provide protection for marine birds and mammals

Other Closures

- Considered in MPA planning by the regional stakeholder group
- Described/mapped in regional profile
- Not included within evaluation of existing state MPAs



Legend

- South Coast Study Region Boundary
- Intersection of recreational, trawl, and non-trawl Rockfish Conservation Areas
- CCA Transit Corridor
- Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary
- Cowcod Conservation Area (CCA)
- Halibut Trawl Grounds

Existing State Marine Protected Areas



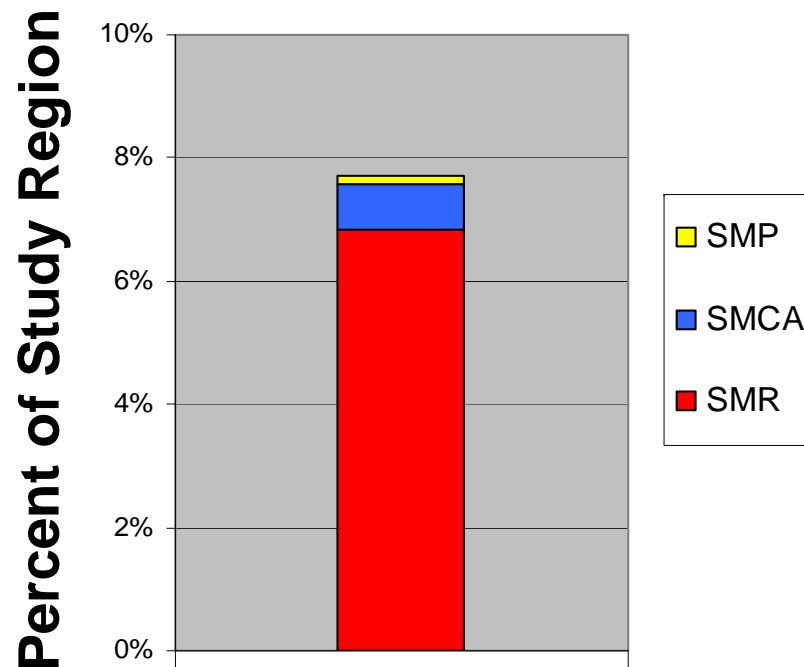
- 43 existing MPAs
 - 15 SMRs
 - 10 SMPs
 - 18 SMCAs
- Includes Channel Islands MPAs

