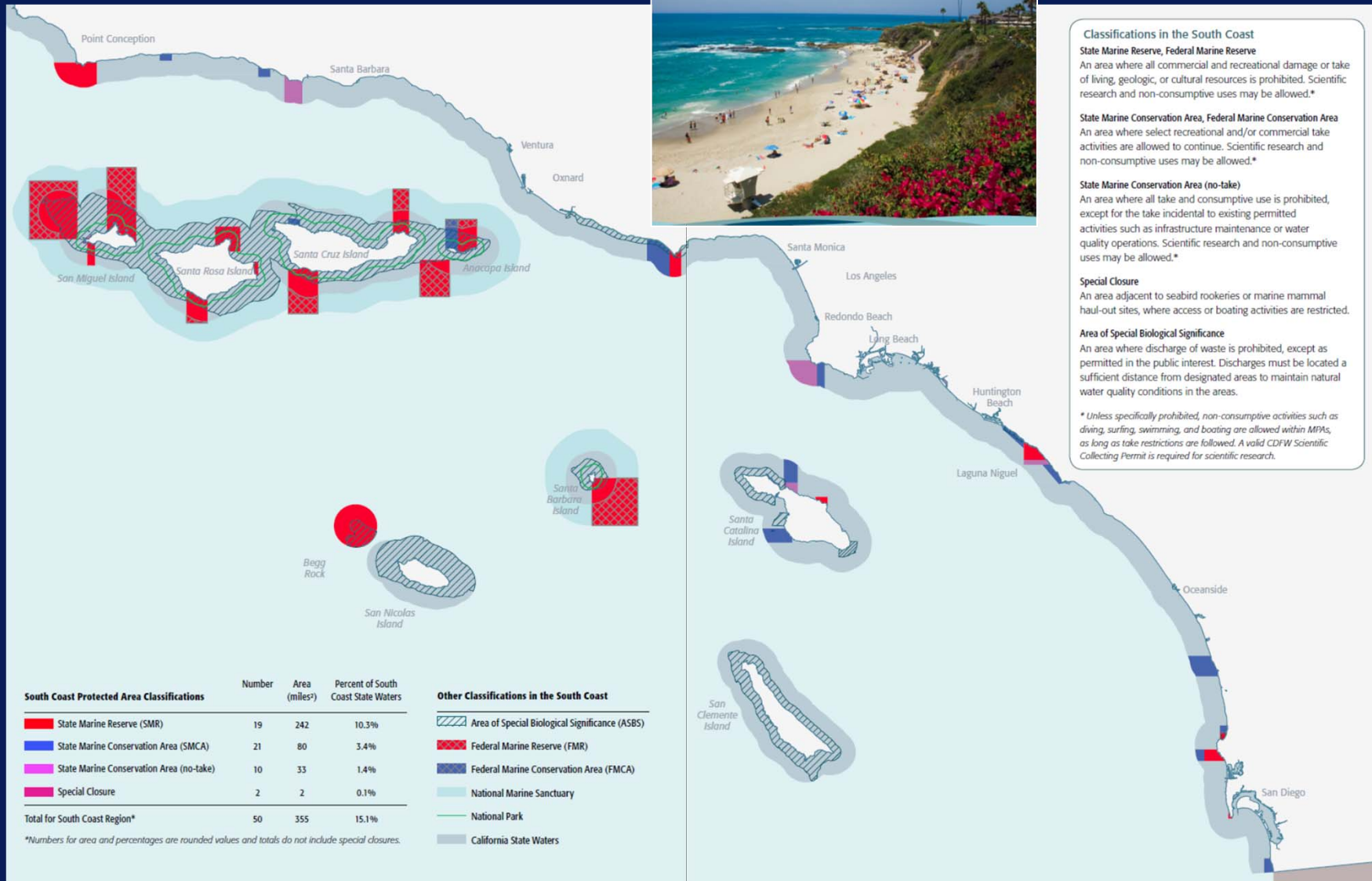


**South Coast  
Marine Protected Area (MPA)  
Baseline Monitoring Report**

# State of the California South Coast

Summary of Findings from Baseline Monitoring of Marine Protected Areas, 2011-2015



