

## Marine Life Protection Act Initiative



### Size and Spacing Evaluations of the Round 3 SCRSG MPA Proposals for the MLPA South Coast Study Region

Presentation to the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force  
October 20, 2009 • Long Beach, CA

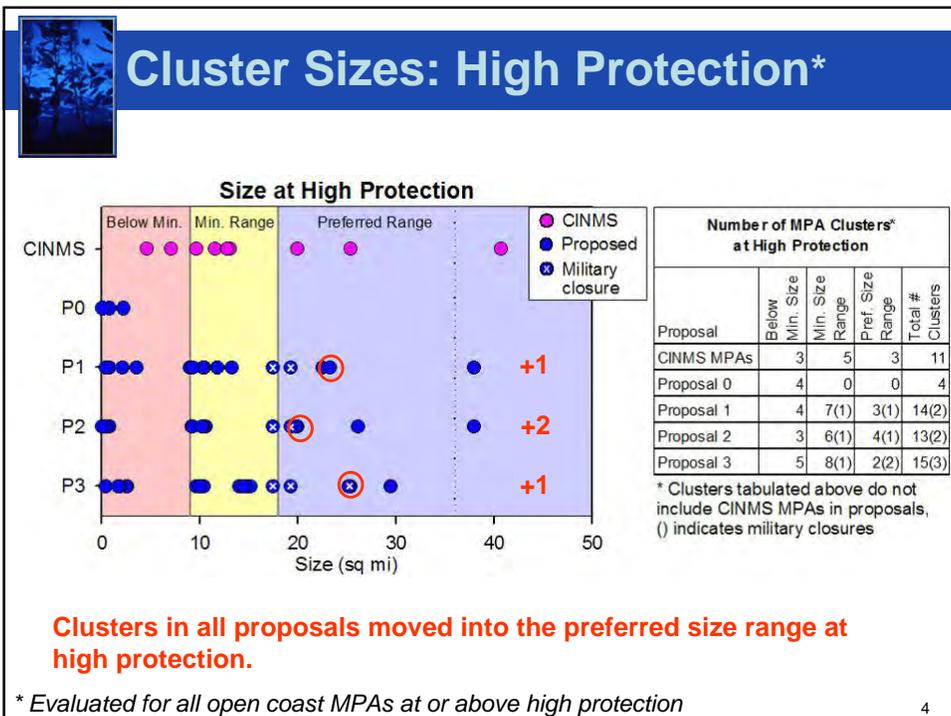
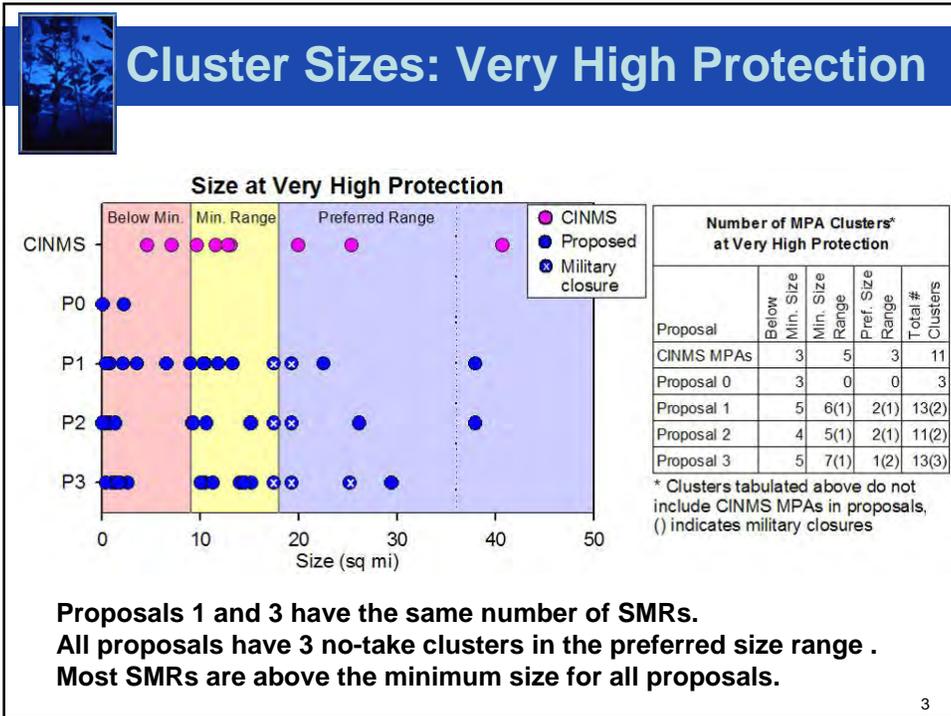
Dr. Steve Gaines, MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team