Note: One existing MPA is shoreward of study region boundary

Existing State Marine Protected Areas



Existing MPAs in the South Coast Study Region

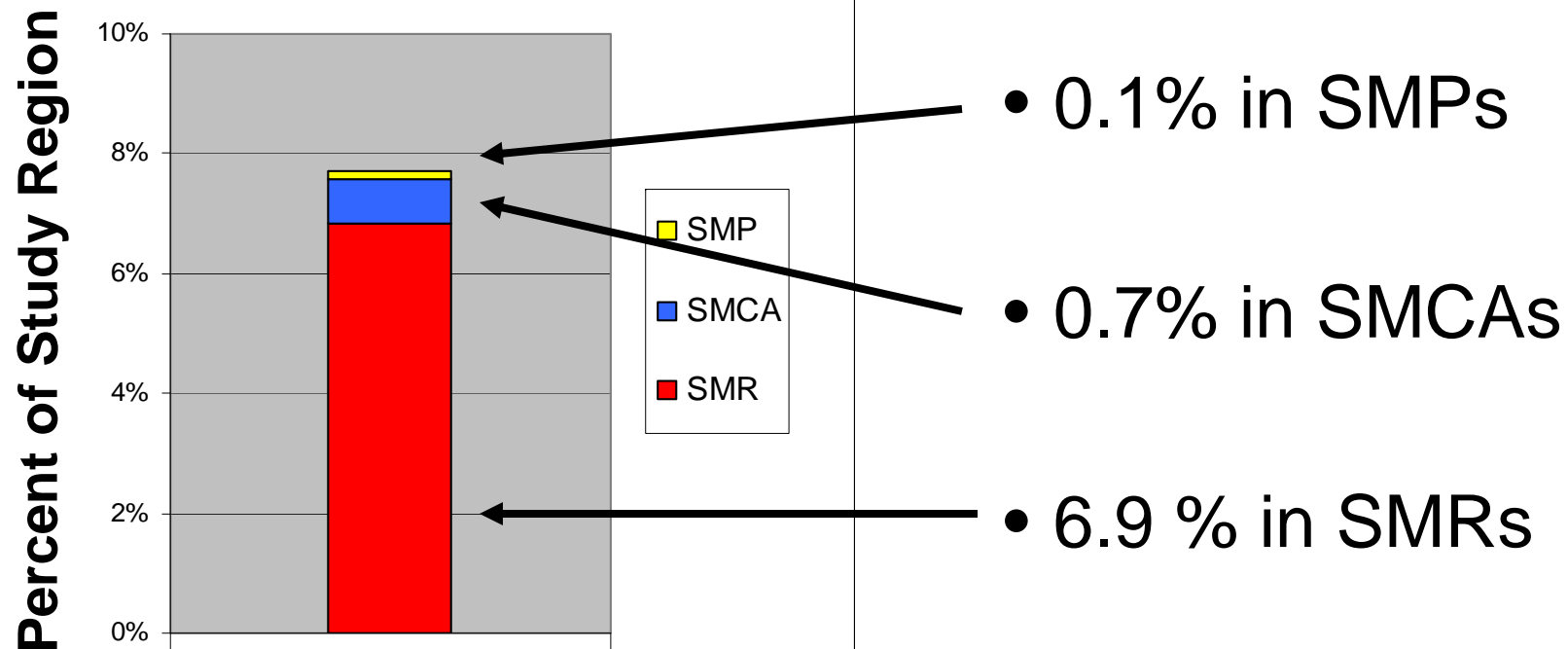


- 182 square miles (7.7% of study region)
- Largest is Richardson Rock SMR
- Smallest are Mia J Tegner and Lovers Cove SMCAs
- Also 3 existing special closures

Area Charts (by designation type)



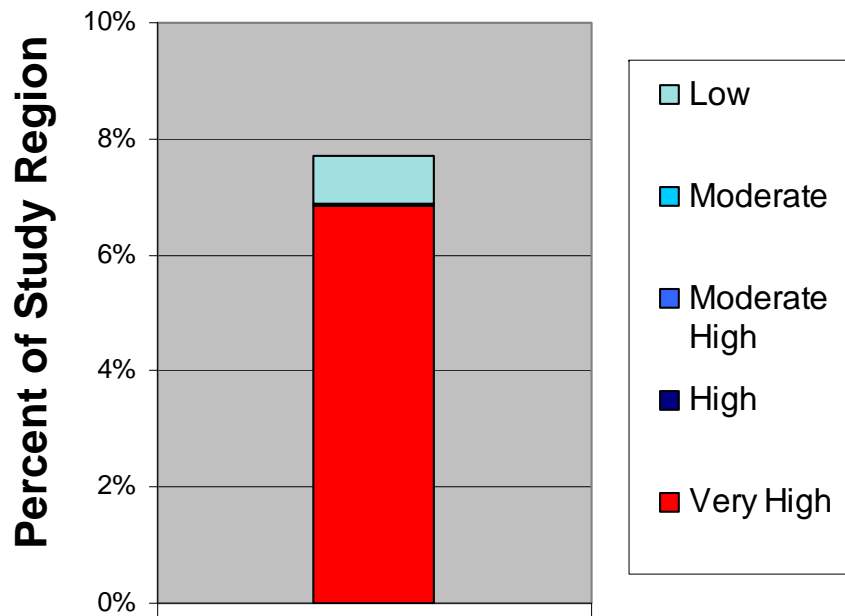
Existing MPAs in the South Coast Study Region



Area Charts (by level of protection)



**Existing MPAs in the South Coast Study Region
(by Level of Protection)**



- Level of protection (LOP) assigned by SAT
- North central coast LOPs used for preliminary evaluation
- More at next meeting...



