

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative



Forging New Solutions – California's MLPA Initiative

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Marine Managed Area Classifications

- State Marine Reserve
- State Marine Park
- State Marine Conservation Area
- State Water Quality Protection Area
- State Marine Recreational Management Area
- State Marine Cultural Preservation Area



Marine Life Protection Act

- Complex act to “improve” the design and management of state MPAs; enacted in 1999
- Requires
 - Master Plan for MPAs
 - Use of “best readily available science”
 - A “master plan science team”; appointed by director of the California Department of Fish and Game
 - Involvement of stakeholders, other interested parties
 - Adoption of a Marine Life Protection Program by the California Fish and Game Commission



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



Six Goals of MLPA (continued)

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



MLPAI Key Design Components

- **Leadership** – Governor Schwarzenegger, California Resources Agency, and California Department of Fish and Game
- **Public-Private Partnership** – Resources Legacy Fund Foundation arranges private funds (\$7.2 million over 2.5 years)
- **Policy Advice** – Blue Ribbon Task Force, not political appointees
- **Stakeholder Input** – Statewide Interests Group, Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group
- **Scientific Advice** – Master Plan Science Advisory Team



Some MLPAI Elements

- MOU among the California Resources Agency, Department of Fish and Game, and Resources Legacy Fund Foundation (August 2004 - December 2006)
- Features independent task force to oversee process, private funds to supplement state funds, professional staff and consultants to complement state personnel
- Among deliverables are a master plan framework for MPAs, long-term financing strategy, and alternative proposals for central coast MPAs; tight deadlines
- Formal Lessons Learned Project (see website)
- Extensive communication mechanisms