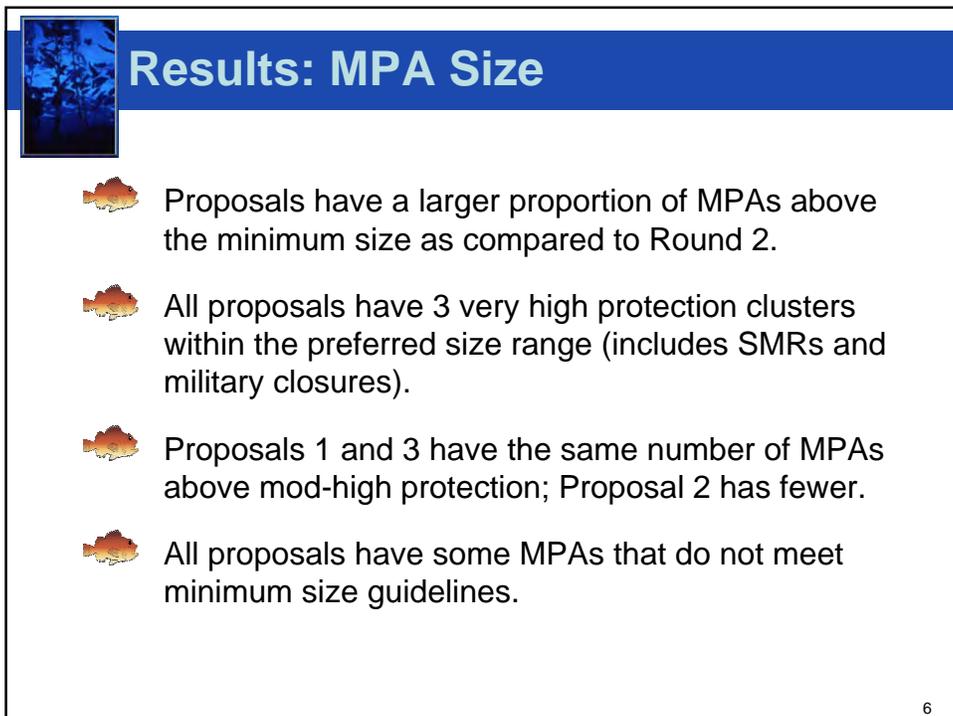
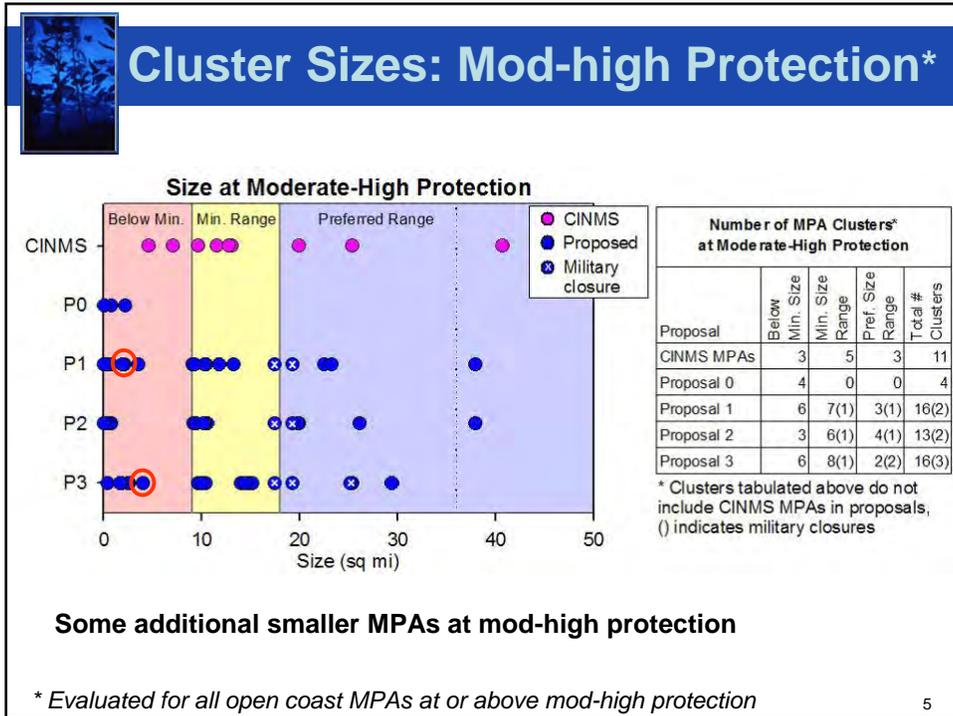
