

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative



UCSB Bren Student Group Marxan Analysis

Presented to the MLPA North Central Coast
Regional Stakeholder Group

Dr. Mary Gleason, Principal Planner • California MLPA Initiative
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How is Marxan analysis relevant?

- Marxan - software tool employed in support of MPA planning efforts around the world
- Some RSG members asked staff/SAT for Marxan analysis; Bren student group masters project w/ staff input
- Marxan as an exploratory tool – can provide insight into areas that may contribute toward habitat goals but have less potential economic impact



What is Marxan?

MARXAN software – optimization tool that works to find the most efficient set of planning units that meet conservation goals (eg. habitats included), with minimum cost (eg. potential impacts to commercial fisheries) and least amount of area

- GIS –based; using same spatial data as MLPA planning and evaluation process
- Study region divided up into 0.5 x 0.5 minute blocks or “planning units”
- Optimizing tradeoffs between biophysical (habitats) and socioeconomic (commercial fishery) factors



Important caveats

- Marxan output presented here is not an “MPA plan” and is not intended to be prescriptive.....does not tell you where you should put an MPA
- Tells you which planning units show up, and how often, in model output.... based on inputs and goals provided
- Simply additional information for your deliberations



Marxan inputs by planning unit

Conservation Targets

- Habitats (by SAT evaluation subregion – north, south, Farallons)
 - Intertidal (rocky, beach, tidal flat, marsh)
 - Estuaries
 - Surfgrass, Eelgrass
 - Average kelp
 - Rock 0-30m, 30-100m
 - Soft 0-30m, 30-100m

Cost Factors

- Socioeconomics - commercial fisheries data only (from Ecotrust survey); data from 34 fisheries aggregated into index of importance for each planning unit (weighted by revenue)



Conservation Goals Used

Why use percentage goals for habitats? Model requires it.

Set low, moderate, high conservation goals (10, 17, 34%) for each habitat based on minimum and maximum size and spacing guidelines

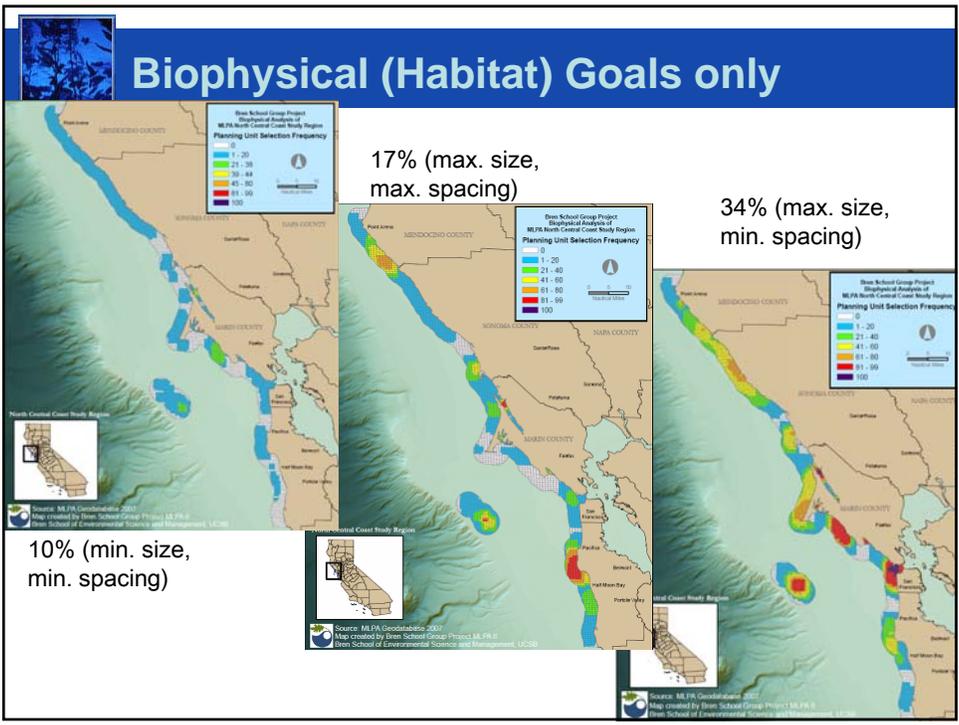
- Low: minimum size and minimum spacing would amount to about 10% of study region area
- Moderate: maximum size and maximum spacing would amount to about 17% of study region area
- High: maximum size and minimum spacing would amount to about 34% of study region area

