

A large, spotted rockfish is the central focus, swimming towards the right. The fish has a dark, mottled pattern on its body and a prominent, large eye. The background is a rich, colorful coral reef with various species of coral in shades of pink, orange, and yellow, set against a dark, deep-sea backdrop.

California's Marine Protected Areas

**John Ugoretz, Marine Region
Nearshore Ecosystem Coordinator**

Existing State Marine Protected Areas



Prepared by
California Department of Fish and Game
Marine Region
October 2004

61 Fully Marine / 19 Estuarine

4 Special Closures

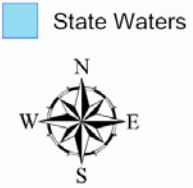
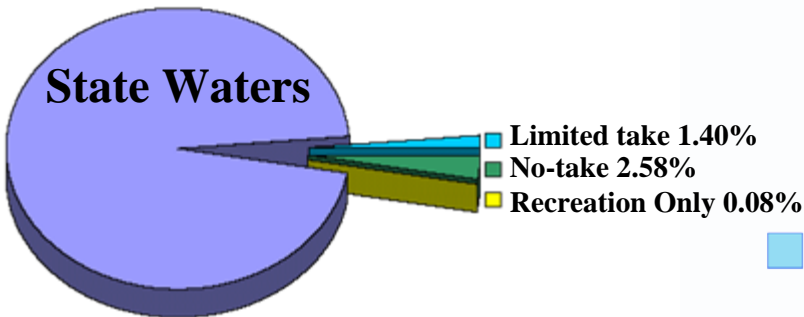
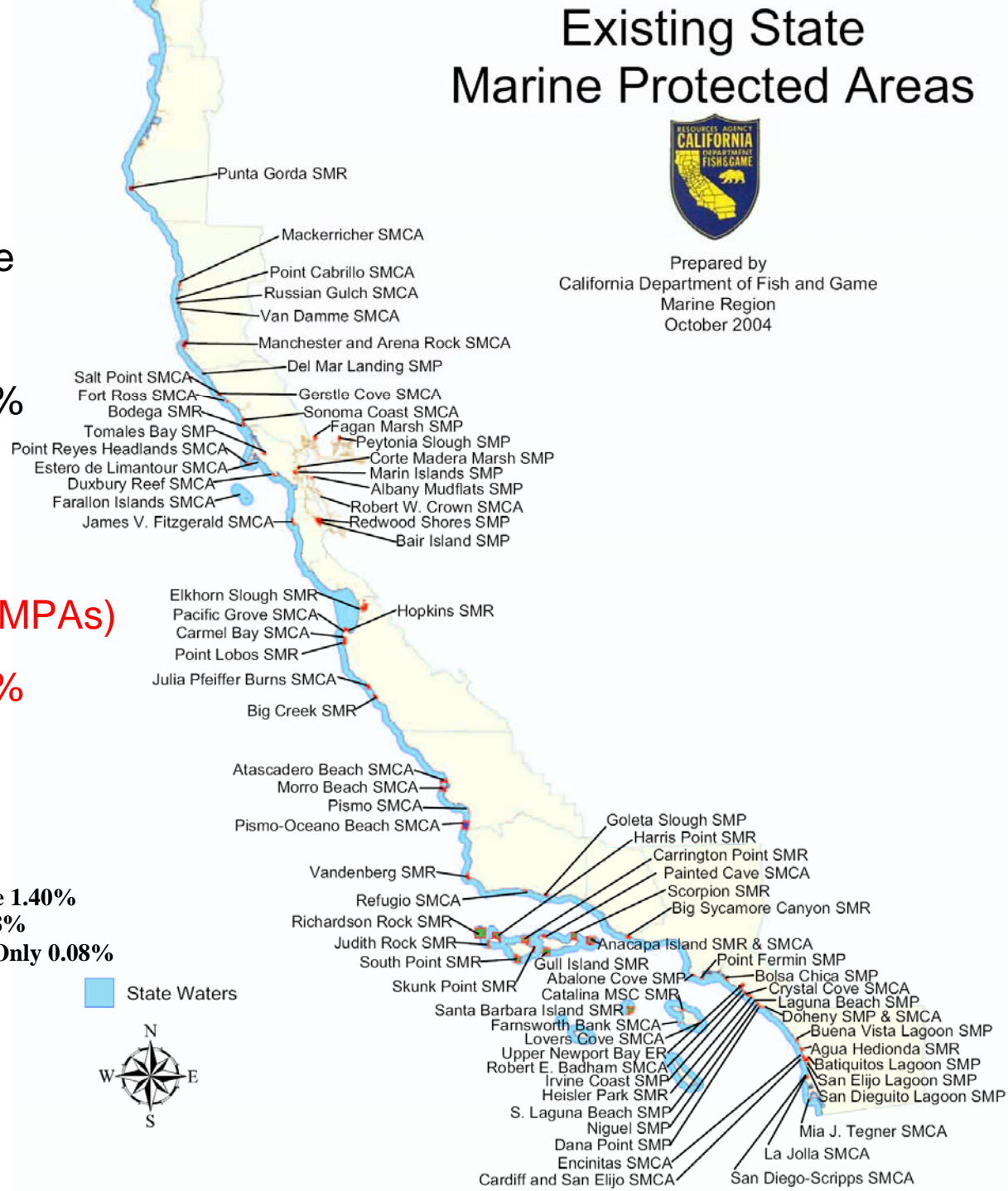
~ 160 nm² Ocean Waters, 4%

