# The California Ocean Uses Atlas Project: Seeing the Whole Picture of Human Use



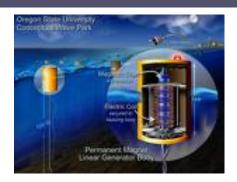


Dr. Charlie Wahle, NOAA Dr. Lance Morgan, MCBI

SoCal Regional Stakeholders Group

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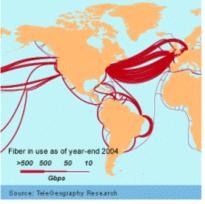
## How We Use the Ocean: Industrial and Military Uses













# How We Use the Ocean: Fishing Uses



## How We Use the Ocean: Non-Consumptive Uses



### How We Manage the Ocean: By Managing Ocean Uses

**Evolving Ocean Management Approaches** 

Marine Protected Areas

**Area Based Management** 

Ecosystem Based Management

Marine Spatial Planning

Regional Ocean Governance

Management Target

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> Human Use Patterns

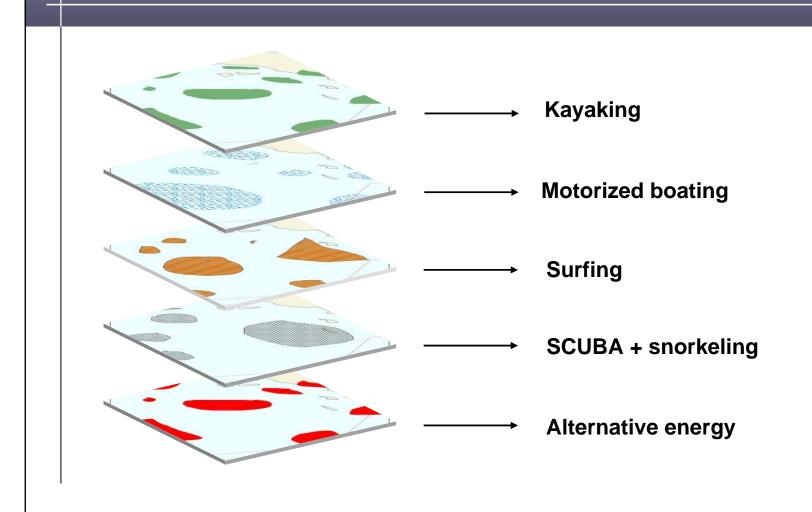
Desired Ecosystem + Societal Outcomes

Improved
Ecosystem
Health +
Services

Social, Cultural + Economic Benefits

Reduced User Conflicts

## The Missing Puzzle Piece: Comprehensive Maps of All Key Ocean Uses



#### The California Ocean Uses Atlas

- **Purpose** to enhance CA ocean management by filling key data gap on the full range of human uses
- Approach regional experts (e.g. managers + users) create GIS maps of 26 uses in 3 sectors thru participatory mapping workshops
- Applications
  - MPAs and area-based management
  - Regional ocean management
  - Alternative energy siting
  - Resolving user conflicts
- Partners
  - NOAA MPA Center
  - MCBI
  - Gordon and Betty Moore and Resources Legacy Fund Foundations
- Timeline Jan 2008 –> Sep 2009



### The SoCal Atlas Mapping Workshop

- Logistics Sept. 16-18, 2008 @ SCCWRP, Costa Mesa
- Participants approx. 45 regional experts and users
- Process For Each Use Sector
  - Broad brush patterns for each use
  - Using interactive digital mapping technology
  - Mapped: max footprint, dominant area and future use
  - Multiple breakout groups => replication
  - Staggered sequence of uses mapped
  - Balanced membership among groups

#### Observations

- Cooperative mapping
- Deep well of knowledge about region
- Real-time learning about uses



### 26 Ocean Uses Mapped in SoCal

#### Fishing (9)

- Recreational fishing from boats
- Recreational fishing from shore
- Recreational dive fishing
- Kayak fishing
- · Commercial pelagic fishing
- Commercial fishing w/ benthic fixed gear
- Commercial fishing w/ benthic mobile gear
- Commercial dive fishing
- Commercial algae harvesting

#### Non-Consumptive (9)

- Swimming
- Surface water sports
- Paddling
- SCUBA and snorkeling
- Motorized boating
- Sailing
- Tide pooling
- Beach use
- Wildlife viewing from charter boats
- Industrial Military (8)
- Offshore oil and gas
- Offshore alternative energy
- Mining and mineral extraction
- Underwater cables
- Maritime shipping
- Cruise ships
- Military operations
- Aquaculture