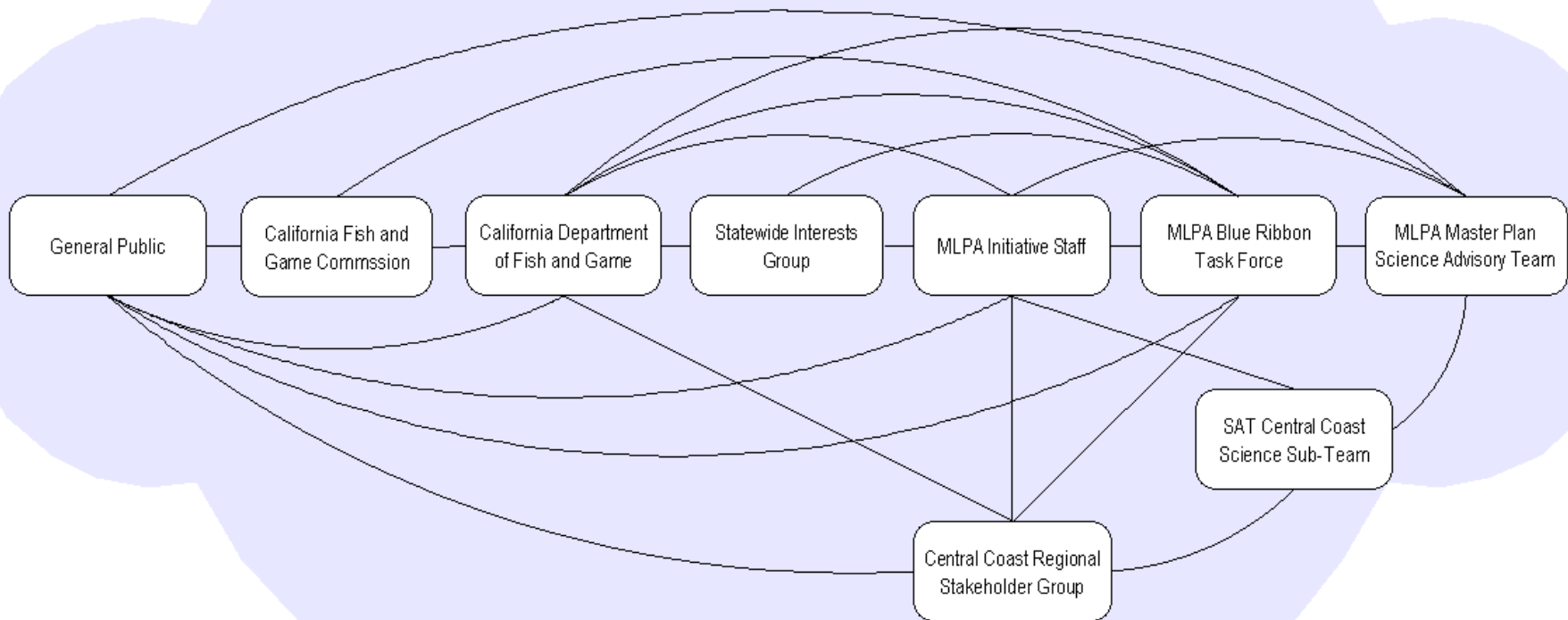


Communication / Outreach

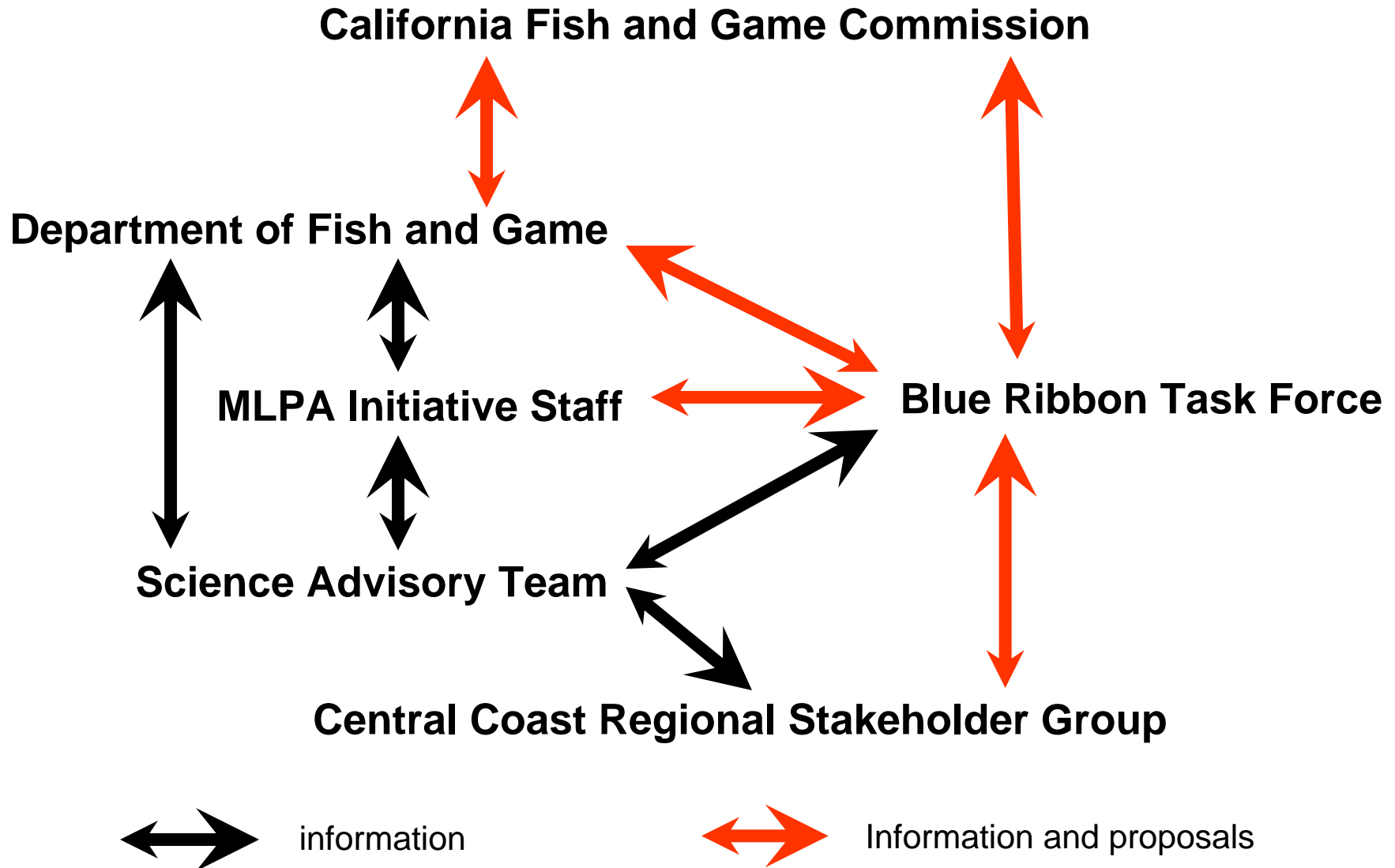
- Website: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/mlpa/>
- List servers, email, FTP site
- Public workshops
- Stakeholder presentations, task force meetings
- Public comment periods at meetings
- Public comments on posted documents
- Simultaneous webcasting of meetings
- Video/audio archives of meetings on the web
- Individual conversations