~ 102 nm² NO TAKE, 2.5%

Without Channel Islands (12 MPAs)

~ 60 nm² Ocean Waters, 1.5%

~ 7 nm² NO TAKE, 0.25%



Legislation

- **Marine Life Management Act (1998)**
 - Devoted to the protection of marine species and ecosystems, includes consideration of MPAs
- **Marine Life Protection Act (1999)**
 - Requires the development of a master plan for Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)
- **Marine Managed Areas Improvement Act (2000)**
 - Created six new classifications (3 MPAs)

MLPA Initiative 2004-06

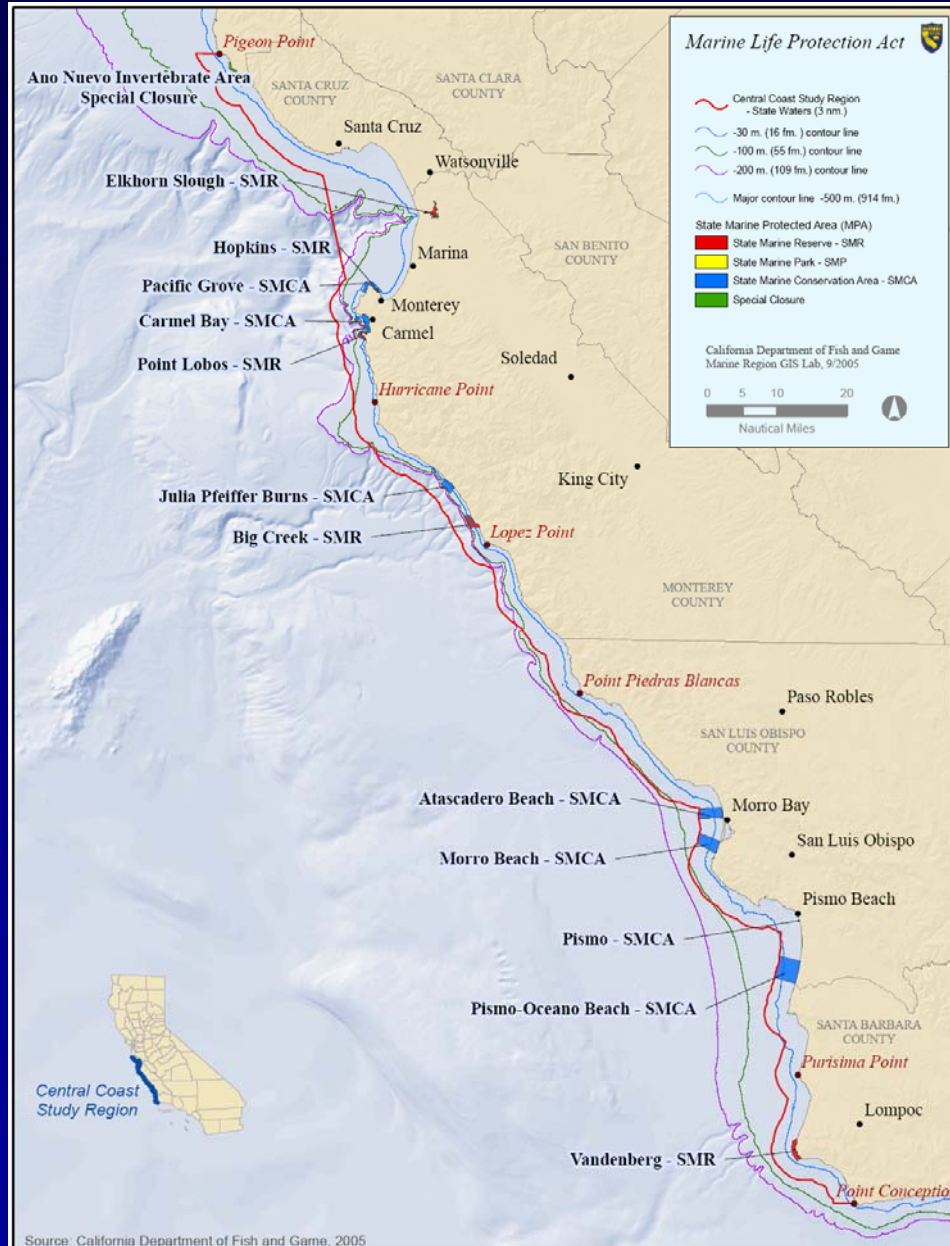
- **MOU among Resources Agency, Department of Fish and Game, and the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation**
- **Directed by a Blue Ribbon Task Force**
- **Steering committee - Staff support from DFG and Initiative**
- **Science Advisory Team - appointed by DFG Director**
- **Statewide Interests Group - stakeholder input on process**
- **Regional Stakeholder Group - stakeholder input on regional considerations and proposals**

MLPA Initiative Deliverables

- 1. Master Plan Framework - To FGC May 2005**
- 2. Long-term funding Strategy - December 2005**
- 3. Central Coast study region proposal - To FGC March 2006**
- 4. Recommendations for coordinating with federal government - November 2006**
- 5. Commitment among State agencies to complete statewide implementation by 2011 - agreement by November 2006**

Central Coast Study Region

- Pigeon Pt. (San Mateo County) to Pt. Conception (Santa Barbara County)
- 210 nm long (straight line)
- 866 nm² w/in State waters
- 0 to > 12 nm from shore
- 0 to > 4,500 feet deep
- 12 MPAs + 1 Special Closure
 - < 8 mile² no-take





Results of the Blue Ribbon Task Force Central Coast Process

- Provided document on potential long-term funding
- Forwarded the following to the Department:
 - Package 1
 - Package 2R (revised by BRTF vote)
 - Package 3R as the preferred, (twice revised by the BRTF vote)
- Provided input on continuing concerns
- Working on monitoring, and adaptive management recommendations