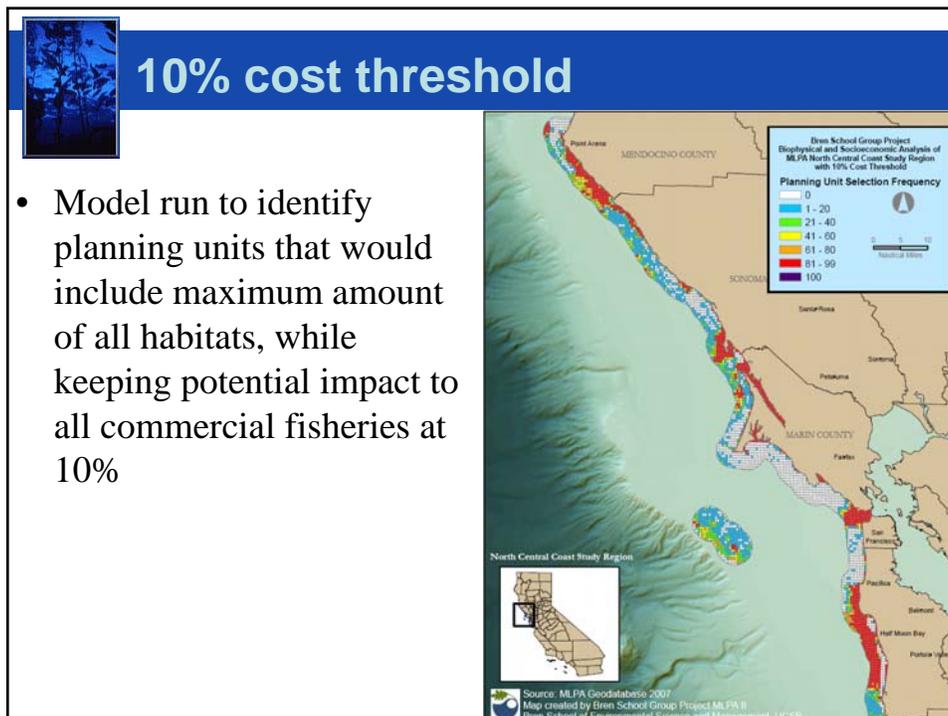
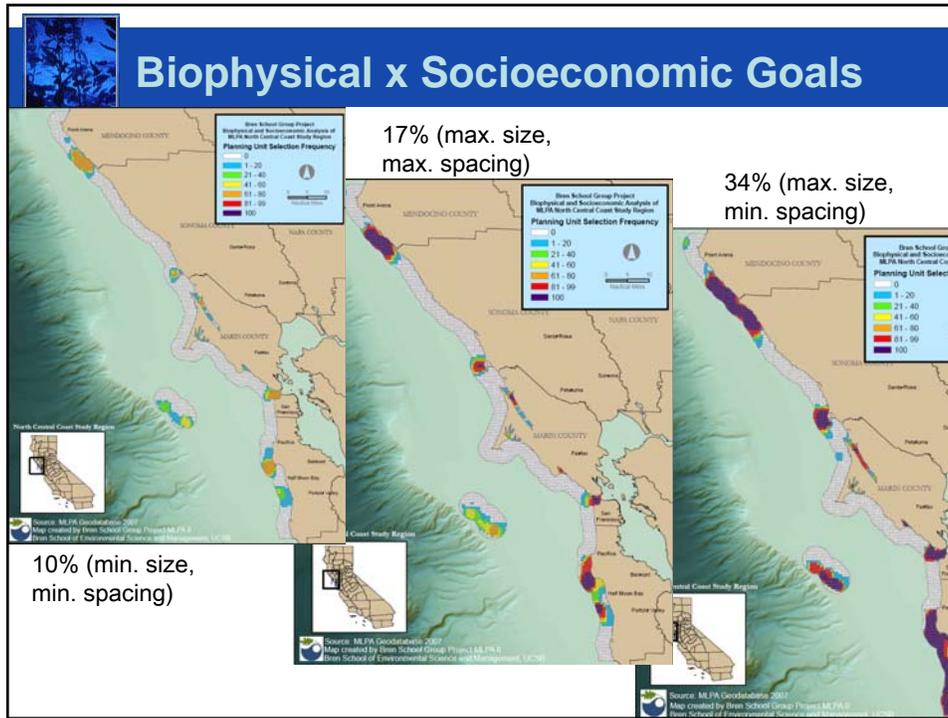
Marxan output

Summed solution – number of times a planning unit was selected in multiple runs (1000) of Marxan model

Three sets of maps provided:

- Fig. 1a-c. Biophysical goals only (at 10, 17, 34% goals for habitats)
- Fig. 2a-c. Biophysical goals and socioeconomic tradeoffs (at 10, 17, 34% goals for habitats)
- Fig. 3. Cost threshold – locations with maximum of all habitats included, while no more than 10% of fisheries potential impact







Summary

- Outputs interesting and may foster some ideas
- Outputs not a MPA plan or recommendation!
- Marxan is a model and is only incorporating inputs providedfor example, this analysis is NOT considering other factors you are also weighing:
 - Habitat quality, conservation value, unique ecological features
 - Other non-habitat biodiversity features (eg. bird and mammal rookeries)
 - Access, proximity, popularity of different sites to users
 - Tradeoffs w/ other socioeconomic factors: Recreational fishing, ports/harbors, tribal uses, etc
 - And the many other factors we have heard about from RSG members, public, etc.



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