

# Marine Life Protection Act Initiative



## A Context for BRTF Action

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## Central Coast Project

- Two actions by the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force, forwarded to the California Department of Fish and Game:
  - Determine packages to forward to DFG
  - Recommend a preferred alternative
- DFG may make revisions and will select a preferred alternative, among packages, to recommend to the California Fish and Game Commission
- Commission holds meetings and makes decisions regarding MPAs



## Packages to Consider

- Package 0 (current MPAs), “no project”
- Packages 1, 2, 3, developed in the Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group process and all revised since January BRTF meeting
- Package AC, developed outside the BRTF process, unchanged since January
- Package S, developed by MLPA Initiative staff following direction of BRTF



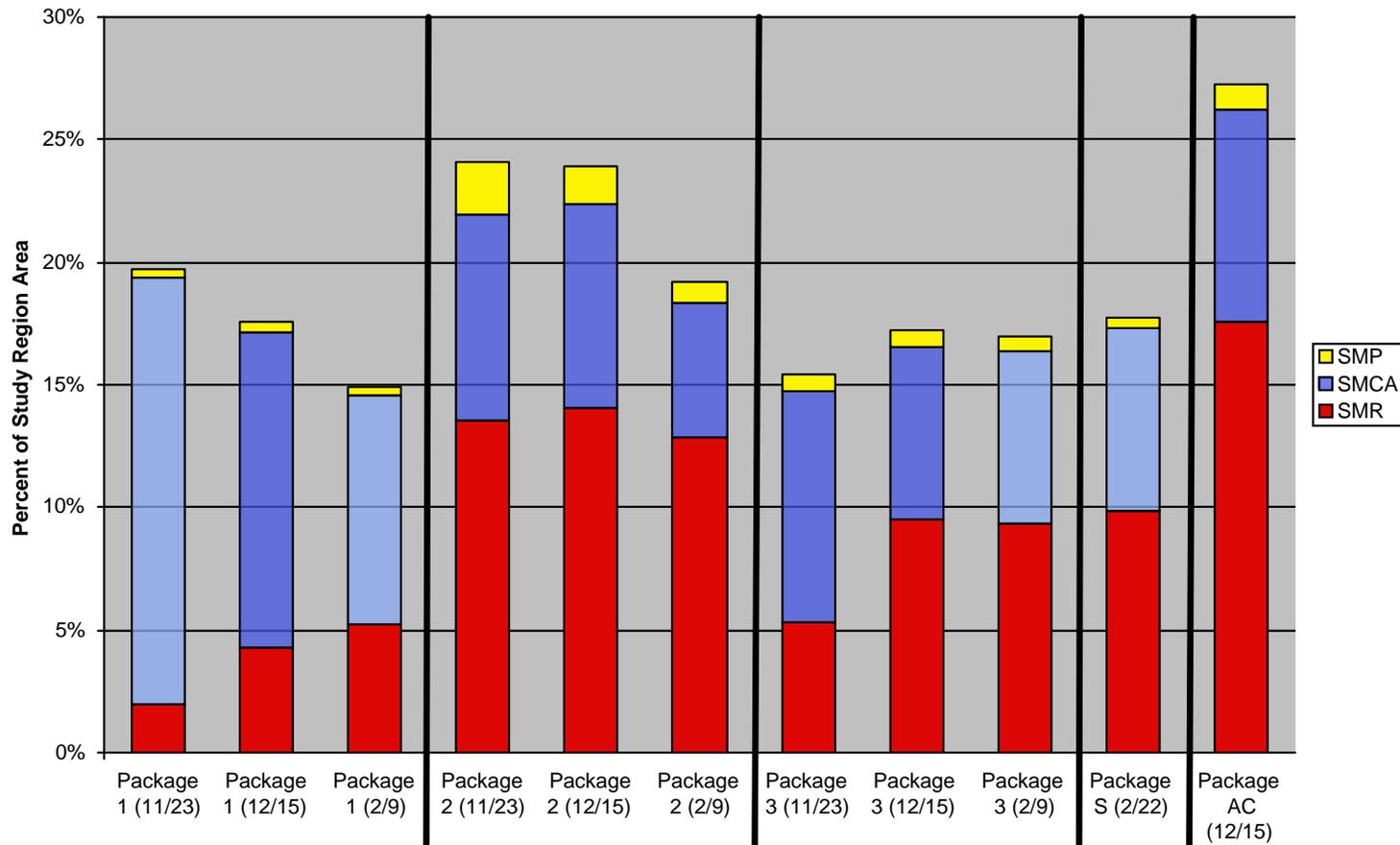
## BRTF Has Affected Packages

- BRTF-approved Master Plan Framework set parameters for package development
- BRTF decisions and memos important during CCRSG process
- BRTF members' presence at CCRSG meetings demonstrated support for stakeholders
- BRTF urging package proponents to respond to Master Plan Science Advisory Team evaluations and their comments led to important revisions



