

An underwater photograph showing a large school of fish swimming in clear, blue-green water. The fish are silhouetted against the lighter background, creating a sense of movement and depth. The overall tone is serene and naturalistic.

Importance of MPA Monitoring

**MPA Enrichment Program
Hearst Castle Theatre
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Don Canestro canestro@lifesci.ucsb.edu



Historical California MPA Processes

- **Highly politicized –
“Not in my backyard”**
- **Little scientific input**
- **Data limited when created**
- **Specific goals not established**

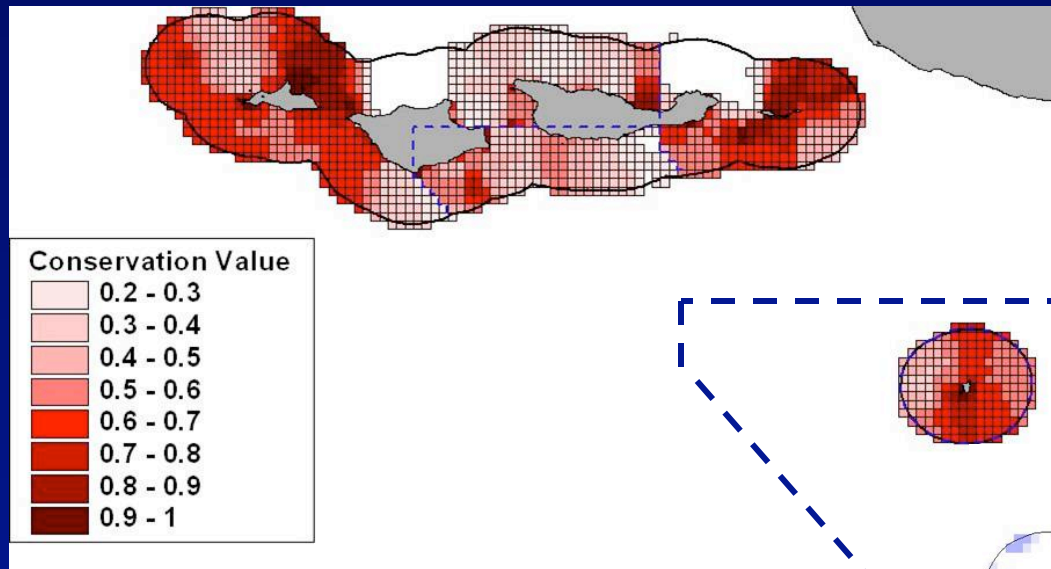
Example:

The Marine Resources Protection Act

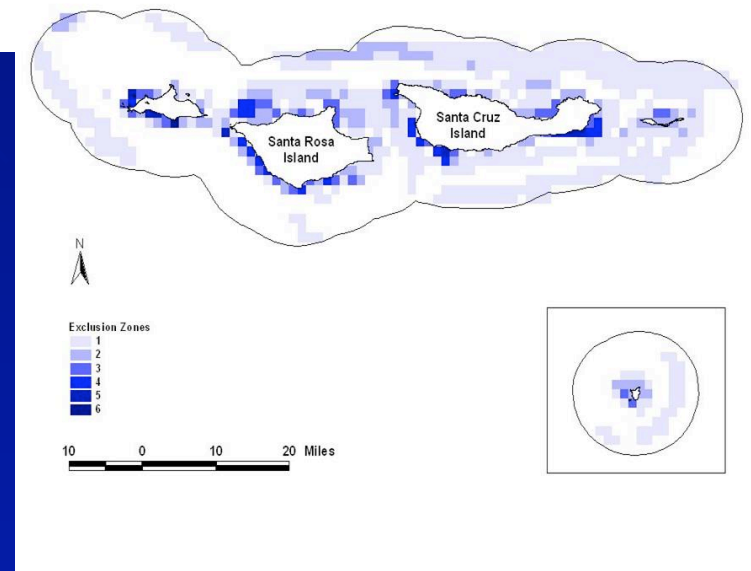
- **Proposition 132, “The Gill Net Initiative” - adopted November 6, 1990**
- **Gill nets restricted in waters < 3 nm and < 1 nm around the Channel Islands**
- **Required establishment of four new “Ecological Reserves” by January 1, 1994**
- **Provided for funding of research in these reserves**