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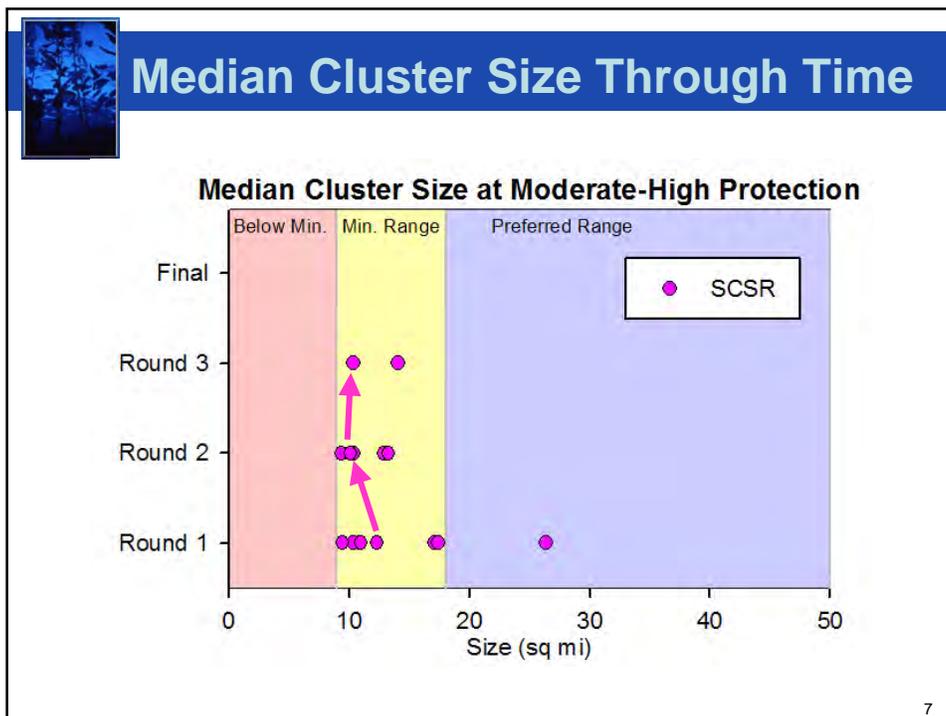
## Guidelines for MPA Size

-  **MPAs should have an alongshore span of 5-10 kilometers (3-6 miles) of coastline, and preferably 10-20 kilometers (6-12.5 miles).**
-  **MPAs should extend from the intertidal zone to deep waters offshore.**
-  **Combined and simplified, these two guidelines yield:  
Minimum range of 9-18 square miles;  
Preferred range of 18-36 square miles.**

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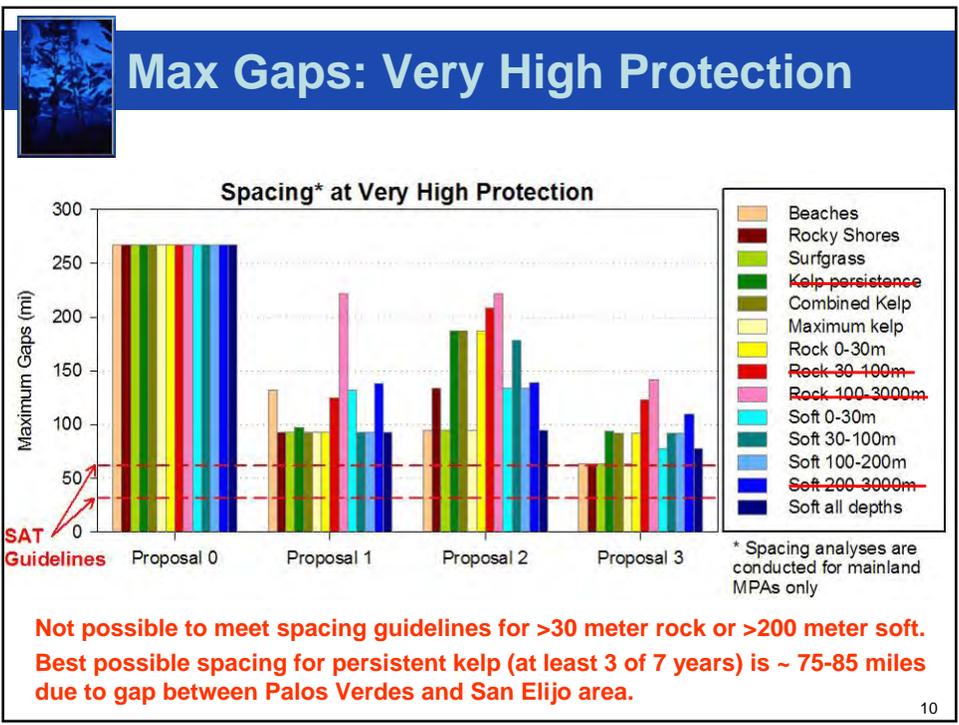
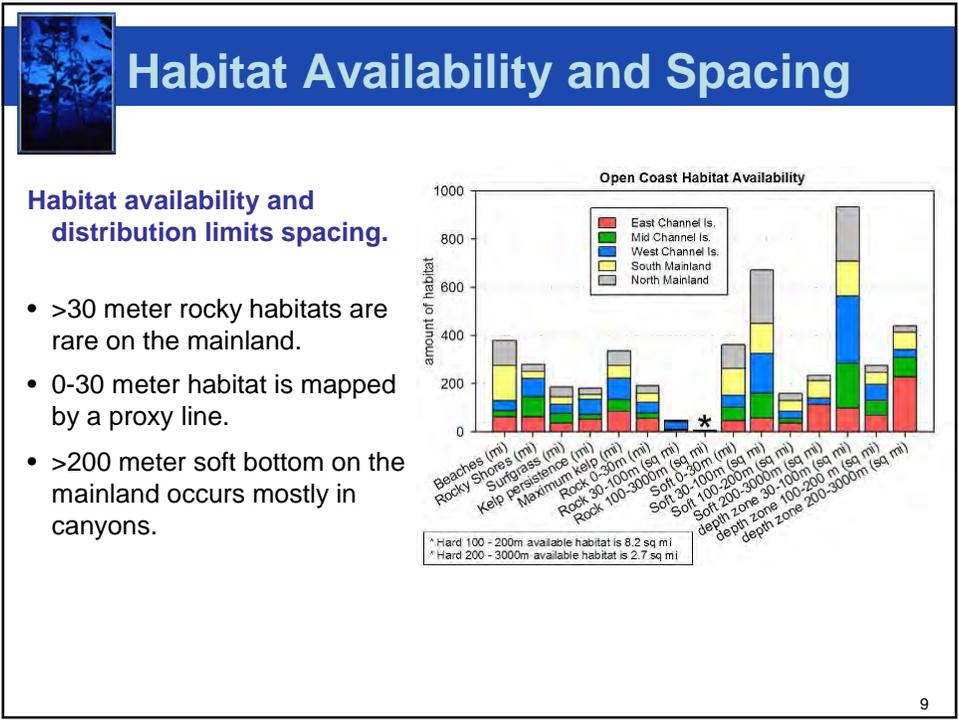


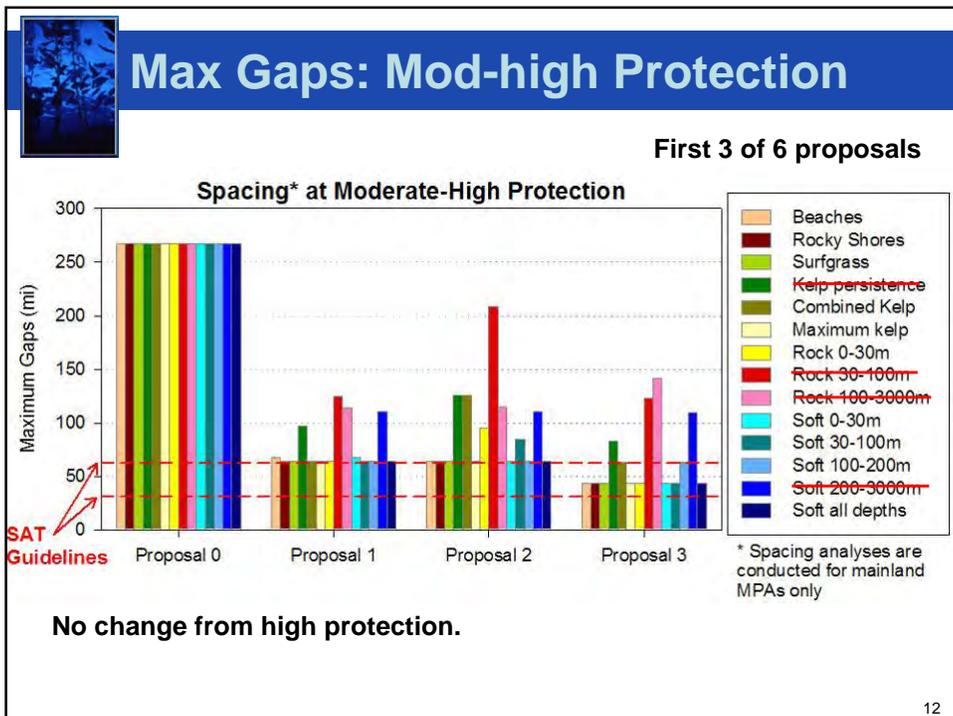
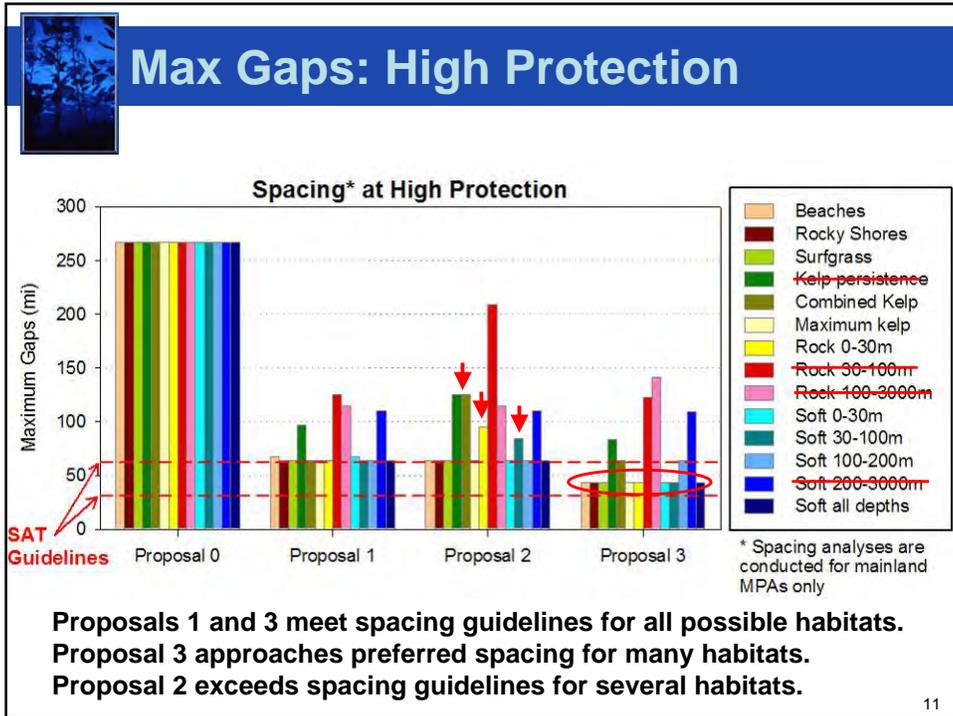


## Guidelines for MPA Spacing

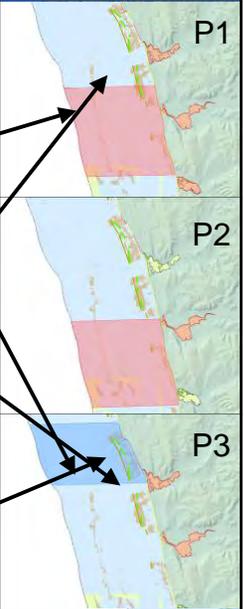
-  **MPAs should be placed within 50-100 kilometers (31-62 miles) of each other.**
-  MPA or cluster must meet the minimum size guidelines (9 square miles).
-  Because many populations are habitat-specific, MPA spacing is evaluated for each habitat.
-  Habitat must meet the threshold identified to encompass 90% of biodiversity in that habitat type.
-  Spacing is calculated for **mainland** MPAs only in the south coast study region.

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## Key Geographies that Influence Spacing



**Palos Verdes/ Rocky Pt.**

- P1 & P3 include more nearshore rocky reef and kelp for shorter gaps in these habitats.

**Laguna**

- P1 and P3 include more nearshore rocky reef and kelp for shorter gaps in these habitats.

**Del Mar/ Encinitas**

- P3 includes nearshore rocky reef in this area while P1 and P2 capture deeper rock.

## Spacing: Conclusions

-  Maximum gaps are generally smaller in Round 3 as compared to Round 2.
-  Spacing guidelines are impossible to meet for some habitats.
-  Proposal 3 achieves gaps close to the lower end of the spacing guideline range for most habitats.
-  Proposals 1 and 3 meet or approach spacing guidelines for all possible habitats.
-  Proposal 2 exceeds spacing guidelines for shallow rock and kelp as well as 30-100m soft bottom.

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