**Classifications in the South Coast**

**State Marine Reserve, Federal Marine Reserve**  
An area where all commercial and recreational damage or take of living, geologic, or cultural resources is prohibited. Scientific research and non-consumptive uses may be allowed.\*

**State Marine Conservation Area, Federal Marine Conservation Area**  
An area where select recreational and/or commercial take activities are allowed to continue. Scientific research and non-consumptive uses may be allowed.\*

**State Marine Conservation Area (no-take)**  
An area where all take and consumptive use is prohibited, except for the take incidental to existing permitted activities such as infrastructure maintenance or water quality operations. Scientific research and non-consumptive uses may be allowed.\*

**Special Closure**  
An area adjacent to seabird rookeries or marine mammal haul-out sites, where access or boating activities are restricted.

**Area of Special Biological Significance**  
An area where discharge of waste is prohibited, except as permitted in the public interest. Discharges must be located a sufficient distance from designated areas to maintain natural water quality conditions in the areas.

*\* Unless specifically prohibited, non-consumptive activities such as diving, surfing, swimming, and boating are allowed within MPAs, as long as take restrictions are followed. A valid CDFW Scientific Collecting Permit is required for scientific research.*

South Coast Protected Area Classifications				Other Classifications in the South Coast			
	Number	Area (miles <sup>2</sup> )	Percent of South Coast State Waters				
State Marine Reserve (SMR)	19	242	10.3%	Area of Special Biological Significance (ASBS)			
State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA)	21	80	3.4%	Federal Marine Reserve (FMR)			
State Marine Conservation Area (no-take)	10	33	1.4%	Federal Marine Conservation Area (FMCA)			
Special Closure	2	2	0.1%	National Marine Sanctuary			
<b>Total for South Coast Region*</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>15.1%</b>	National Park			

\*Numbers for area and percentages are rounded values and totals do not include special closures.

# California Fish and Wildlife MPA Management Strategy

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- **Research and monitoring**
- **Outreach and education**
- **Enforcement and compliance**
- **Policy and permitting**

