

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative



Introduction to the MLPA and the MLPA Initiative

**Presented at the North Coast Informational Workshop I
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Kelly Sayce, Public Outreach & Education Coordinator, MLPA Initiative**



Overview

- Introduction to the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA)
- Introduction to the MLPA Initiative
- Process for the MLPA North Coast Study Region
- Opportunities for Involvement



Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA)

- **Signed into California law in 1999**
 - Improve design and management of marine protected areas (MPAs) in state waters
- **Requires, in part:**
 - Use of “best readily available science”
 - Involvement of stakeholders and other interested parties





Why the MLPA?

- California's MPAs created over decades without a coherent plan, scientific guidelines or overall goals
- California's extraordinary marine biological diversity a vital asset
- Various human activities threaten the health of marine habitat and biological diversity
- Marine protected areas offer multiple benefits for sustaining ocean ecosystems



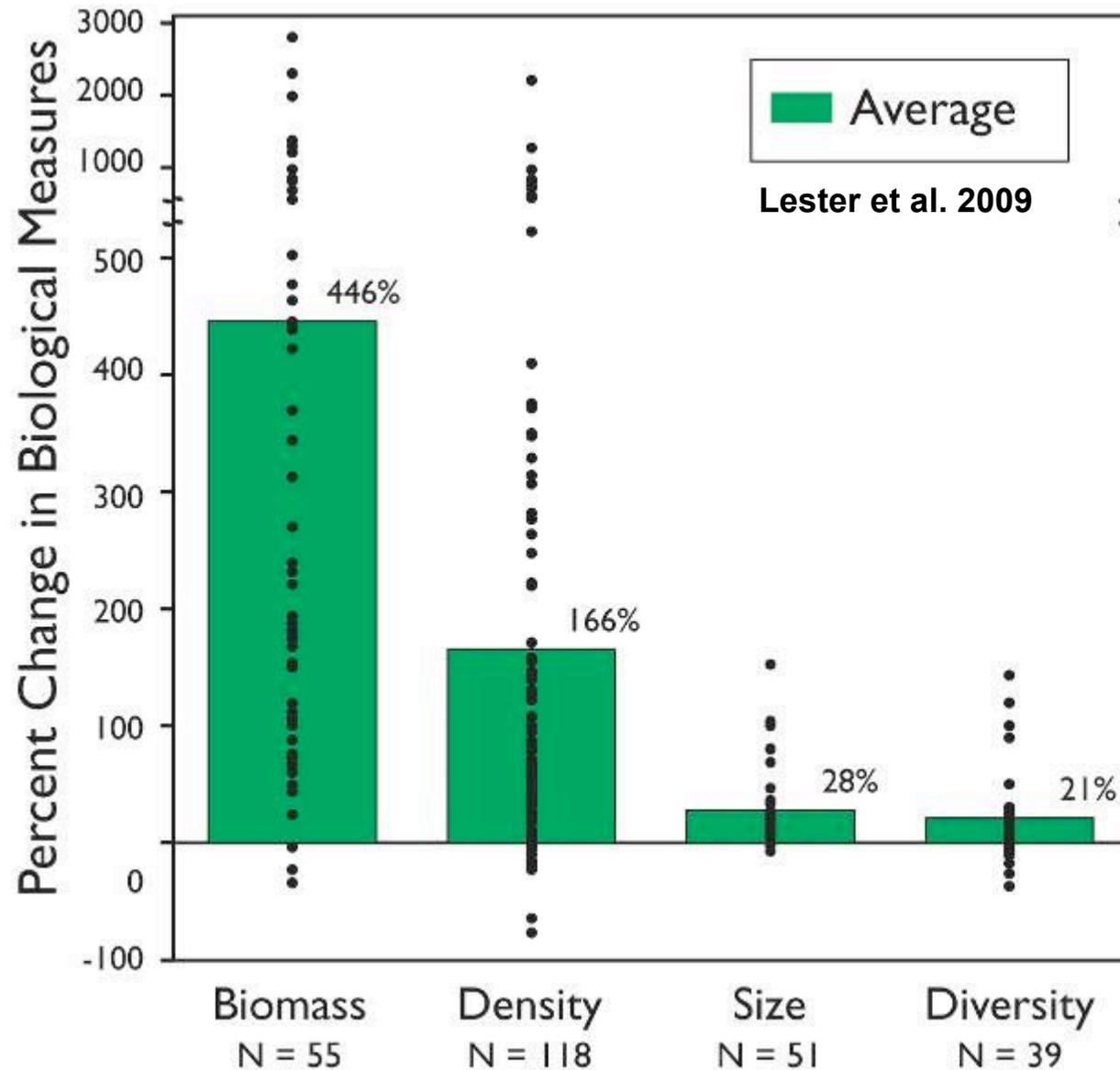


Six Goals of MLPA

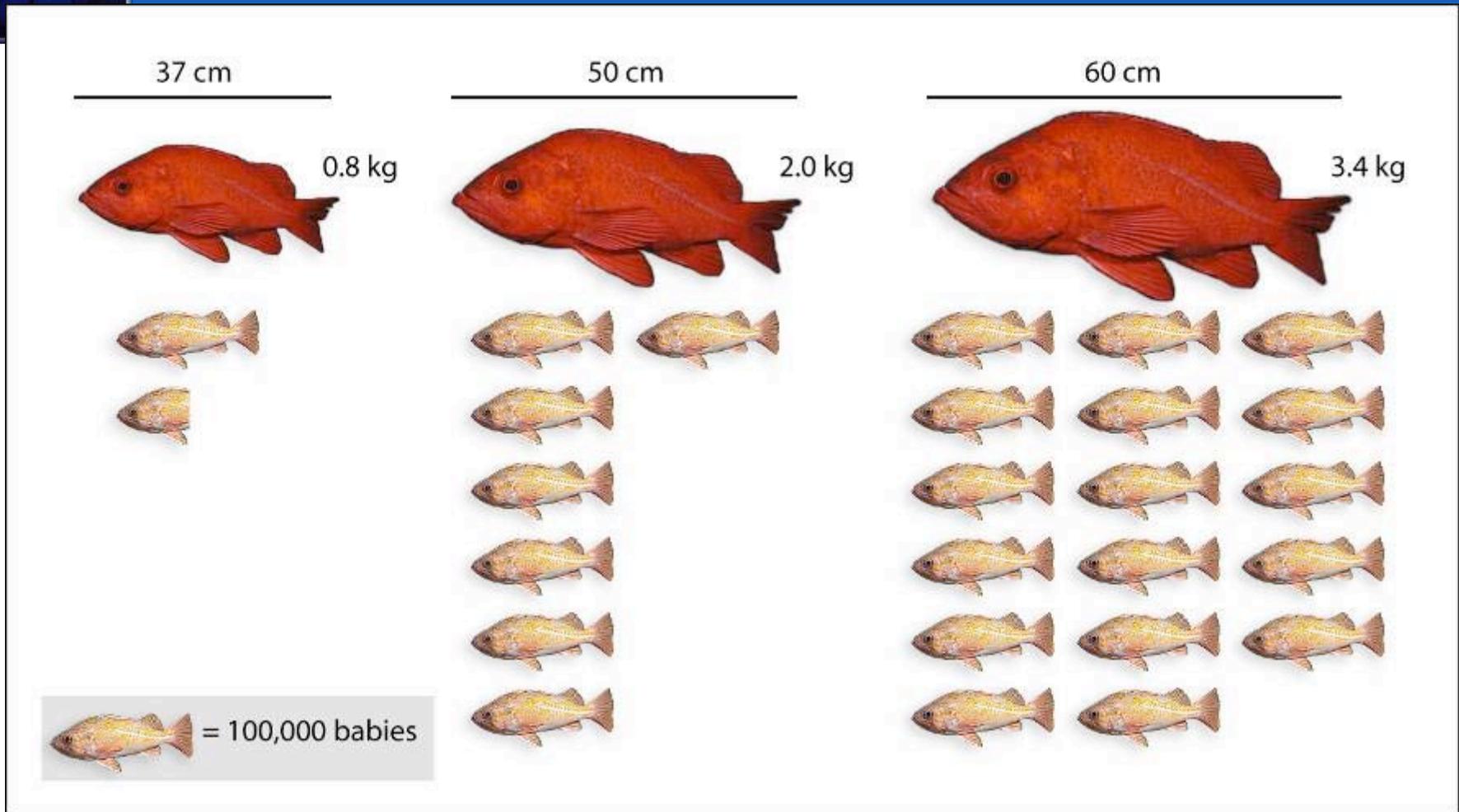
1. To protect the natural diversity and abundance of marine life, and the structure, function and integrity of marine ecosystems
2. To help sustain, conserve, and protect marine life populations, including those of economic value, and rebuild those that are depleted
3. To improve recreational, educational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



Ecological Responses



Big Fish Produce Far More Young



Vermilion Rockfish (*Sebastes miniatus*)