Communication Network

California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative Communication Network April 2006

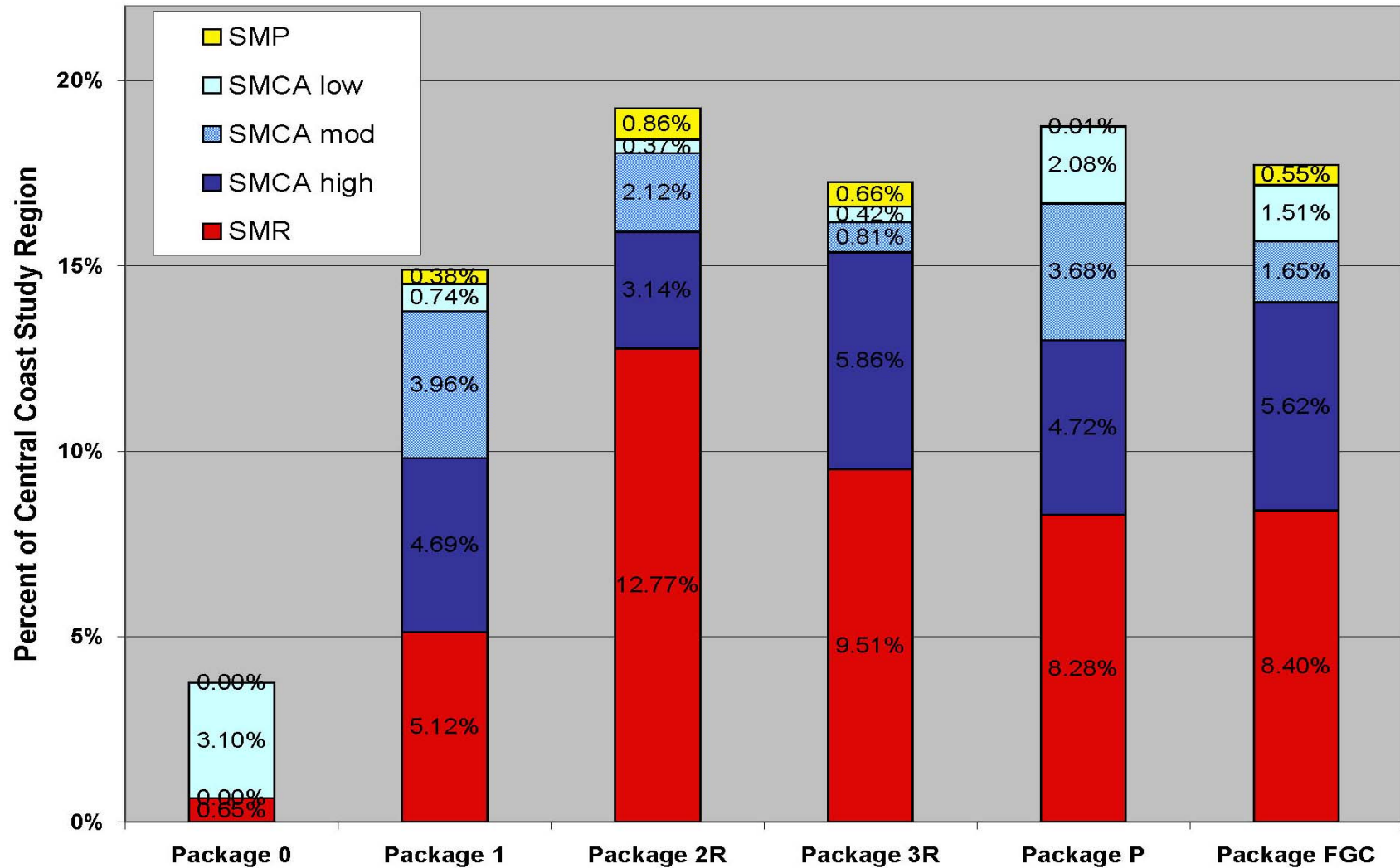


Development of MPA Packages



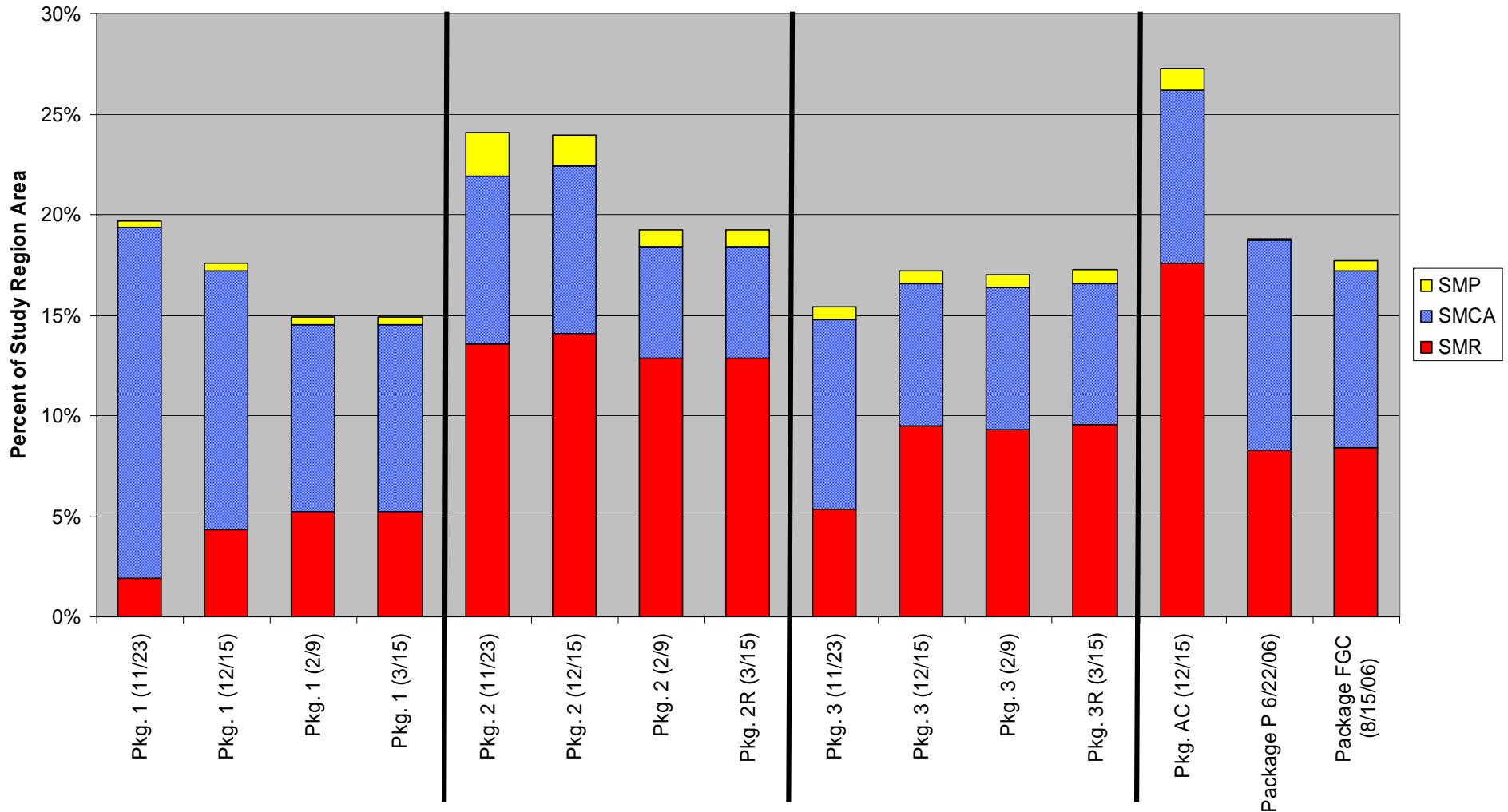
Comparison of MPA Packages (8/15/06)