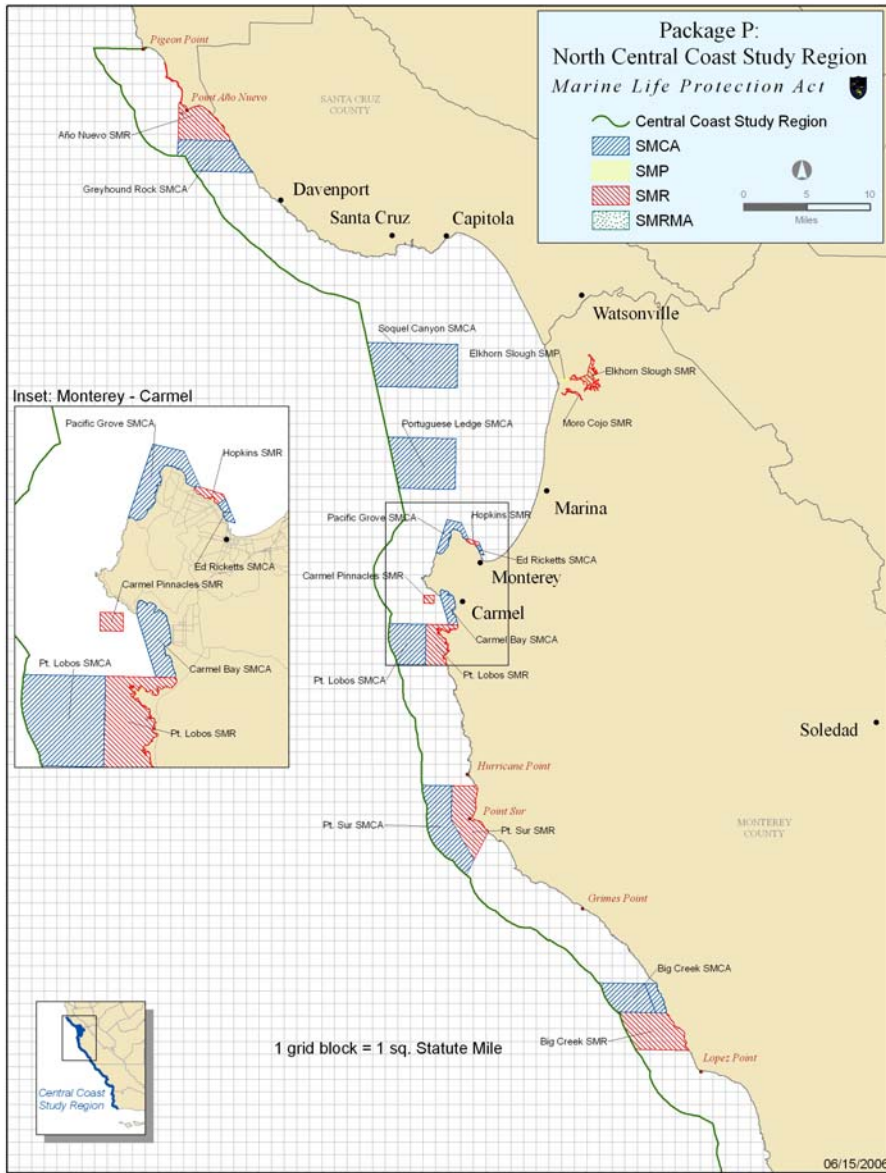
Moving to a Department Preferred

- Begin with Blue Ribbon Task Force Preferred
 - It was recommended through the established process
- Address critical implementation issues
 - Enforcement, Feasibility, Policy Issues
- Reduce potential impacts to existing uses
 - More than 35 small face-to-face meetings
 - Total potential impact should be balanced with potential long term benefits
 - Certain constituencies not well represented in any public process
- Ensure adherence to scientific guidance
 - Strong scientific constituency and input
 - Note that this guidance is NOT prescriptive
 - Note that an unenforceable or unmanageable network is in opposition to MLPA requirements