Northern Channel Islands

Overall Summary for Existing MPAs in the Northern Channel Islands

Type of MPA	# of MPAs	Area (mi ²)	% of Study Region in the Northern Channel Islands
State Marine Reserve (SMR)	11	158.8	22.6%
State Marine Park (SMP)	0	0.0	0.0%
State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA)	2	9.1	1.3%
All MPAs combined	13	167.8	23.9%

MPA Name	Size (mi ²)
Richardson Rock SMR	40.75
Judith Rock SMR	4.55
Harris Point SMR	25.34
South Point SMR	13.05
Carrington Point SMR	12.76
Skunk Point SMR	1.39
Painted Cave SMCA	1.78
Gull Island SMR	19.91
Scorpion SMR	9.63
Footprint SMR	7.05
Anacapa Island SMCA	11.54
Anacapa Island SMR	7.30
Santa Barbara Island SMR	12.77



Photo Credit: Robert Schwemmer/NOAA



Mainland & Southern Channel Islands

Overall Summary for Existing MPAs- Mainland and Southern Channel Islands

Type of MPA	# of MPAs	Area (mi ²)	% of Study Region
State Marine Reserve (SMR)	4	2.6	0.2%
State Marine Park (SMP)	8	2.8	0.2%
State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA)	17	8.3	0.5%
All MPAs combined	29	13.7	0.8%

MPA Name	Size (mi ²)
Refugio SMCA	1.04
Goleta Slough SMP	0.34
Big Sycamore Canyon SMR	2.44
Abalone Cove SMP	0.10
Point Fermin SMP	0.07
Bolsa Chica SMP	0.49
Upper Newport Bay SMP	0.99
Robert E Badham SMCA	0.02
Crystal Cove SMCA	1.46
Irvine Coast SMCA	0.35
Heisler Park SMR	0.04
Laguna Beach SMCA	0.39
South Laguna Beach SMCA	0.05
Niguel SMCA	0.51

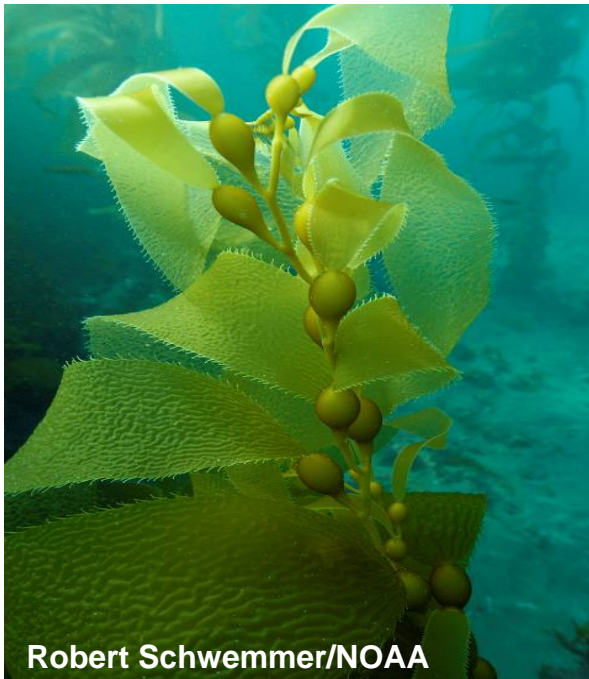
Dana Point SMCA	0.20
Doheny SMCA	0.19
Doheny Beach SMCA	0.15
Agua Hedionda Lagoon SMR	0.01
Batiquitos Lagoon SMP	0.29
Encinitas SMCA	0.11
Cardiff-San Elijo SMCA	1.23
San Elijo Lagoon SMP	0.39
San Dieguito Lagoon SMP	0.17
San Diego-Scripps SMCA	0.11
La Jolla SMCA	0.77
Mia J Tegner SMCA	0.02
Catalina Marine Science Center SMR	0.06
Farnsworth Bank SMCA	1.66
Lover's Cove SMCA	0.02



Mainland and All Channel Islands

Overall Summary for Existing MPAs - Entire Study Region

Type of MPA ^{1,2}	# of MPAs	Area (mi ²)	% of Study Region
State Marine Reserve (SMR)	15	157.1	6.7%
State Marine Park (SMP)	8	2.8	0.1%
State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA)	19	21.6	0.9%
All MPAs combined	42	181.5	7.7%



Robert Schwemmer/NOAA

Special closures in existing MPAs:

- San Miguel Island Special Closure
- Anacapa Island Special Closure
- Arrow Head Point to Lion Head Point Special Closure