# Two Questions for Today

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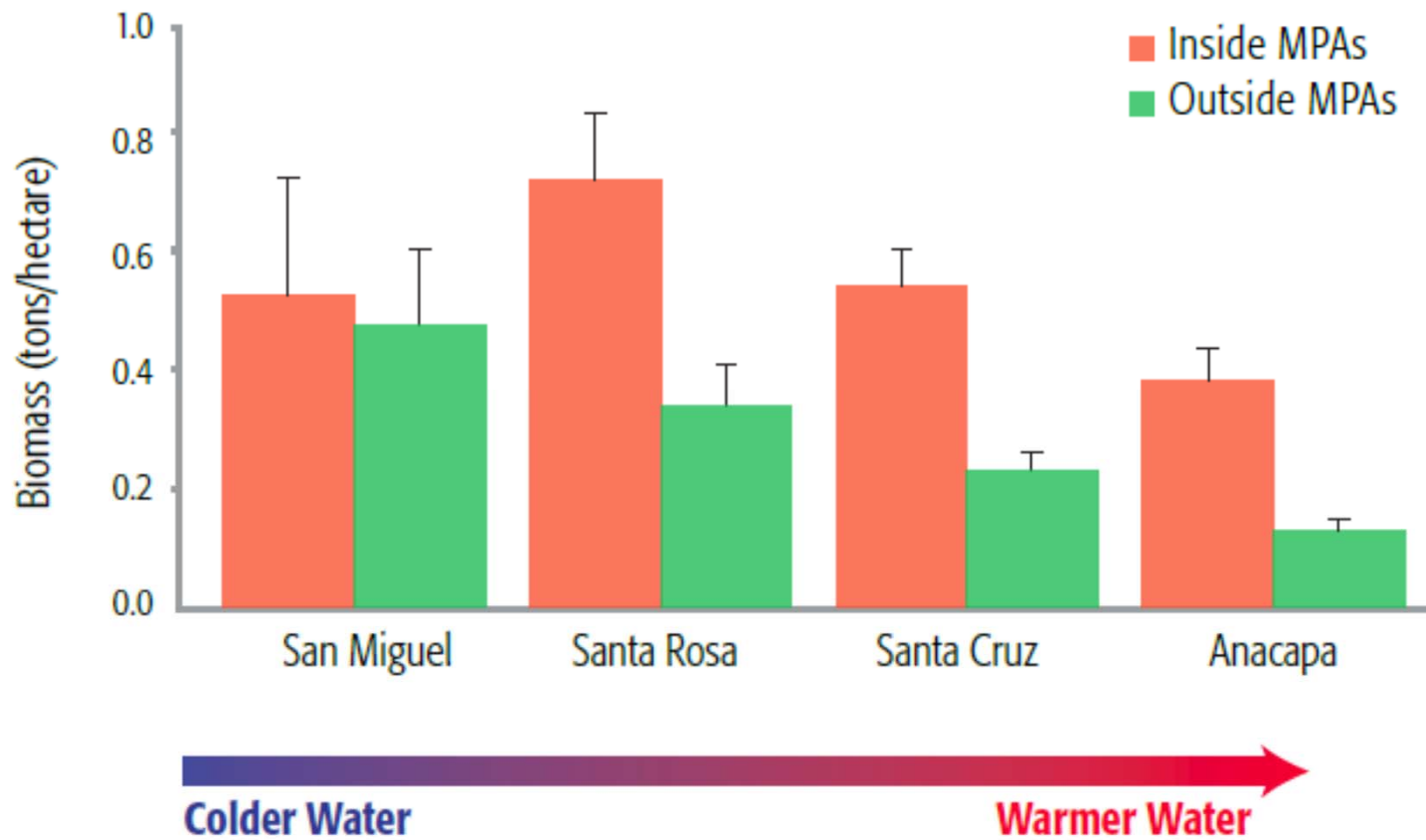
- **What are the primary findings from the South Coast MPA Baseline Monitoring Report?**
  - Possible effects on member agencies
  
- **What are the linkages between our two monitoring programs?**

# MPA Monitoring Report Findings

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- **Baseline monitoring included both ecological and socioeconomic data**
- **Set a benchmark for long-term monitoring of MPA effectiveness**
  - Revisit size and spacing in 2022 report
- **Results from Channel Islands as a teaser**
  - These Marine Sanctuary MPAs were established in 2003

# Biomass of Targeted Species Inside and Outside Channel Islands MPAs



# **MPA Baseline and Bight Regional Monitoring Compliment Each Other**

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- **Water quality is contextual information for MPA monitoring**
  - **All of the water quality information in the Baseline Report came from Bight '13**
- **Bight '13 created an MPA stratum specifically to enhance interactions and relationships**
- **Habitats and indicators overlap little between programs**

# Comparison of Habitats and Indicators

## MPA Monitoring

- Diving on Kelp and shallow rock reefs
- Rocky intertidal and sandy beaches
- Deep reefs via ROV
- Seabird populations
- Aerial imaging
- Recreational and commercial fisheries