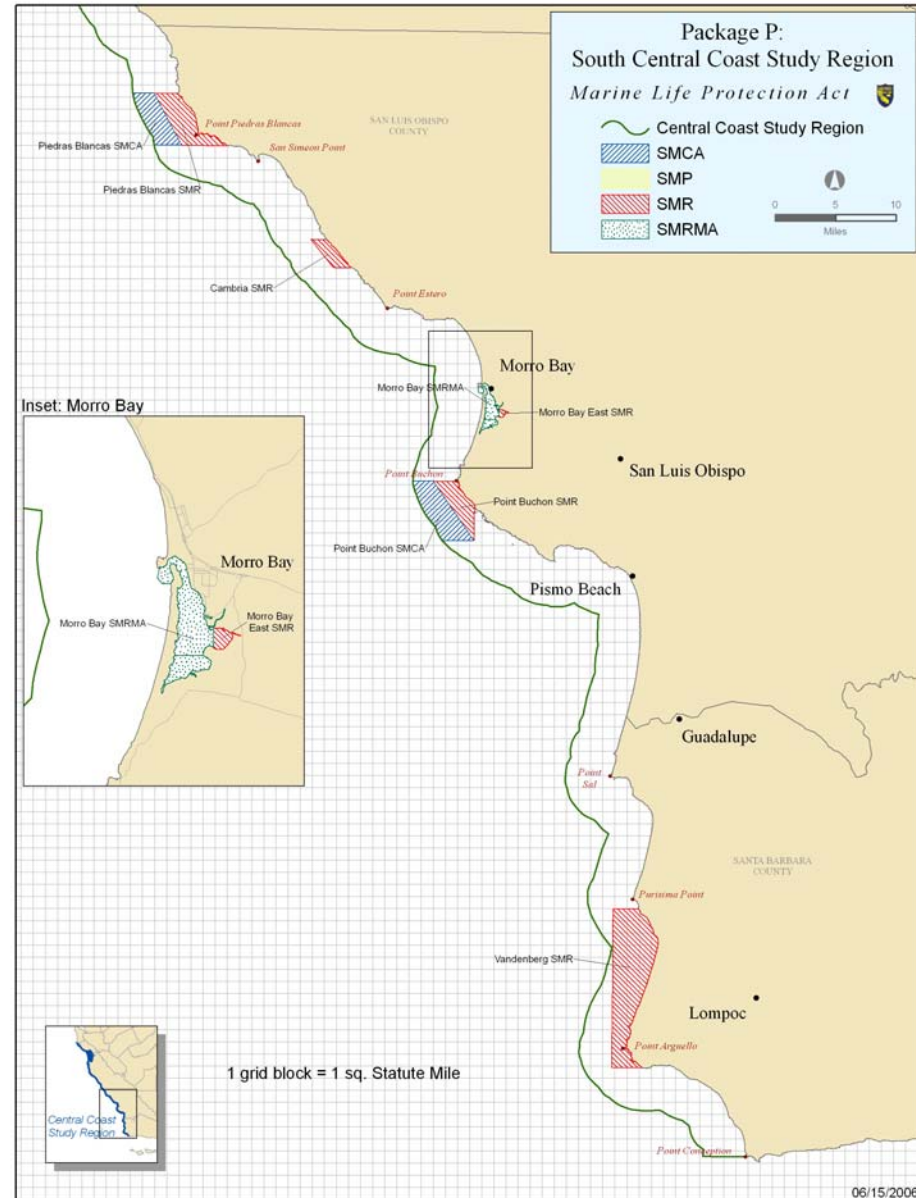
Changes to BRTF Preferred

- Reduced overall size of network
- Used straight lines (not depths or distance) in most cases
- Removed intertidal areas not necessary for network
- Used best available landmarks
- Decreased potential impacts to commercial and recreational fisheries
- Relied on scientific guidance to complete changes