California Channel Islands

Biological Data

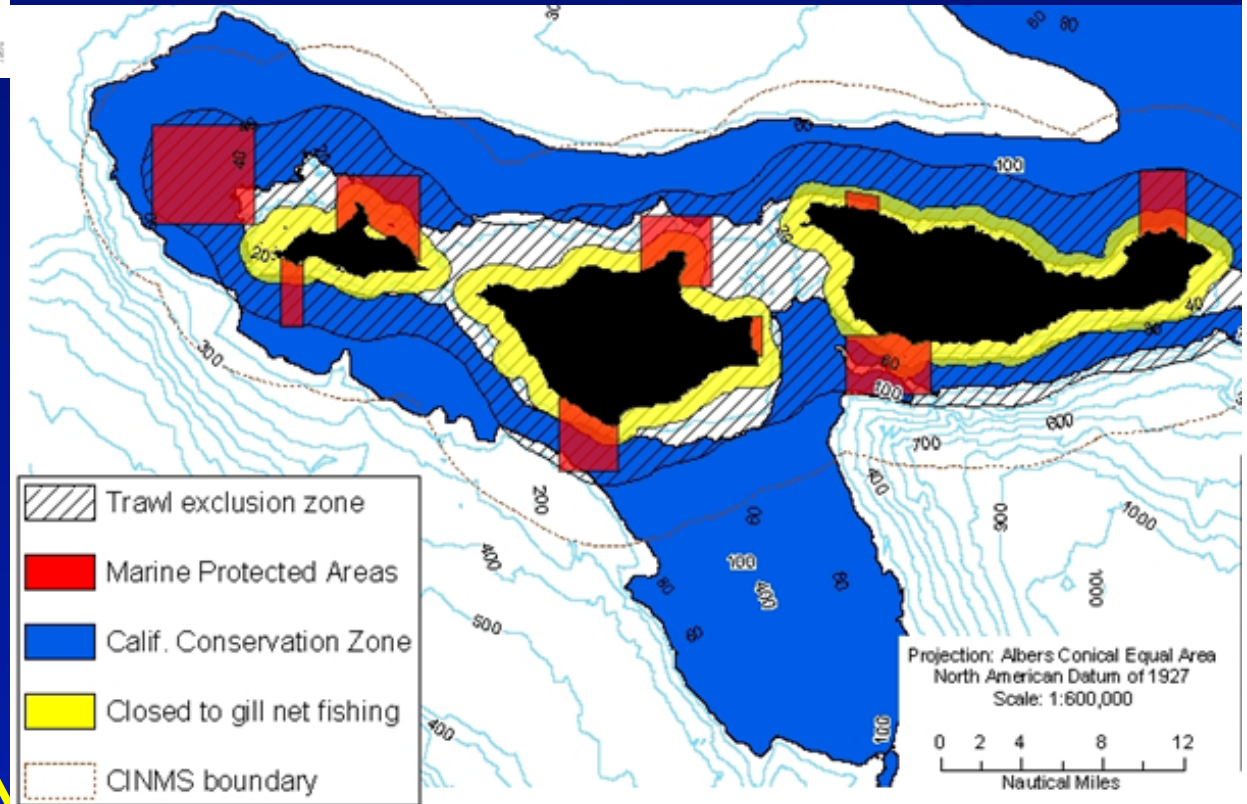
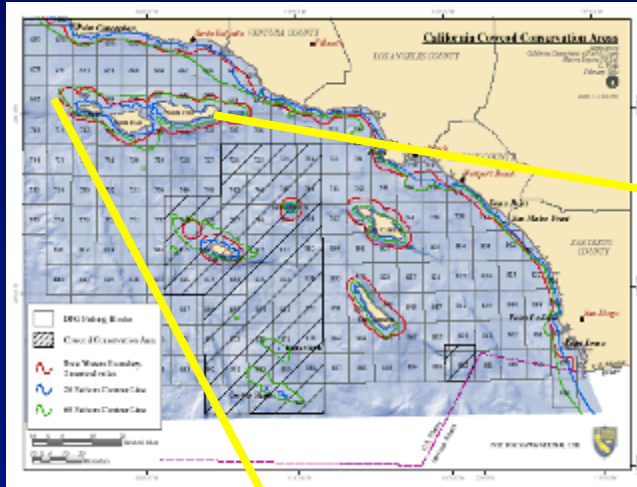


Socioeconomic Data



California Channel Islands

April 2003 - 12 new MPAs implemented ~ 350 sq. km.
July 2007 - Federal Component completed, network expanded
to > 775 sq. mi.





MLPA mandates include:

Best available science to be used to implement a network of MPAs along the California coast

Each MPA has specific, measurable goals, developed by the Regional Stakeholders

Why Monitor MPAs?

- 1. Given limited resources, any management approach comes with costs:**
 - a. detracts from alternative approaches**
 - b. redirects resources (financial and human)**

- 2. Critical to refining design and adaptive management:**
the sooner benefits/costs determined, the more rapidly aspects of design can be refined

Why Monitor MPAs?