## Bight Monitoring

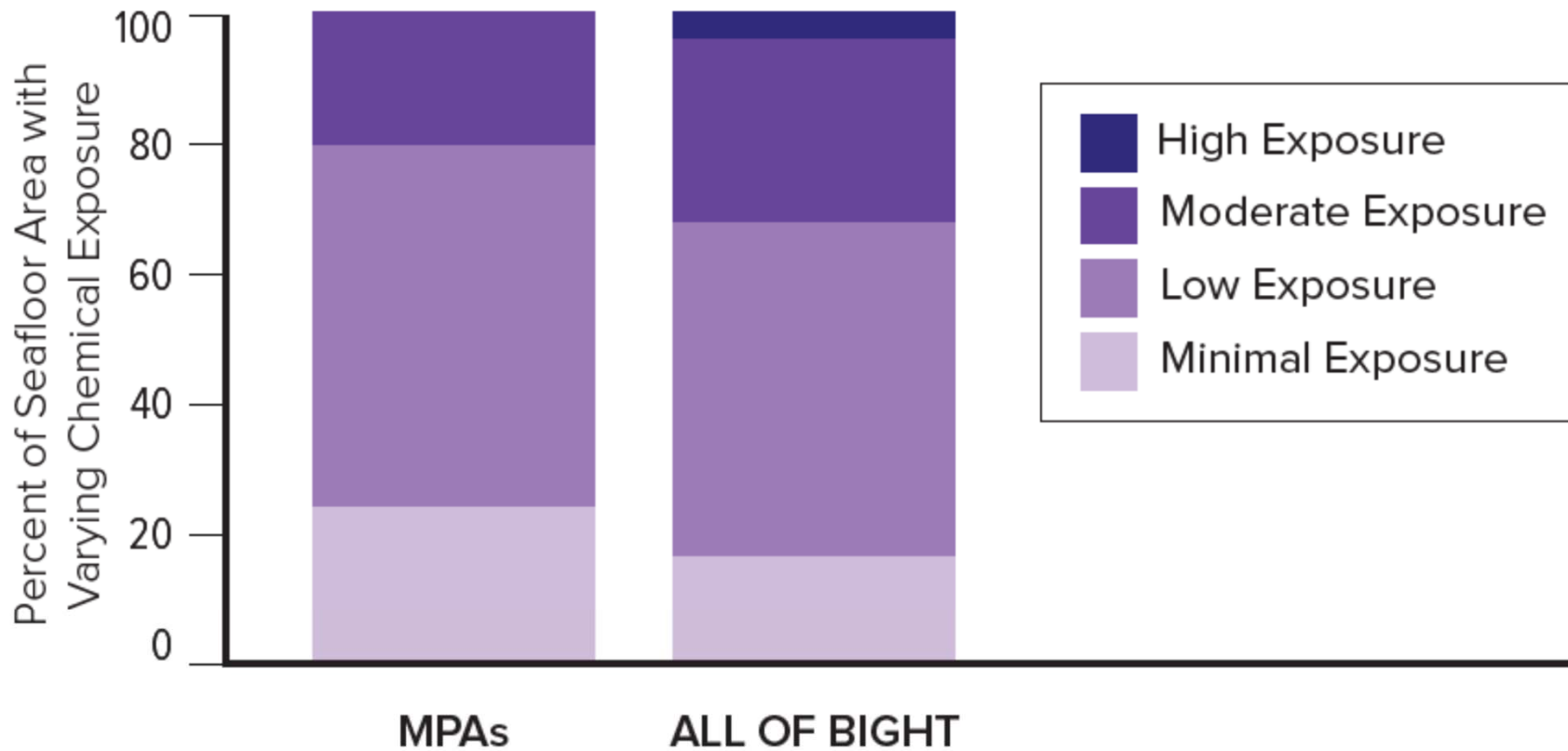
- Soft bottom sediments by grab or trawl
- Estuaries
- Water column nutrients and ocean acidification
- Seabird bioaccumulation
- Pollutant discharges
- Trash and debris