26 MPAs ~ 90 mile² no-take

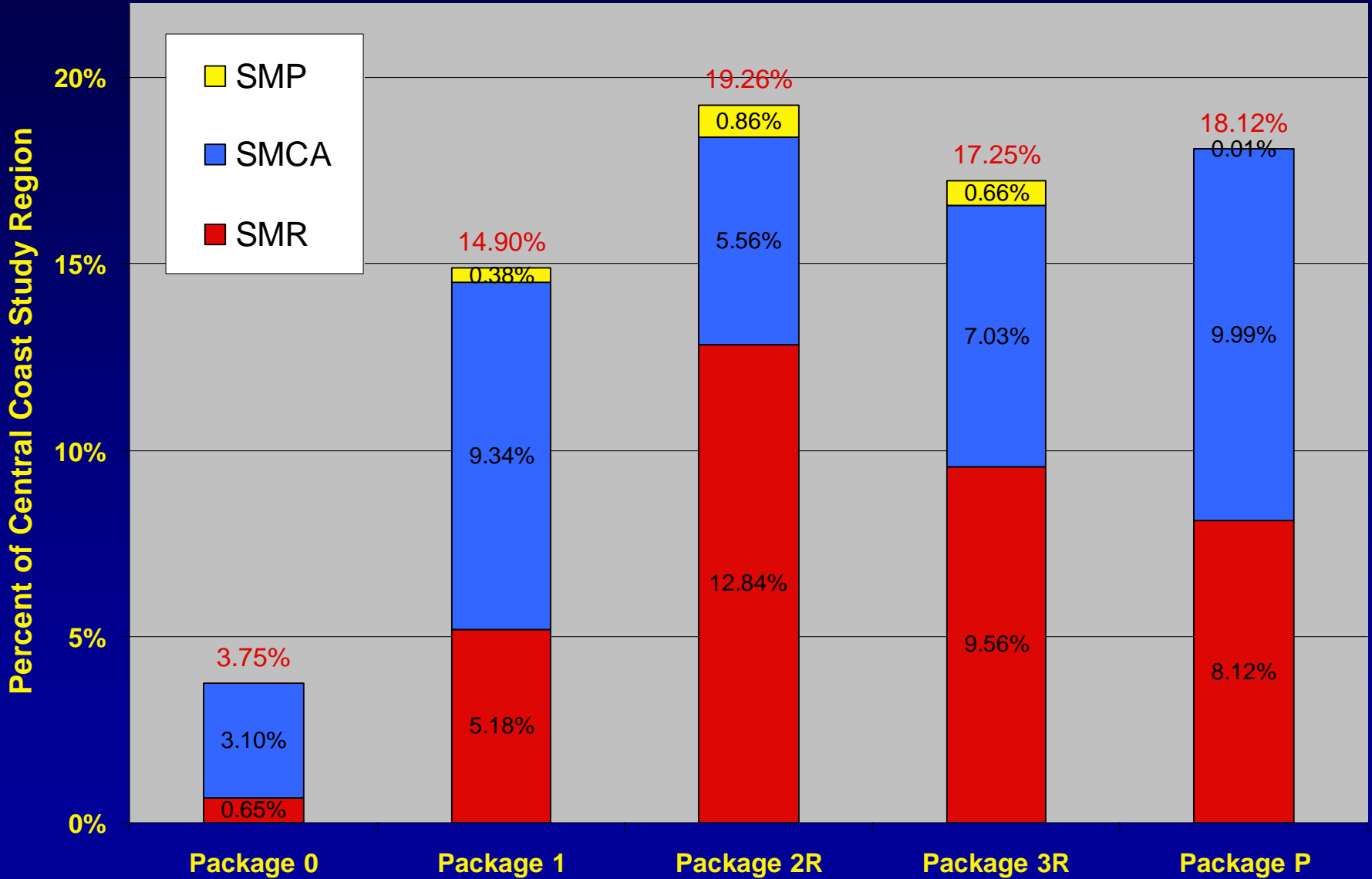


SMCA = state marine conservation area SMP = state marine park
SMR = state marine reserve SMRMA = state marine recreational management area