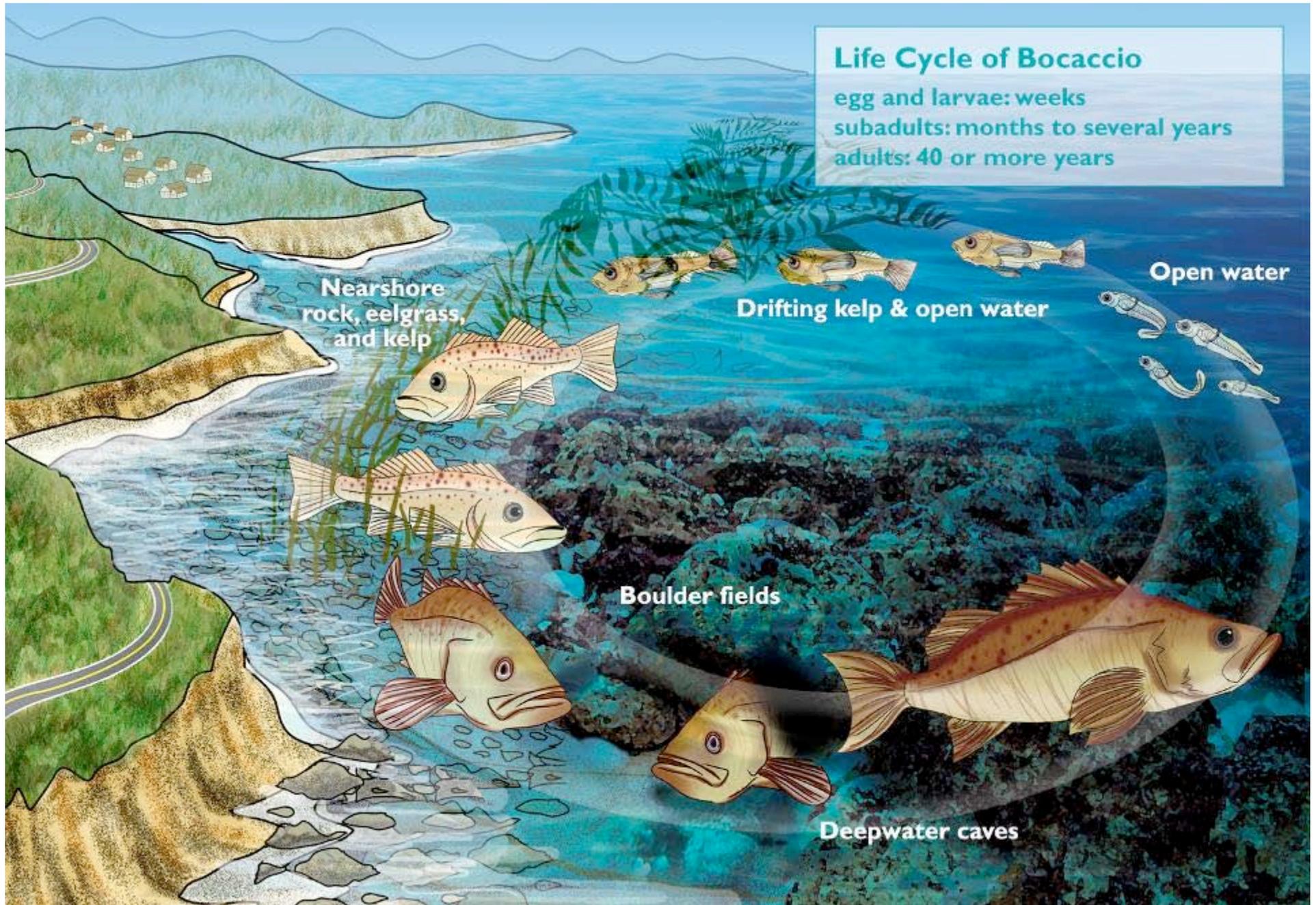


Life Cycle of Bocaccio

egg and larvae: weeks

subadults: months to several years

adults: 40 or more years



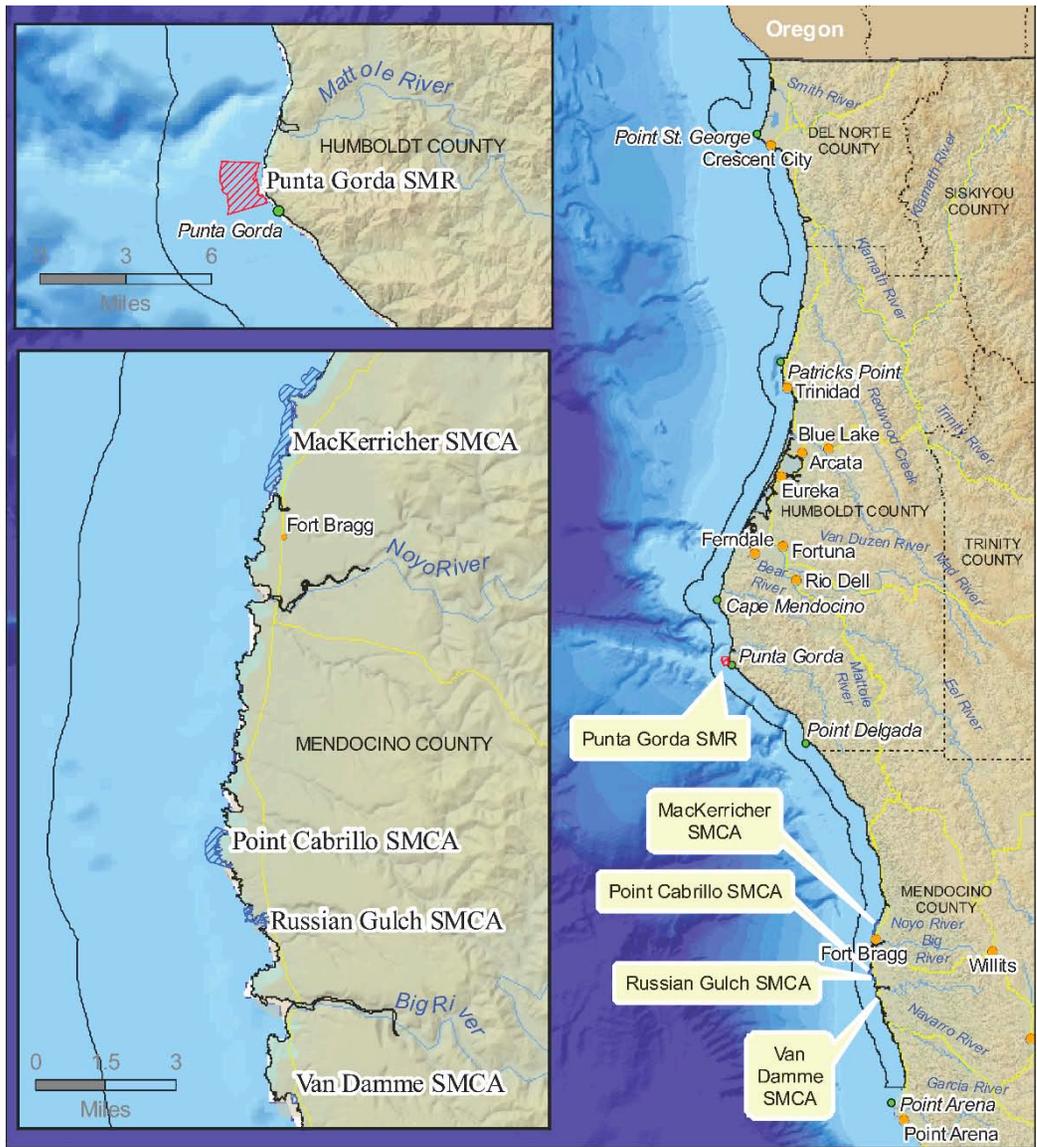
Art by Ryan Kleiner



Marine Protected Areas

- **State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA)**
 - Prohibits some recreational and/or commercial extractive activities
- **State Marine Park (SMP)**
 - Prohibits all commercial extractive activities and potentially some recreational activities.
- **State Marine Reserve (SMR)**
 - Prohibits all extractive activities





Marine Life Protection Act Initiative

**North Coast Study Region
Existing Marine Protected Areas**

-  Study Region Boundary
-  Existing State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA)
-  Existing State Marine Reserve (SMR)



Projection Information:
 Name: NAD 1983 California Teale Albers
 Projection: Albers
 Datum: North American 1983