Percentage of Central Coast in MPA Packages (by SAT protection level)

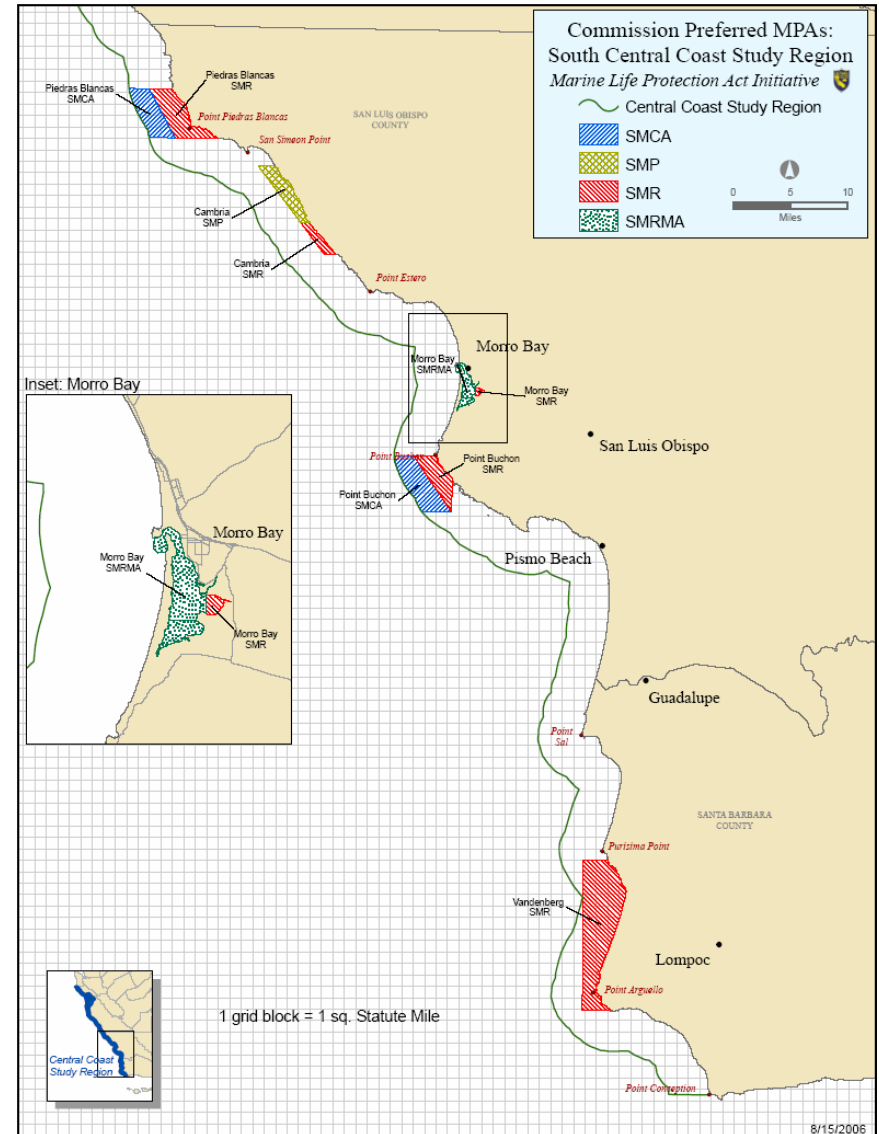
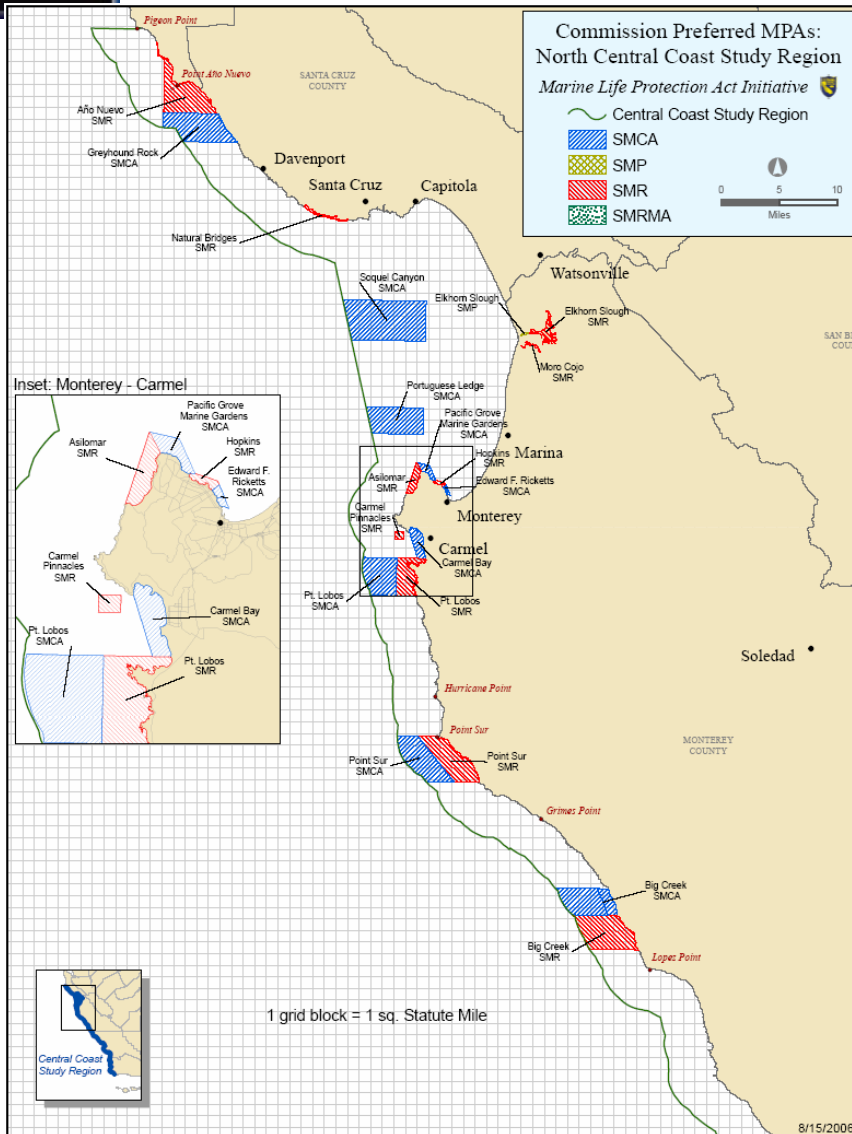