# Packages Have Changed

Change in Area Covered by MPA Packages from November 2005 to February 2006





## Origins of Package S

- Responsive to motion approved by BRTF:  
“Develop a preferred alternative for our consideration at the next meeting...with assistance from the stakeholders and SAT, as appropriate.”
- Started with packages developed through January 2006
- Drew upon available GIS maps and SAT evaluations; DFG input regarding enforcement
- Informed by BRTF discussions and public comments



## Information Available Today

- Descriptive materials on each package
- SAT evaluations of each package
- Individuals who developed packages to speak about them and to respond to questions
- Public input will be invited



## BRTF Need Not Address Two Issues

- **Vandenberg Air Force Base -** Representatives of the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Department of Defense and California Resources Agency working toward agreement supporting designation of new MPAs
- **Kelp leases -** The impacts of existing leases that affect a limited number of proposed MPAs have been clearly defined in the SAT evaluations, preparing basis for commission decision



## MLPA Goals 1-3

1. To protect the natural diversity and abundance of marine life, and the structure, function, and integrity of marine ecosystems.
2. To help sustain, conserve, and protect marine life populations, including those of economic value, and rebuild those that are depleted.
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.



## MLPA Goals 4 - 6

4. To protect marine natural heritage, including protection of representative and unique marine life habitats in California waters for their intrinsic value.
5. To ensure that California's MPAs have clearly defined objectives, effective management measures, and adequate enforcement, and are based on sound scientific guidelines.
6. To ensure that the state's MPAs are designed and managed, to the extent possible, as a network.



## Judgment Required

- The MLPA does not prioritize six goals
- SAT evaluations provide important metrics on Goals 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6, but do not rank packages
- Participants differ in emphasis they give goals, in how they interpret goals, and in how they assess possible future impacts of proposed packages
- Competing claims for uses
- Some interests gain and some impacted
- Conclusion: policy judgment required



## Focus on Packages

- SAT evaluations of packages as a whole
- Changes since January were finely tuned to satisfy SAT evaluations and BRTF direction; Package S similarly constructed
- Implications:
  - global assessments of packages important
  - changes in many MPAs have effects on evaluations
  - increasing the size of a MPA or making regulations more restrictive is not likely to upset SAT evaluations of goals 1, 2, 3, 4 or 6, but could increase potential user impacts



## Examples of Where BRTF Could Change MPAs in Packages

- Boundaries and regulations of MPAs with limited relevance to habitat and size and spacing SAT evaluations. Examples are found in:
  - Monterey Peninsula
  - Carmel Bay
  - Seaward boundaries for intertidal MPAs



## MLPA Initiative Staff Recommendations

- Identify areas where further refinement of recommended preferred alternative is desirable, for consideration by DFG
- Identify related issues on which to make recommendations, such as:
  - Consideration of changes in fishery regulations after MPAs designated
  - Importance of sufficient funding and human resources to implement effectively (phasing is possible)
- Direct staff to support DFG and the commission in refining packages as appropriate



## MLPA Initiative Staff Recommendations

- Forward packages 1, 2, 3, S and AC to DFG, with SAT evaluations and whatever additional evaluations are made by the BRTF
- Direct staff to record and forward expressed areas of concern about all packages
- Recommend Package S as the preferred alternative, as modified by the BRTF and with suggested steps to address any identified areas of concern



## Rationale for Package S

- Seeks to achieve a high level of protection of habitats and to establish an effective network of MPAs, and is also sensitive to potential negative impacts on some users
- Strikes an appropriate balance in potential impacts, while satisfying the MLPA
- Provides a foundation for future study regions
- Significantly increases protection of ecosystems, habitats and marine life in the Central Coast Study Region



# Goals vs. Packages Matrix

MLPA Goal	Criteria	Pkg 0	Pkg 1	Pkg 2	Pkg 3	Pkg S	Pkg AC
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							