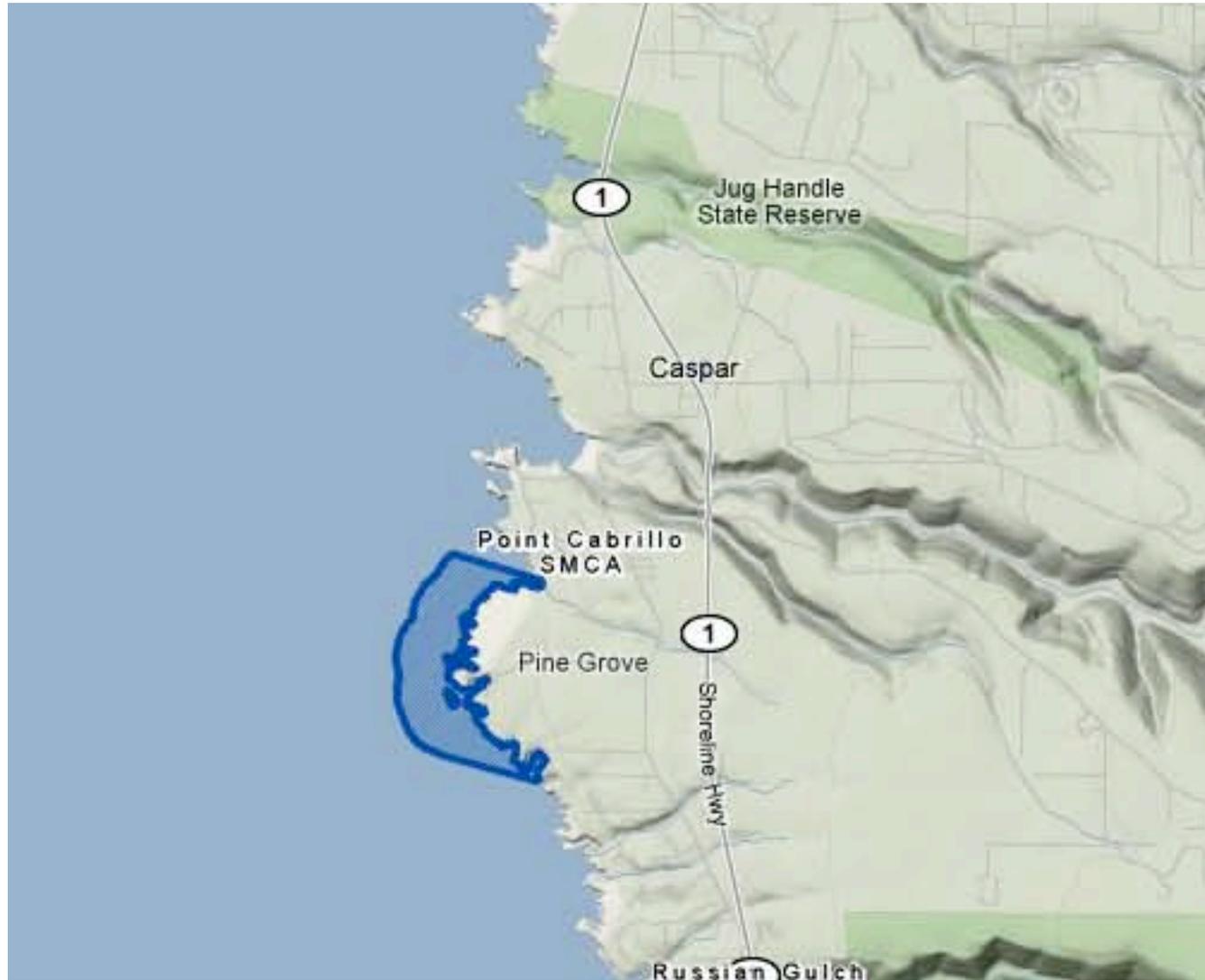
Created on July 8, 2009 By:
 DFG Marine Region GIS Lab