MPA Packages Over Time

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

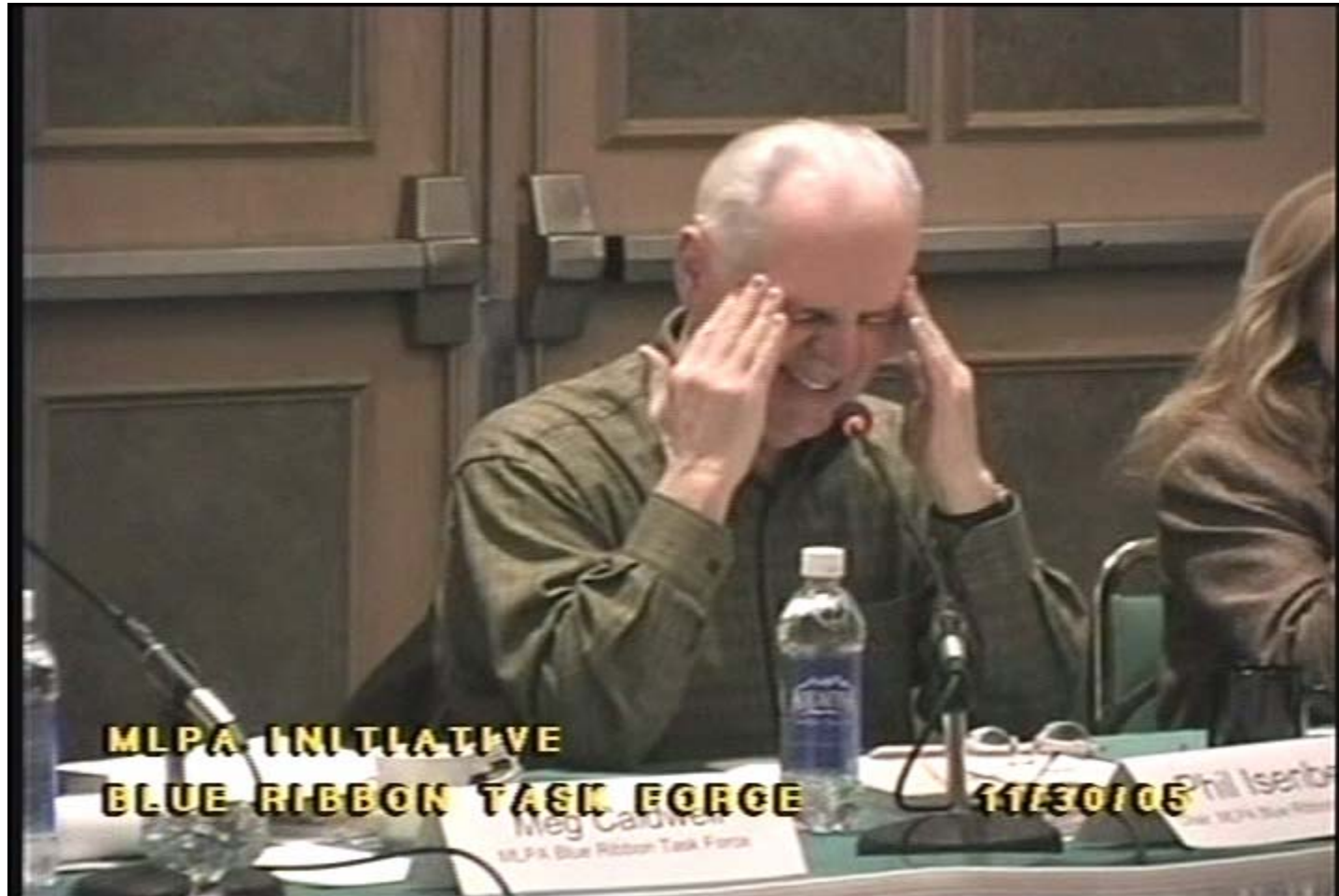


Commission Preferred Alternative (8/15/06)





Lessons Learned – Multiple Factors





Broad Lessons Learned

- Clear mandate or purpose essential (MLPA) – address inevitable uncertainty by focusing on mandate
- Transparency and accuracy are critical to elicit trust in process
- Focus on policy decisions necessary, structuring science and stakeholder processes to that end
- Communicate, communicate, communicate
- Provide authority to participants and decisions will be forthcoming
- Private funds support critical professional staff and consultants to complement state personnel, allowing singular focus on process