Evaluation of Existing MPAs

- Evaluation of existing MPAs will include evaluations conducted by:
 - MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team
 - MLPA Initiative staff
 - California Department of Fish and Game
 - California Department of Parks and Recreation
- Conducted for existing state MPAs as well as stakeholder-generated proposals



SAT Evaluations

- Habitat representation
- Habitat replication
- Size and spacing
- Modeling
- Marine birds and mammals



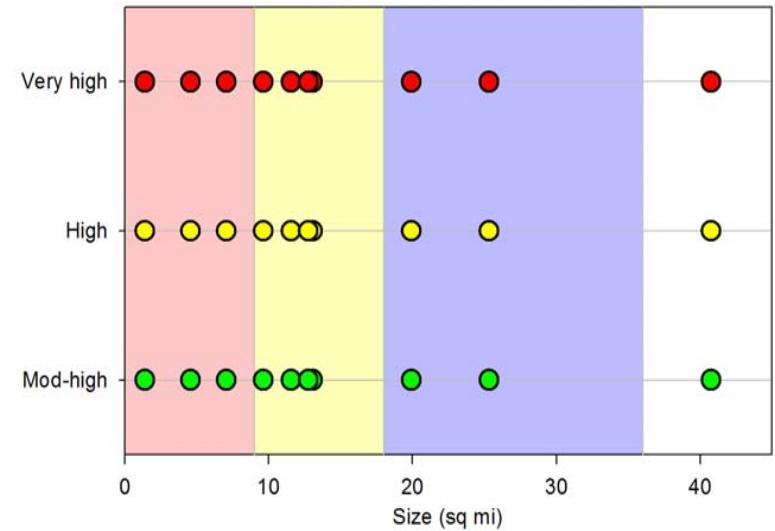
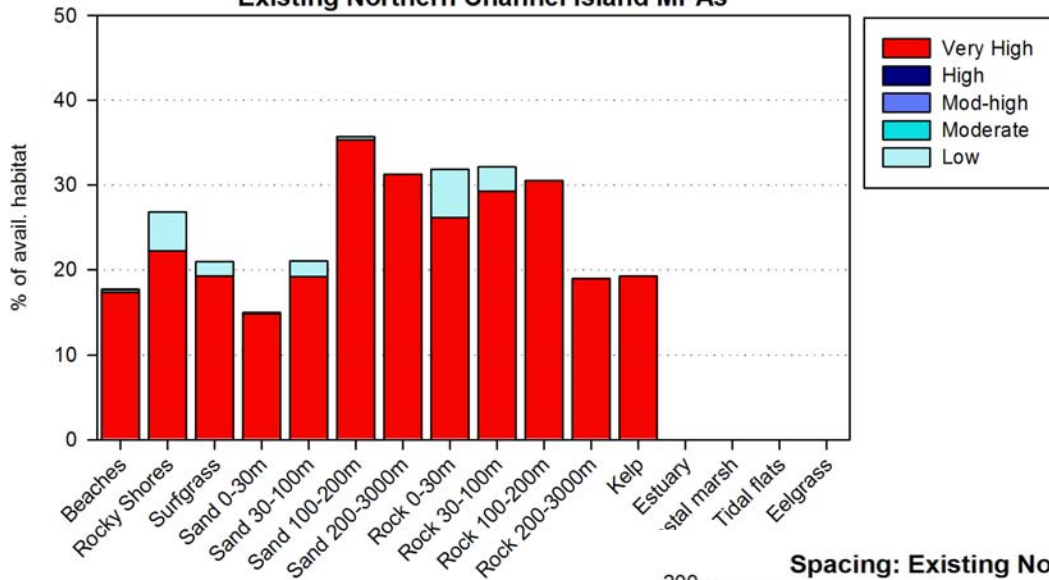
SAT Evaluations

- Habitat representation ← MLPA Goals 1 and 4
- Habitat replication ← MLPA Goals 2 and 6
- Size and spacing ← MLPA Goals 2 and 6
- Modeling ← MLPA Goals 2 and 6
- Marine birds and mammals ← MLPA Goal 2