**North Coast
Study Region**



Existing Marine Protected Areas

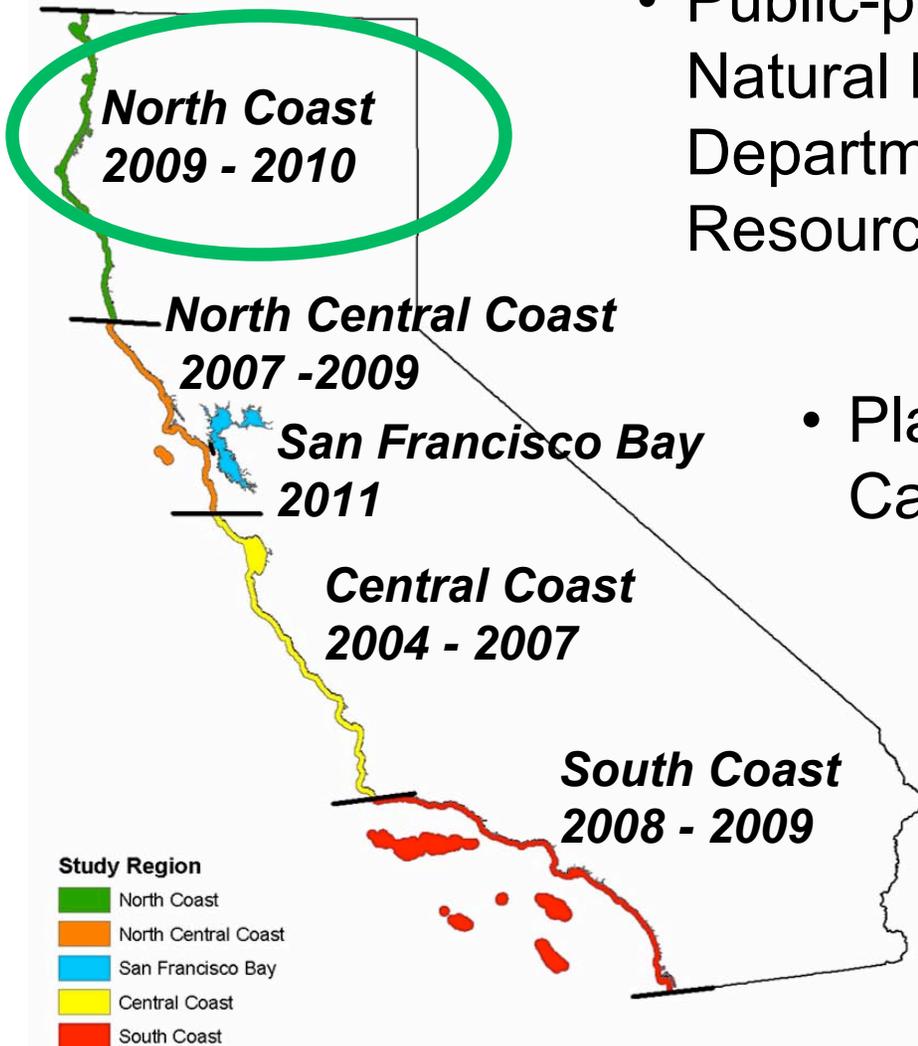




Existing Marine Protected Areas



California MLPA Initiative



- Public-private partnership among the CA Natural Resources Agency, California Department of Fish and Game, and Resources Legacy Fund Foundation
- Planning process designed to help California implement the MLPA
- Citizen-driven, transparent process with public input at every stage