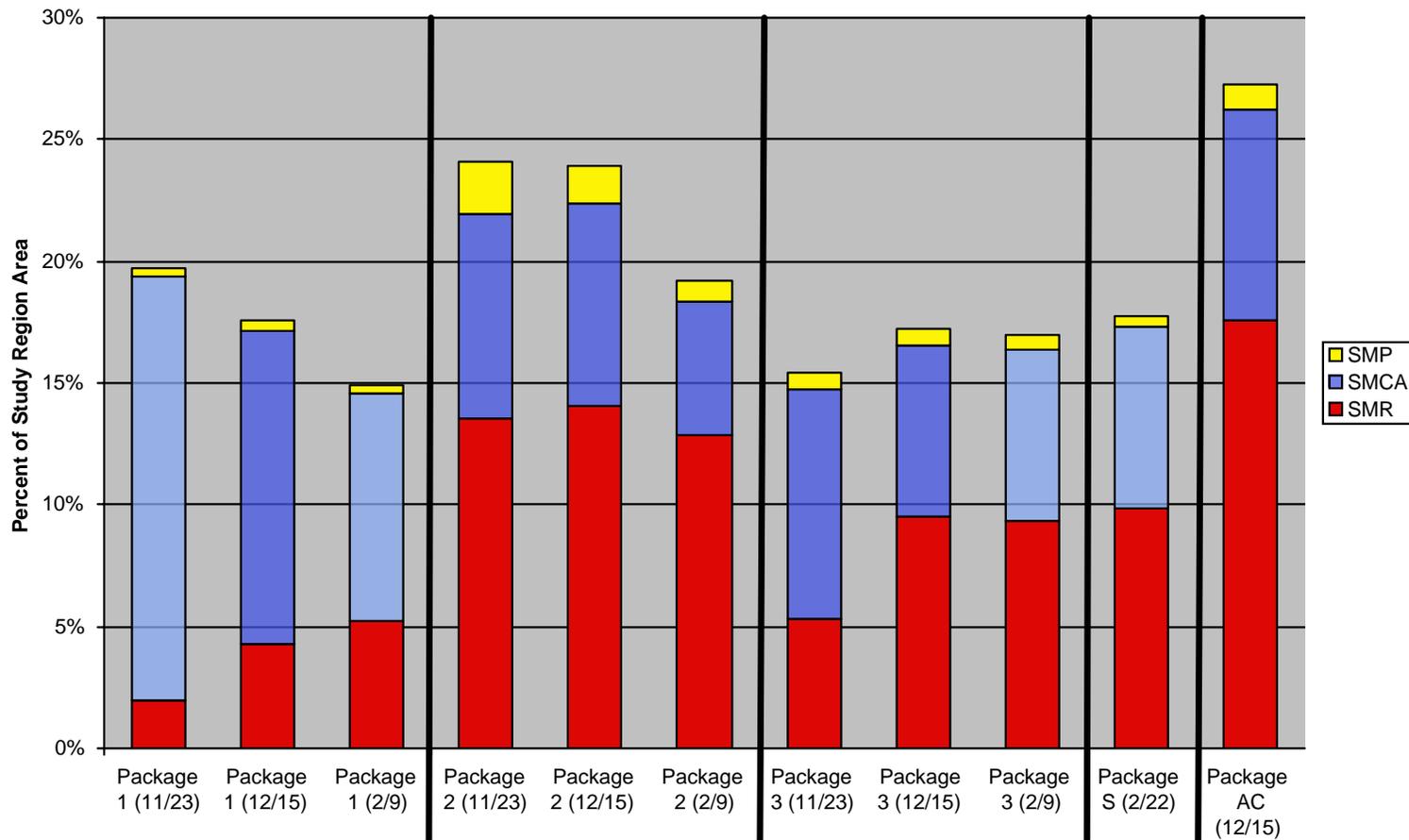
# BRTF Decisions

Decision	Pkg 0	Pkg 1	Pkg 2	Pkg 3	Pkg S	Pkg AC
1. Acceptable alternative?						
2. Recommend as preferred?						
3. Identify areas of concern?						
4. Make specific changes?						



# Revised Packages Support Middle Course

Change in Area Covered by MPA Packages from November 2005 to February 2006





## Strong Foundation for Decisions

- Successful deliberative processes frame choices and clarify values involved—that has been done
- Robust process (CCRSG, SAT, outside packages, public input, staff support) resulted in plausible packages
- Frames a reasonable range of alternatives