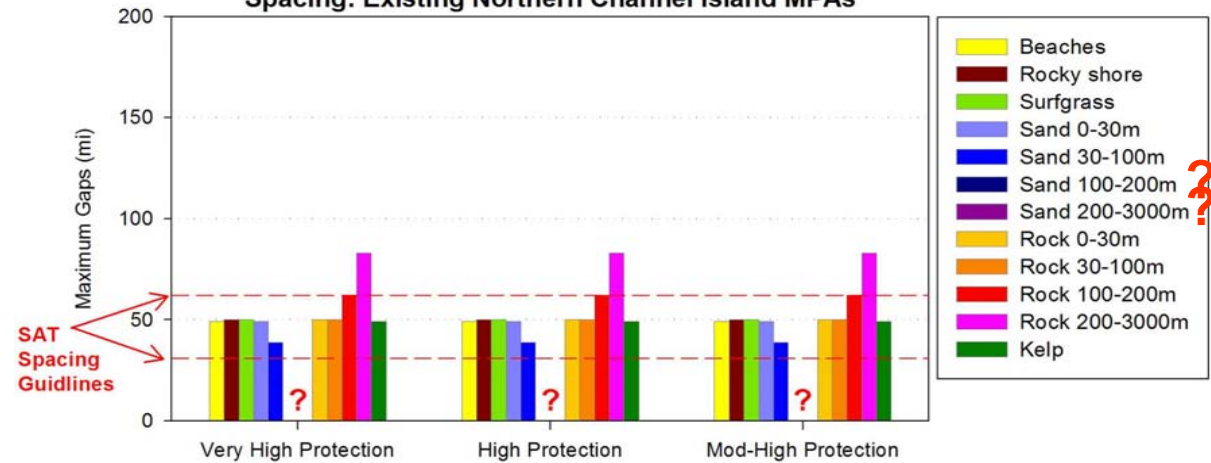


SAT Evaluations

Habitat Representation:
Existing Northern Channel Island MPAs



Spacing: Existing Northern Channel Island MPAs



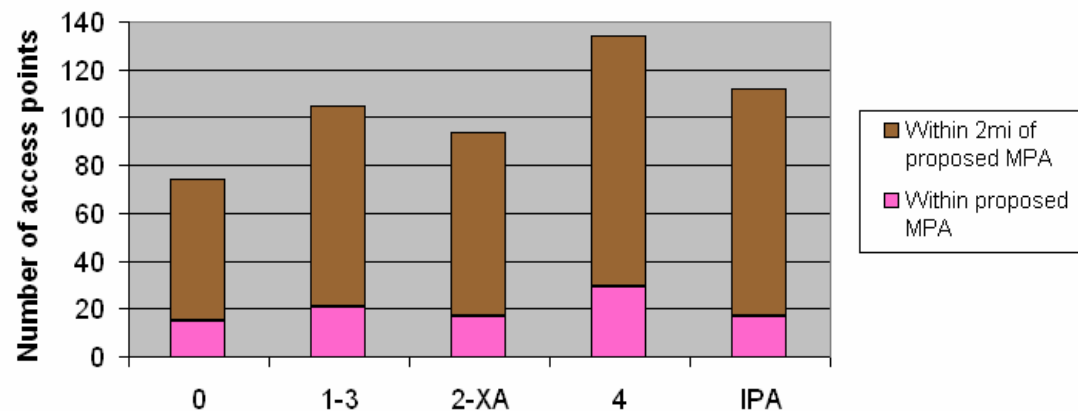


MLPA Staff Evaluation

Goal 3 Analysis

- Recreational opportunities
- Educational opportunities
- Study opportunities

Number of Access Points within or Near Proposed MPAs
(All MPAs)



Existing MPAs, NCCRSR Proposals, and IPA - April 2008



CDFG and State Parks Evaluations

- California Department of Fish and Game
 - Feasibility (including: enforceability, goals and objectives, boundaries and clear regulations)
 - Prospects of MPA proposals to meet the goals of the MLPA
- California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks)
 - Details to be determined



Timeline for Evaluating Existing MPAs

- Initial SAT evaluations using methods approved in the north central coast - presented Sept. 15
- SAT will consider how evaluation methodology should be applied to the MLPA South Coast Study Region
- Revised evaluation – to be presented to SCRSG at next meeting (November 18-19, 2008)



Existing MPAs and Alternative Proposals

Evaluation of existing MPAs serves as a starting point for developing regional stakeholder group proposals through iterative process:

