

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative



Preliminary Proposal Evaluations Related to MLPA Goals 1 & 4 – North Central Coast Study Region

Presentation to the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force

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Master Plan Science Advisory Team



MLPA goals



Science guidelines for MPA design

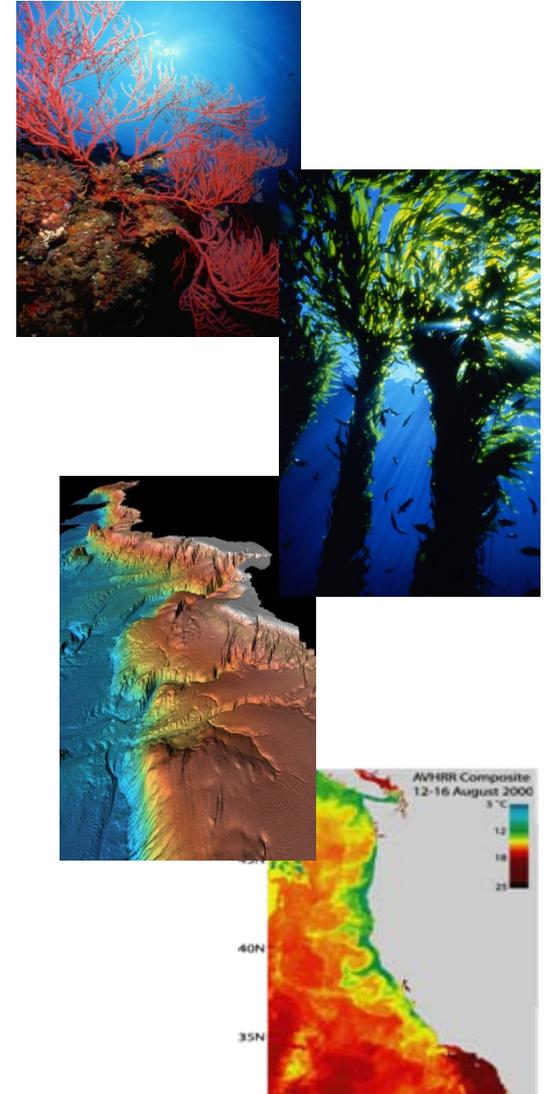


Evaluation of preliminary proposals



MLPA Goals - Habitats

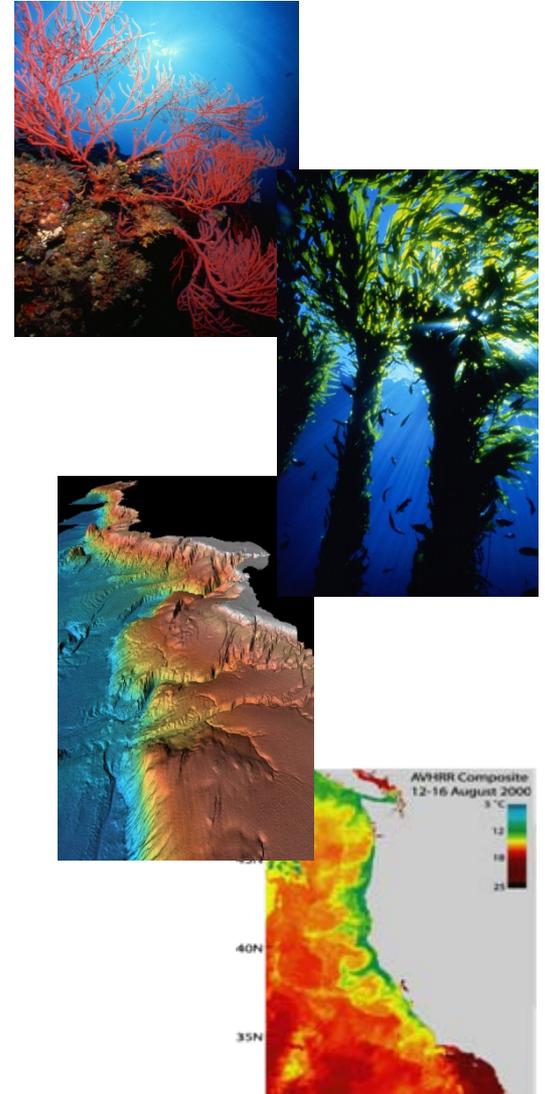
1. To protect the natural diversity and function of **marine ecosystems**.
2. To help sustain and restore **marine life populations**.
3. To improve **recreational, educational, and study opportunities** in areas with minimal human disturbance.
4. To protect representative and unique **marine life habitats**.
5. Clear objectives, effective management, adequate enforcement, sound science.
6. To ensure that MPAs are designed and managed as **a network**.





MLPA Goals - Habitats

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SAT Guidelines - Goals 1 and 4

MLPA Goals:

- 1) Protect natural diversity and function of marine ecosystems*
- 4) Protect representative and unique marine life habitats*

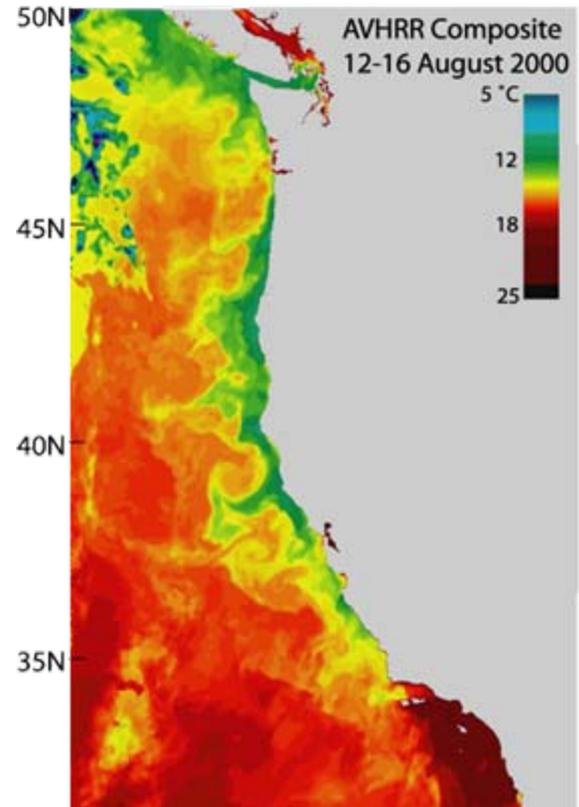
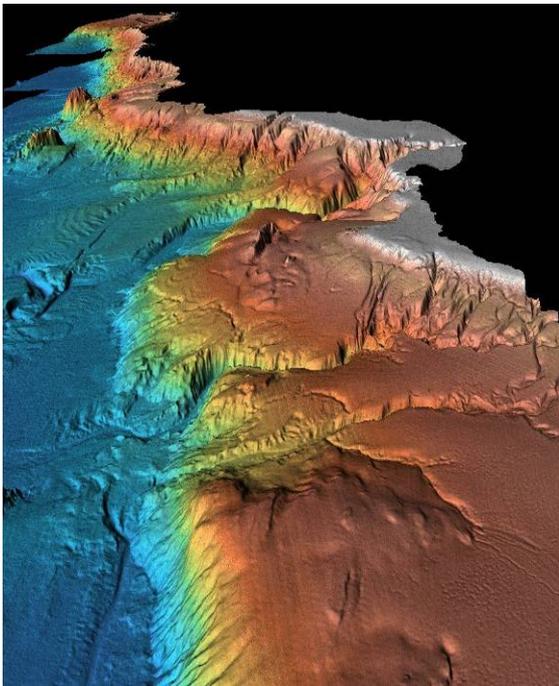
SAT Approach

-  Refined key habitats for north central coast
-  Defined biogeographic subregions
-  Refined and described level of protection designations
-  Evaluated habitat representation in MPAs

SAT Guidelines - Goals 1 and 4

Identified Key Habitats Using:

- Bottom Type and Depth Categories
- Biogenic Habitats
- Oceanographic Features





SAT Guidelines - Goals 1 and 4

Key Marine Habitats

Seafloor Habitats

- Rocky reefs
- Intertidal zones
- Sandy or soft ocean bottoms
- Underwater pinnacles
- Submarine canyons

Biogenic Habitats

- Kelp forests
- Seagrass beds

Depth Zones

- Intertidal
- Intertidal to 30 meters
- 30 to 100 meters
- 100 to 200 meters
- 200 meters and deeper

Oceanographic Habitats

- Upwelling areas
- Freshwater plumes
- Retention zones

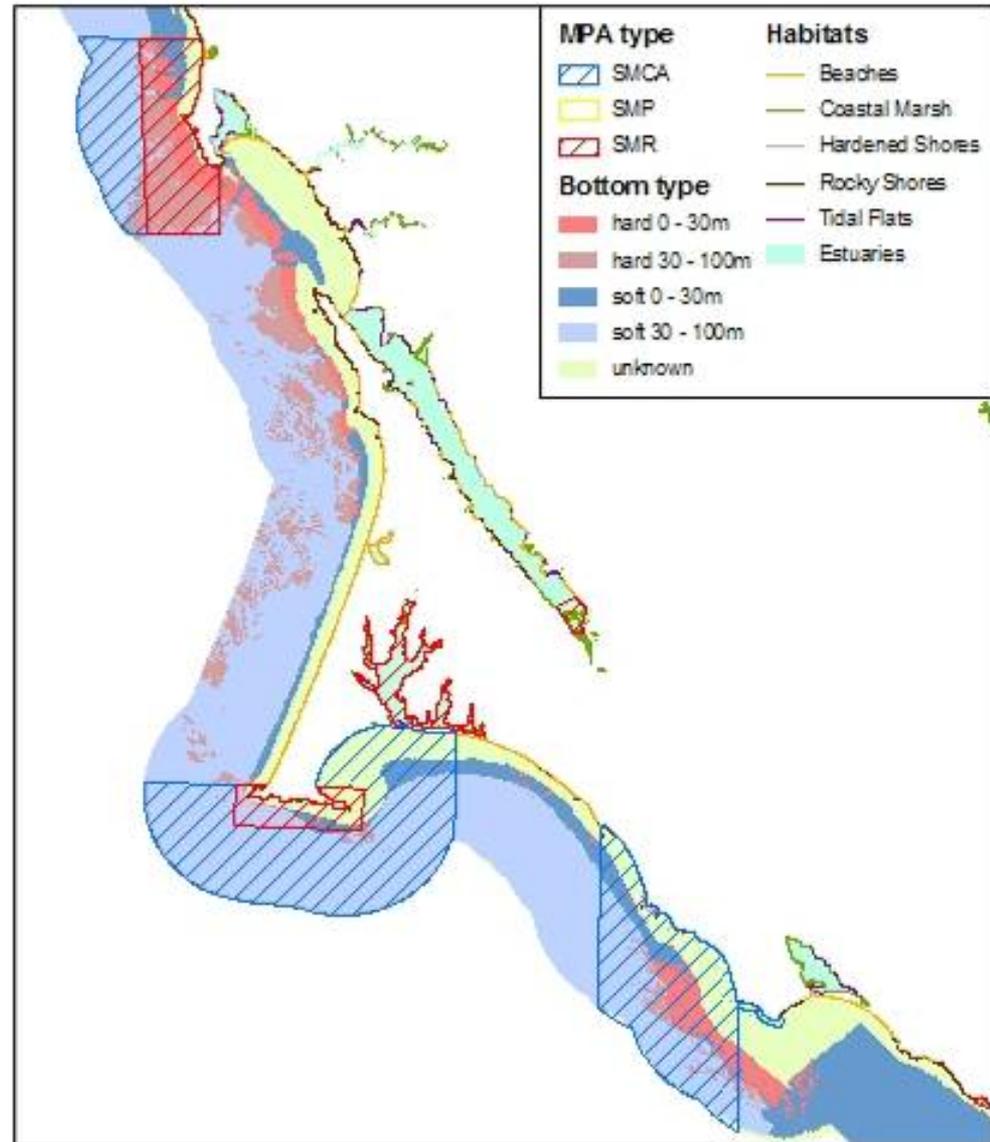
SAT Guidelines - Goals 1 and 4

Used GIS to Locate Habitats

Identified geographic distribution

Estimated area of each habitat type for study area and subregions

Estimated area or linear extent of habitat in each MPA



SAT Guidelines - Goals 1 and 4

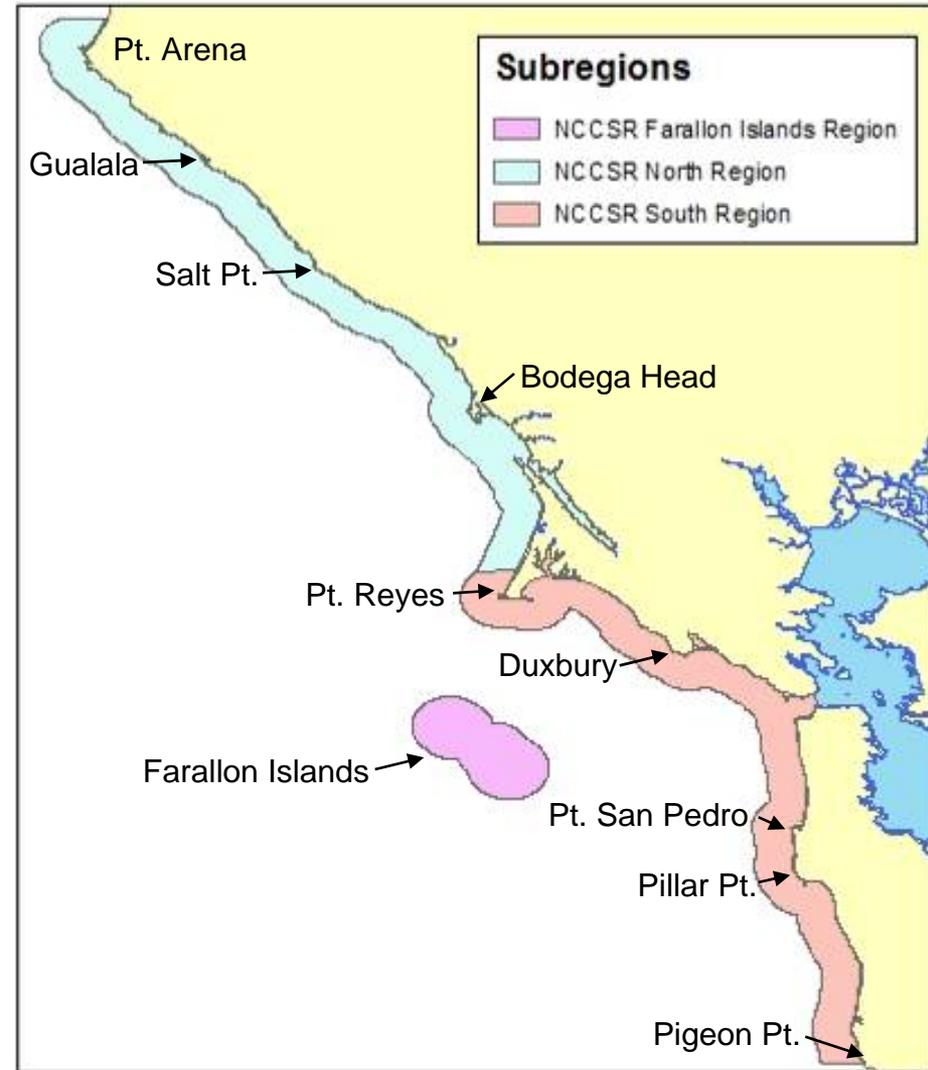


Three subregions

- North (Point Reyes – Point Arena)
- South (Pigeon Point to Point Reyes)
- Farallon Islands

Based upon

- Species and community distributions
- Geomorphology
- Oceanography





SAT Guidelines – Levels of Protection

Designated levels of protection based on potential impacts of proposed activities



direct impacts

- habitat damage
- incidental removal or mortality of non-target species



indirect impacts

- potential ecosystem effects caused by removing target or associated catch species



SAT Guidelines – Levels of Protection

The Question:

“Would there be a difference between ecosystems within an MPA that prohibits take of this species versus an area outside of the MPA where take is allowed?”

Yes if:

-  habitat is damaged
-  many species are removed
-  removed species play an important role in the resident ecosystem (predator, prey, competitor etc.)

No if:

-  no habitat damage
-  little associated catch
-  species removed are highly mobile so MPAs won't change local abundance

SAT Guidelines - Goals 1 and 4



	Level of Protection	MPA Types	Activities associated with this protection level
	Very high	SMR	No take
	High	SMCA	salmon (troll H&L in water greater than 50m depth), sardine, anchovy, and herring (pelagic seine)
	Mod-high	SMCA	salmon (troll H&L in water less than 50m depth), Dungeness crab (traps/pots), squid (pelagic seine)
	Moderate	SMCA SMP	salmon (non-troll H&L), abalone (diving), halibut, white seabass, shore-based finfish and flatfishes (H&L), clams (hand harvest), giant kelp (hand harvest)
	Low-mod	SMCA SMP	Urchin (diving), lingcod, cabezon, greenling, rockfish, and other reef fish (H&L), surfperches (H&L)
	Low	SMCA SMP	bull kelp and mussels (any method), all trawling, giant kelp (mechanical harvest)

SMCA = state marine conservation area

SMP = state marine park

SMR = state marine reserve



Evaluation – Goals 1 and 4

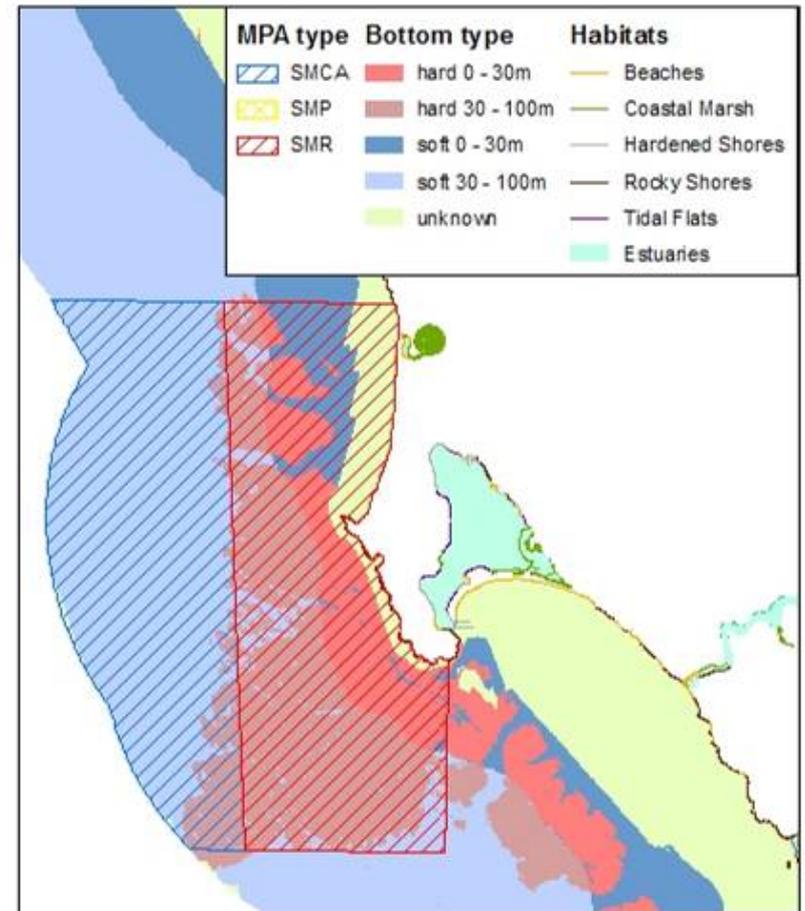
Key Questions for Each Proposed Package

1. How Well are Key Habitat Types Represented in Proposed MPA Packages?
2. What are the Proposed Levels of Protection for these Habitat Types?
3. How Well are Habitats and Levels of Protection Distributed Across the Study Region?

Results: Habitat Representation

Similarities between proposals

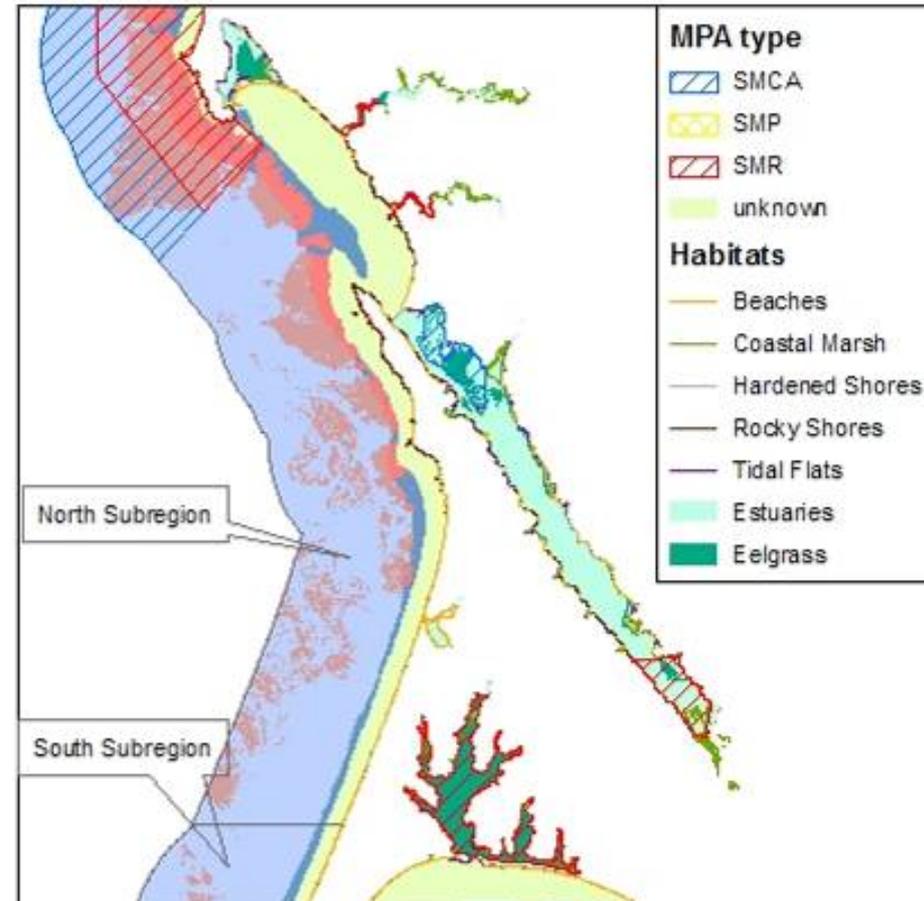
-  similarities in number, size and location of MPAs as well as the habitats they include
-  clusters of MPAs with an inshore SMR and offshore SMCA that allows various fishing activities
-  shoreline and shallow habitats are generally well represented in very high protection MPAs
-  many MPAs located in rocky reef habitat



Results: Habitat Representation

Similarities between proposals

-  estuarine habitats are generally well represented in very high protection MPAs
-  most proposals protected more of these habitats in the south subregion (Drakes Estero)
-  only two proposals specifically targeted large proportions of estuarine habitats in the north subregion (EA & EB)



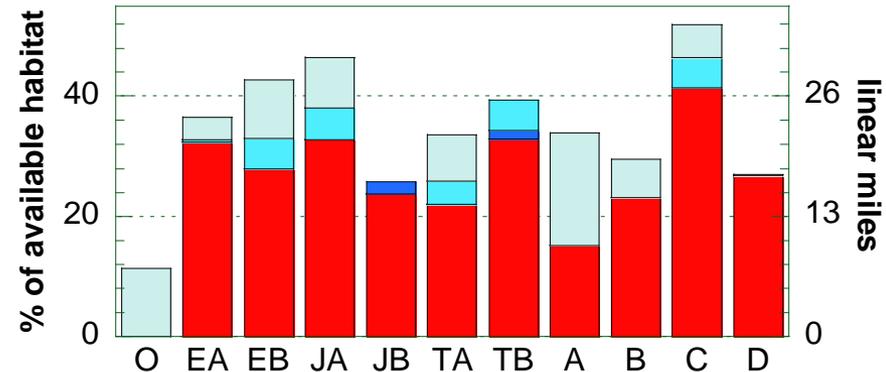
Results: Habitat Representation

Shallow Bottom Habitats

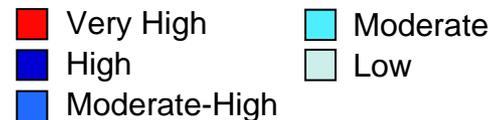
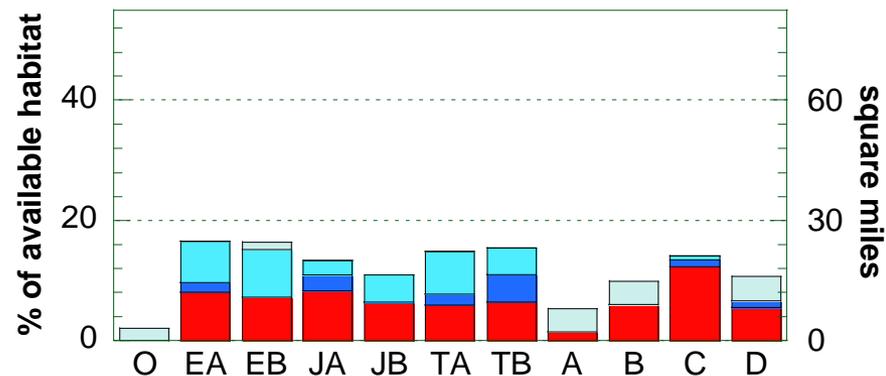
Proposals target shallow rocky reef, especially in north subregion

The lower proportion of shallow soft bottom included in MPAs reflects, in part, the large available area of this habitat

Shallow Rocky Reef (67 mi)



Shallow Soft Bottom (149 mi²)



Results: Habitat Representation

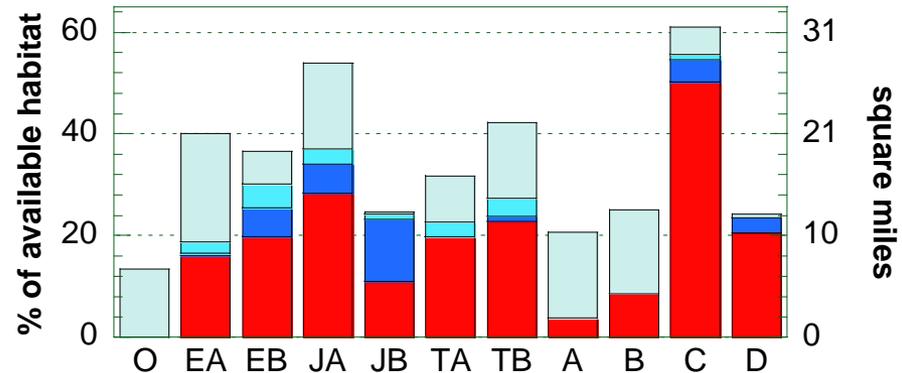
Deep Bottom Habitats

Proportion of deep hard bottom in very high protection varies markedly between proposals

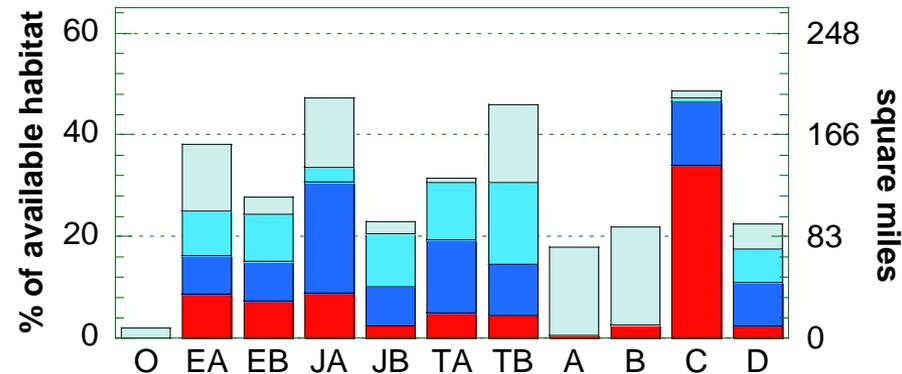
Areas of deep rocky reef protected at mod-high and moderate levels of protection (m-h = crabbing/ unspecified salmon, mod = halibut)

Large areas of deep soft bottom protected at mod-high and moderate levels of protection (m-h = crabbing/ unspecified salmon, mod = halibut)

Deep Rocky Reef (52 mi²)



Deep Soft Bottom (414 mi²)





Results: Habitat Representation

Summary



soft bottom habitats less represented in high protection MPAs, but assessment of shallow soft bottom habitat availability needs to be revisited (much unknown)



several MPAs received lower protection level designations because of insufficient information (e.g., salmon gear, fate of existing mariculture activities)



representation of some habitats varied across subregions:

- better represented in south: tidal flats, eelgrass, estuaries, shallow soft bottom
- better represented in north: deep and shallow rocky reef



kelp habitat is not well mapped – need to know relationship between shallow rock and kelp



SAT Evaluation Process

Based on MLPA Goals and Master Plan Guidelines