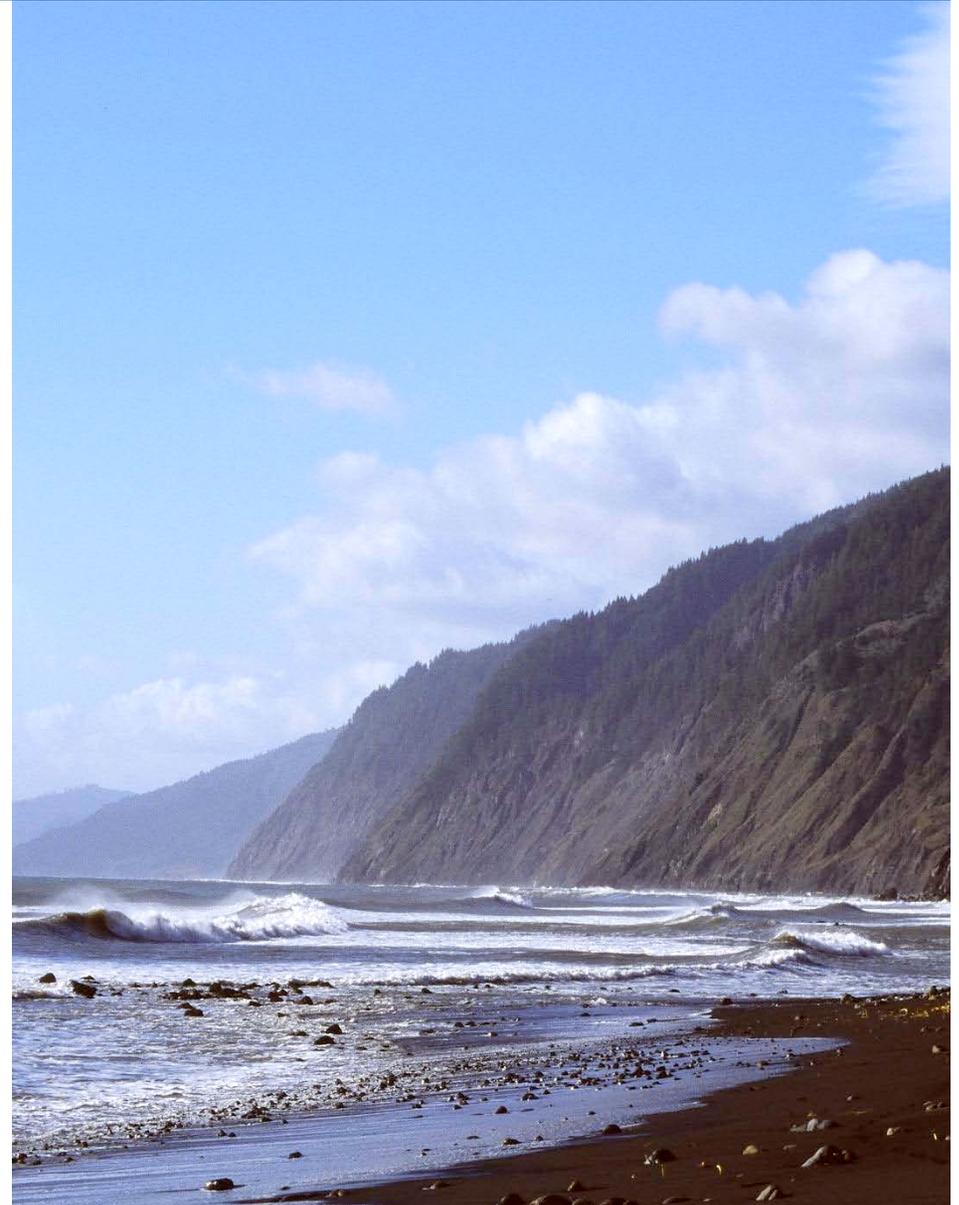


MLPA Initiative Participants

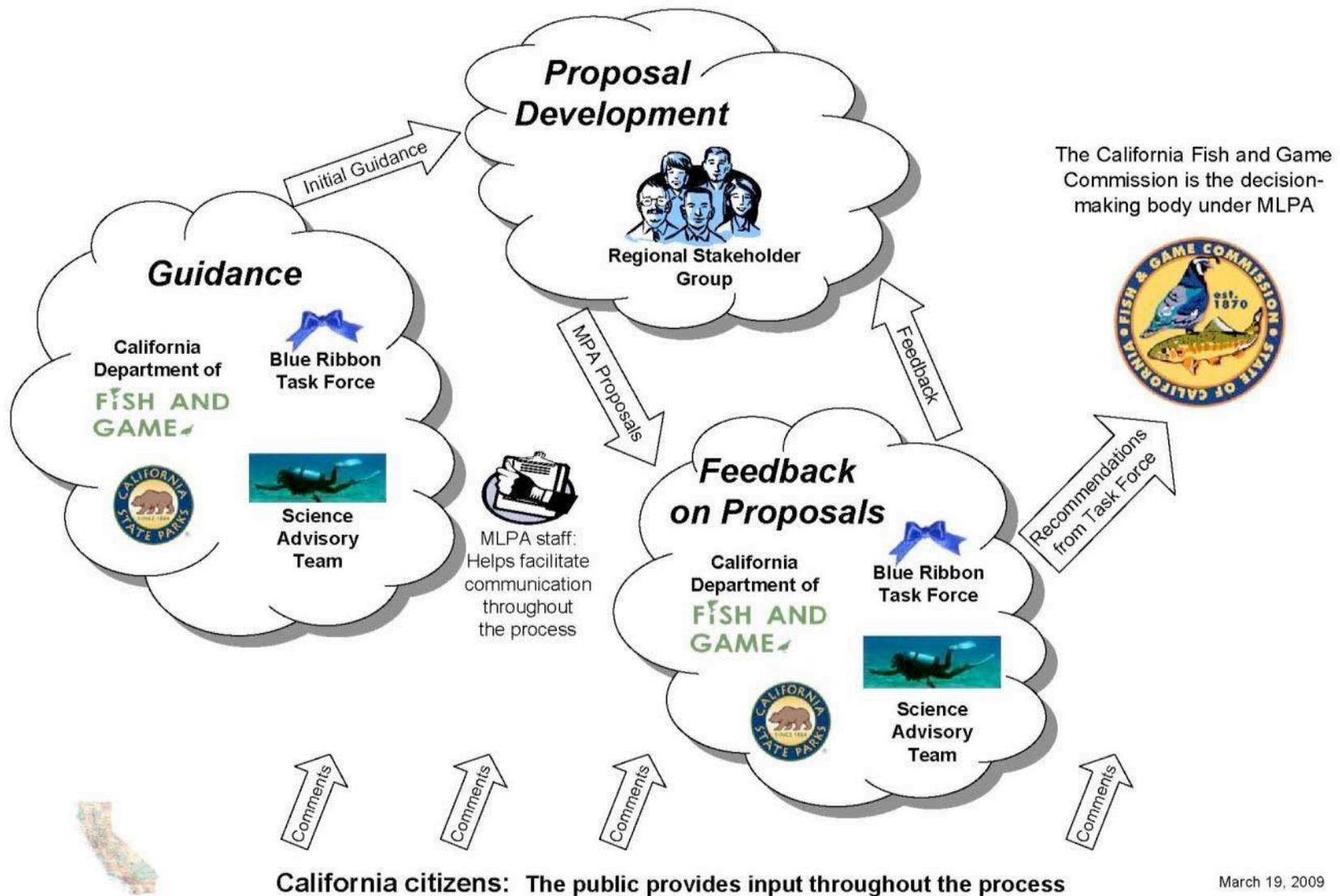
- Institutional partners



- MLPA Initiative Groups
 - Blue ribbon task force
 - Regional stakeholder group
 - Science advisory team
 - Staff and contractors
- General public and interested parties