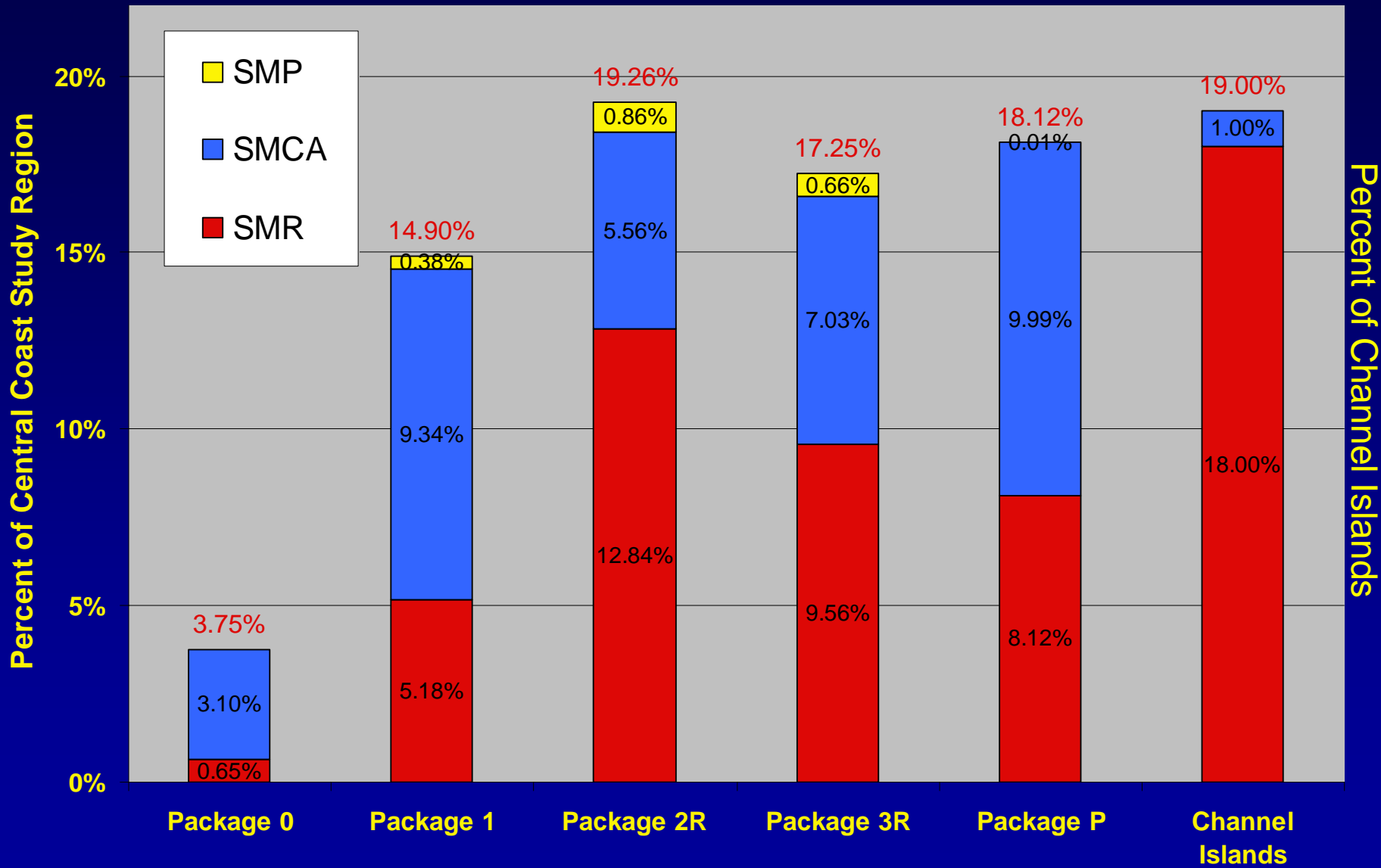


SMCA = state marine conservation area SMP = state marine park

Percentage of Central Coast State Waters in MPA Packages (by type of MPA)



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Department Draft Proposed Process

- June 22 - Provide Commission with preferred MPA alternative, rationale, alternative plans (1, 2R, and 3R) and background materials
- August 2 - Present preferred alternative, hear comments and receive Commission direction
- August 25(?) - Commission selects a proposed project and directs staff to go to notice with regulatory documents