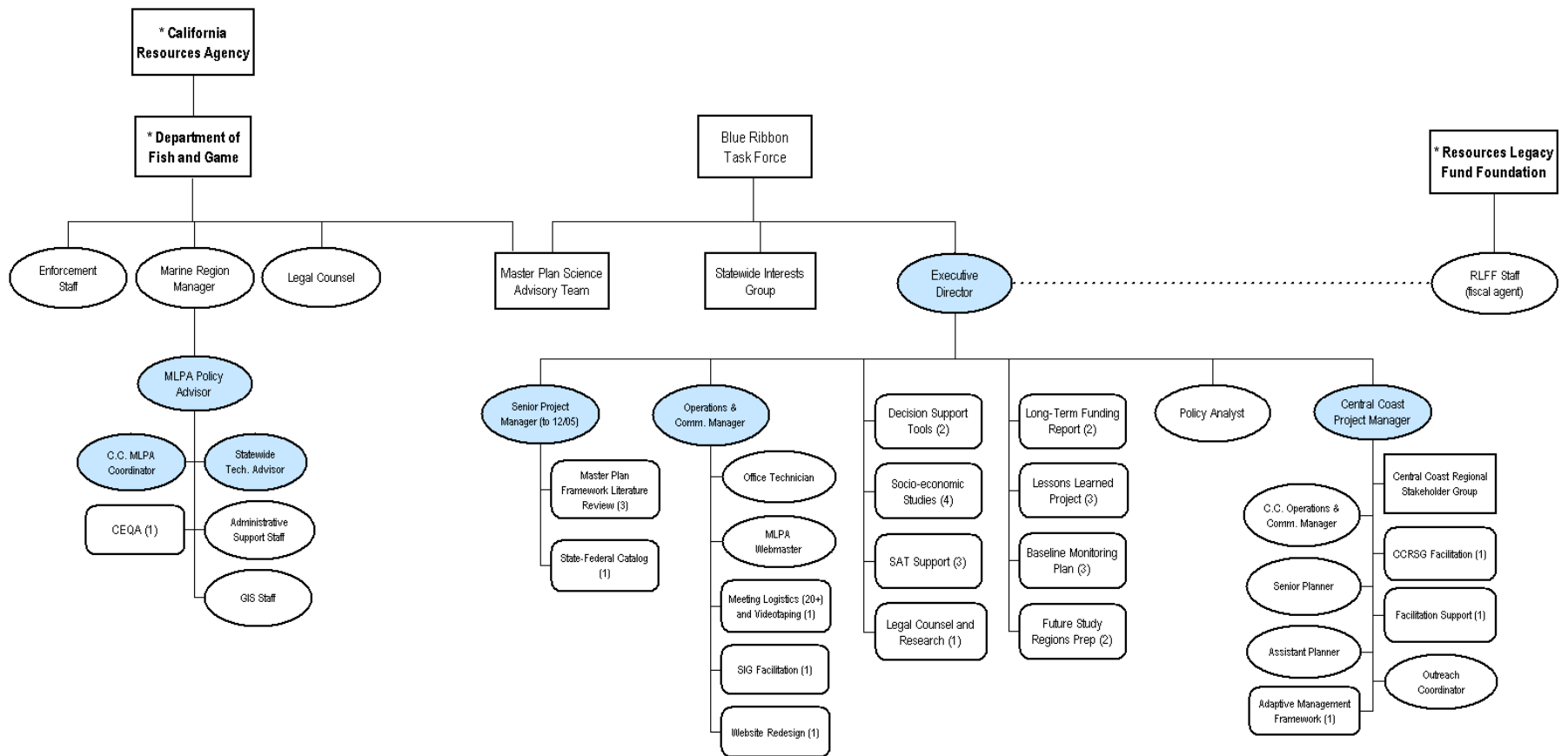


Additional Lessons Learned

- Deadlines encourage action

MLPAI Organizational Chart

California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
Organizational Structure
Revised August 2006



KEY:

- Groups
- Personnel
- Contracts (# of contracts)
- * MLPA MOU signatories**
- Members of Steering Committee

Note: This chart does NOT reflect 65 individual contracts for travel expense reimbursement (for group members)



Additional Lessons Learned

- Deadlines encourage action, but require staff
- Commitment from participants includes risks - hard work by three volunteer bodies (BRTF, SAT, CCRSG) were critical (hundreds of hours of effort) to outcome
- Flexibility – be willing and able to change as you learn and grow
- Significant resources used were to “support” the process versus new data collection, analyses or broad public information



References

- ***MLPA Initiative***
 - www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/mlpa
- ***Marine Life Protection Act***
 - www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/mlpa/mlpa_language.pdf
- ***Marine Managed Areas Improvement Act***
 - www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/mlpa/mmaia_language.pdf
- ***Marine Life Management Act***
 - www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/mlpa/mlma_language.pdf



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