Information Flow

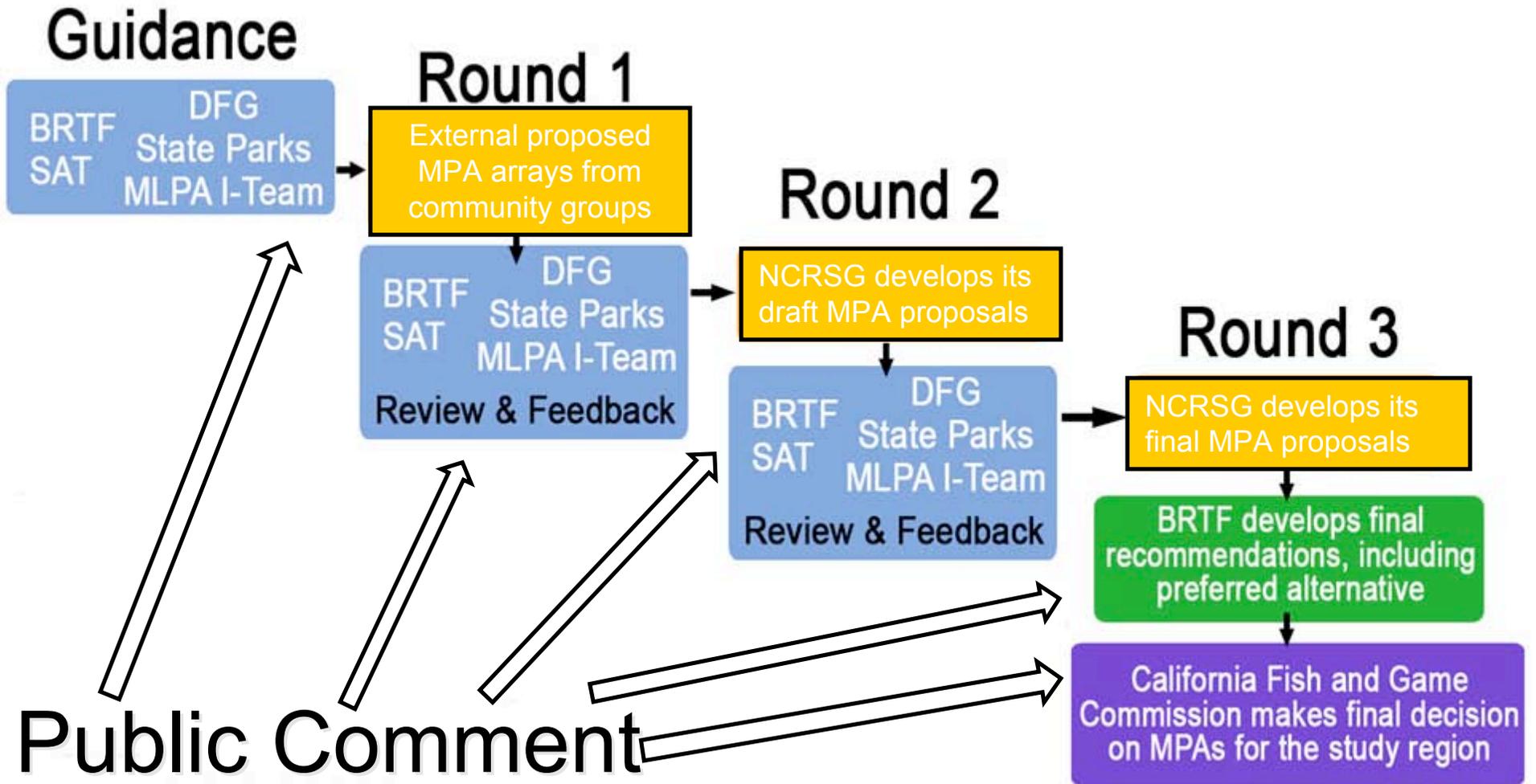


California citizens: The public provides input throughout the process

March 19, 2009



Planning Process





Where We Are in the Process

Timeline: June 2009 - December 2010

Public involvement is encouraged throughout the process



Photo: J. Altstatt



Inform the Process

- Share information and knowledge with joint fact-finding process
- Provide spatial data layers or base information to develop data layer(s)
- Serve as a regional stakeholder group member
- Submit external MPA proposal or MPA concepts
- Provide formal/informal feedback on proposal development





Contact Information

- **Email:** MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov
- **Website:** www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/
- **Fax:** 916-653-8102 Attn: MLPA Initiative
- **Phone:** 916-654-1885
- **Mail:** MLPA Initiative
c/o California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814