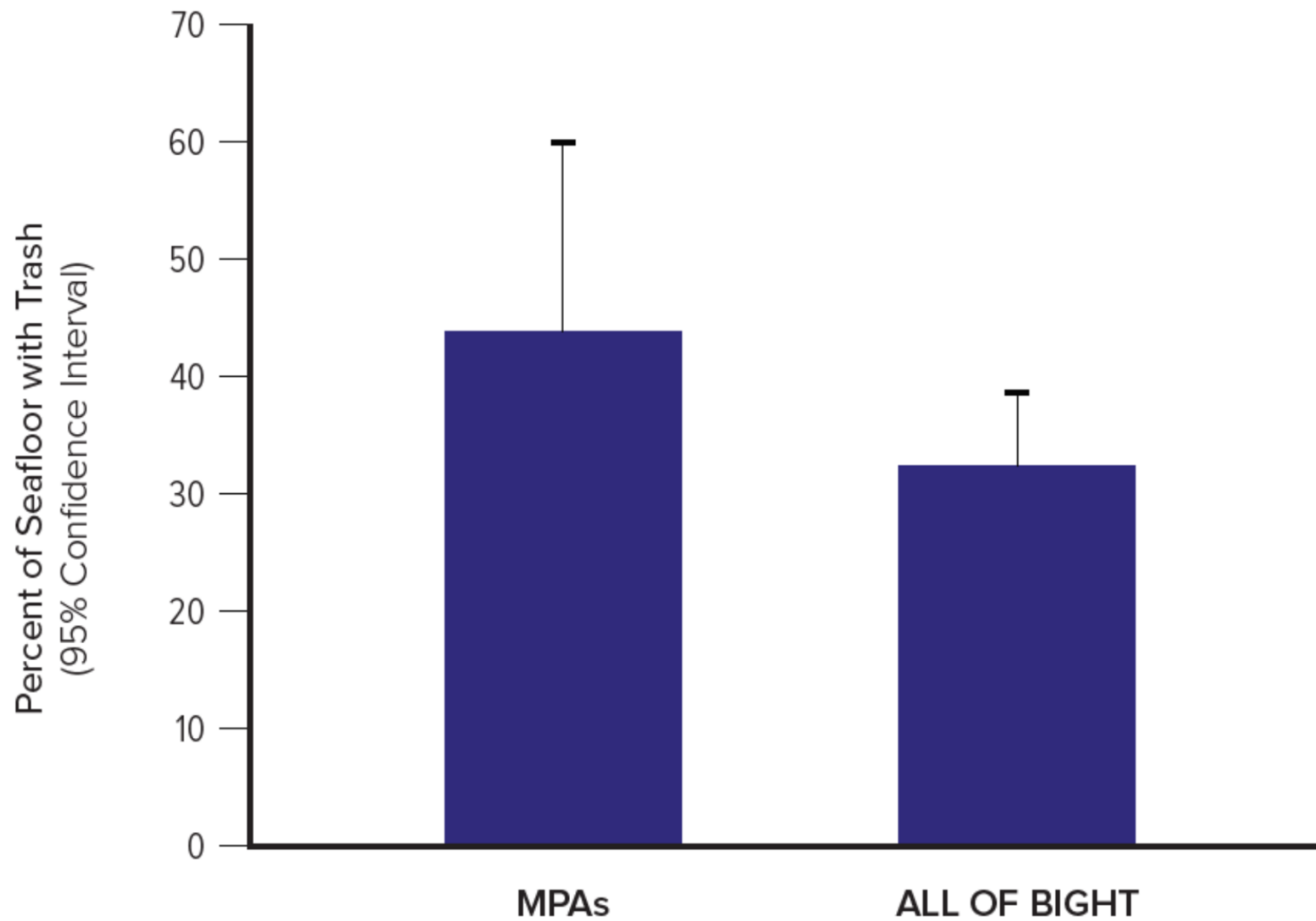
# Bight '13 MPA "Snapshot"

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- **Soft bottom fish and invertebrates perhaps one of the best MPA baseline data sets**
- **Minimal to low exposure from sediment contamination to MPAs**
- **Ocean acidification could bring corrosive waters into MPAs**
- **Trash and debris is accumulating on MPA seafloor**



*Areal extent of sediments in MPAs in varying categories of exposure to contamination. Source: SCCWRP.*



*Bight '13 found that the extent of trash and debris in MPAs was greater than in the rest of the South Coast region. Source: SCCWRP.*

# **Bight and MPA Monitoring: Future Strategic Partnership**

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- **Continued interest in working together**
  - **Attitudes are good**
- **Shared post-doctoral Fellow with Ocean Science Trust to address the MPA-Water Quality nexus**
- **Identified two areas for further interaction**
  - **Rocky reef health index to assess biological integrity**
  - **Potential interaction of stormwater plumes and reefs**