3. Evaluate the adopted Goals of the Regional Stakeholder Groups

Goal 5 - 2. ...develop objectives, a long-term monitoring plan that includes standardized biological and socioeconomic monitoring protocols, and a strategy for MPA evaluation...

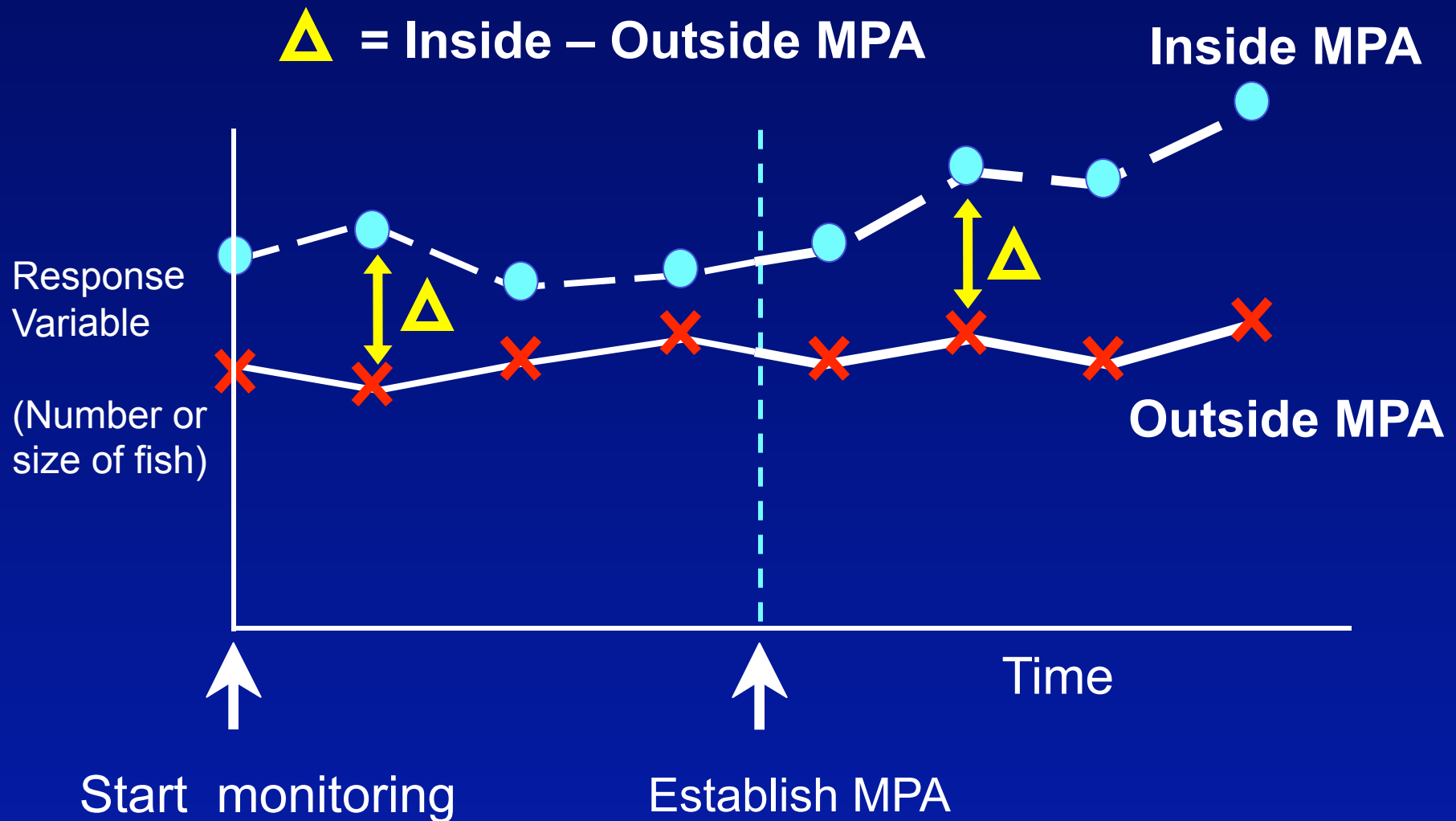
4. Required by MLPA

The law requires that the master plan include

“Recommendations for monitoring, research, and evaluation...to assist in adaptive management of the MPA network...” (FGC Section 2856(a)2(H))

What is monitoring

An example/model:



Summary

Historically California MPAs were implemented with little scientific basis & were rarely monitored.

The MLPA requires:

- the use the best available science
- the establishment of goals for each MPA

Monitoring of MPAs is essential to evaluate these goals and improve the best available MPA science



