

Central Coast MLPA Process
Proponents' Rationale for February 2006 Package 1 Changes
2/17/2006

General Info

The changes made to package 1 fall into two main categories: 1) Cleanup per Department and BRTF input, and 2) Adjustments for the purpose of complying with SAT guidelines.

The changes for complying with SAT guidelines address 1) Minimum MPA size criteria, 2) Habitat coverage issues, and 3) Spacing guidelines.

Relative to habitat coverage issues (Table 1 from Dr. Mark Carr's analysis), our goal was in general to approach or exceed 10% of available high-quality habitat types in each of the sub-regions in at least medium protection. This was achieved across the study region

Relative to spacing, we followed the specific advice given below by Dr. Steve Gaines' table.

Habitat	Gaps > Guidelines	Possible Solutions
Surfgrass/Eelgrass	Piedras Blancas to S. Boundary	Change Protection levels in Morro Bay
Sand > 300 ft.	Mont. Sub. Canyon to Alder Creek Alder Creek to S. Boundary	Big Sur, Big Creek, Cambria, Pt. Buchon,
Rock, 0 - 100 ft	Piedras Blanca to S. Boundary	Estero Bluffs, Pt. Buchon, Purisma Pt., Pt. Conception,
Rock, 100 - 300 ft.	Pt. Lobos to S. Boundary	Pt. Sur, Pt. Buchon, Purisma Pt.
Upwelling Centers	Sand Hill Bluff to Vandenberg	Pt. Sur, Pt. Buchon,

Modifications were made that address each of the above spacing issues by adding, or expanding high-level protection areas, or by changing regulations to make moderate protection areas high-protection.

For specific details on changes refer to the changes table submitted Feb 9, 2006. Rationales for individual changes are found in the notes section of the changes table.