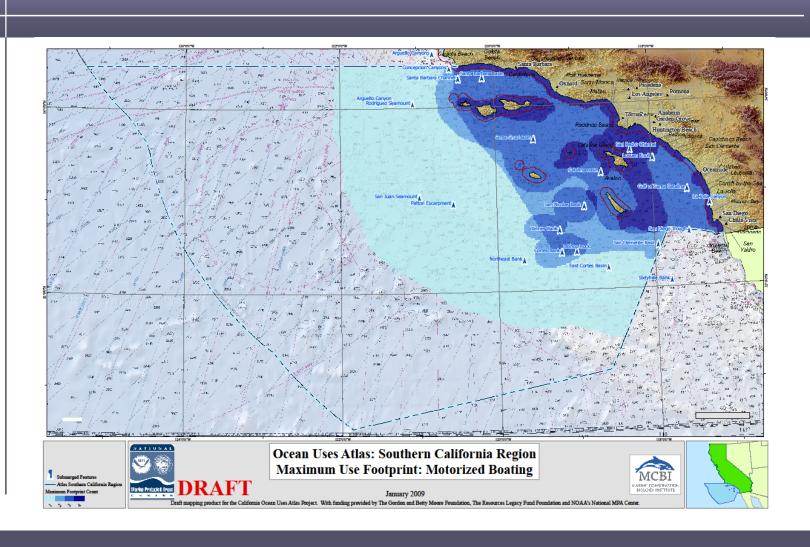
#### **SAMPLE PRODUCTS**

#### Format for each of 26 uses:

- Maximum footprint
- Dominant use area
- Future increases

Associations among key uses

# Maximum Footprint of Motorized Boating Sample Map from SoCal Atlas



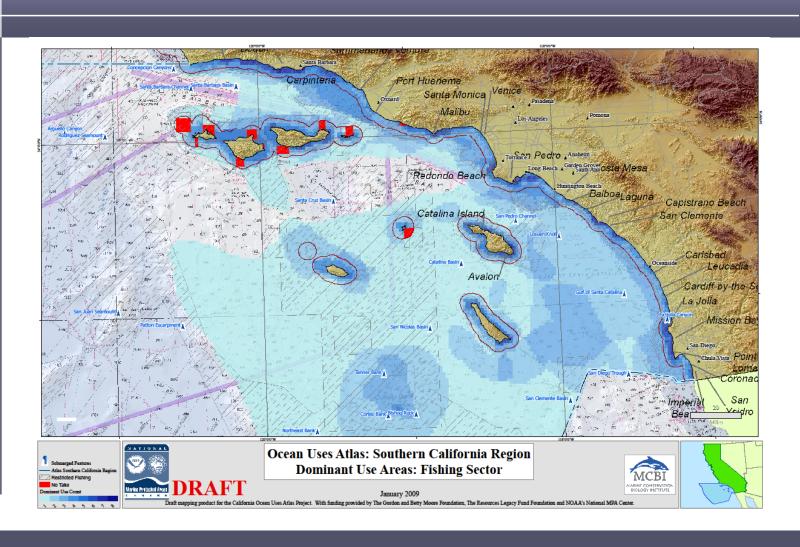
# Dominant Use Area of Motorized Boating Sample Map from SoCal Atlas



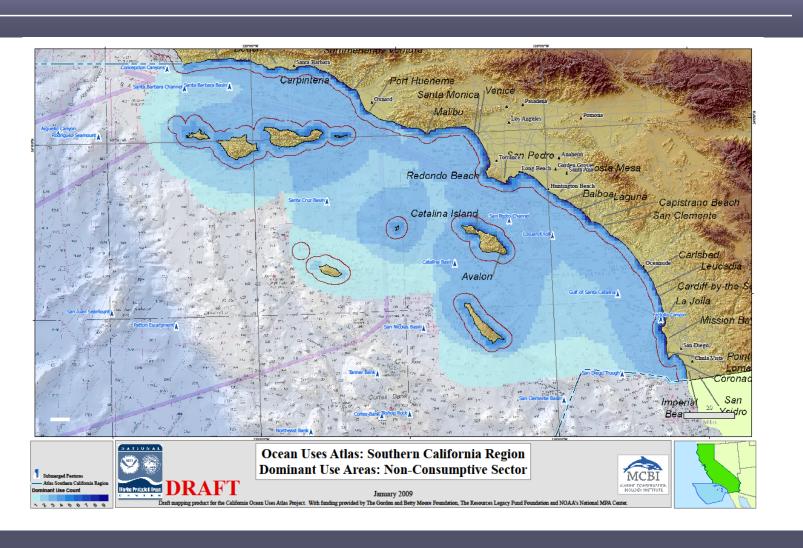
### Future Use Area of Motorized Boating Sample Map from SoCal Atlas



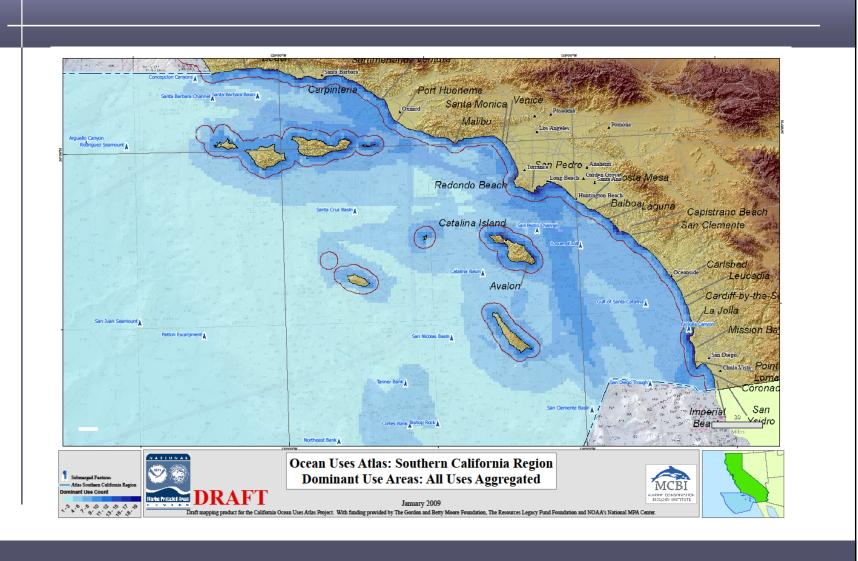
# Related Uses Combined: Fishing Sector



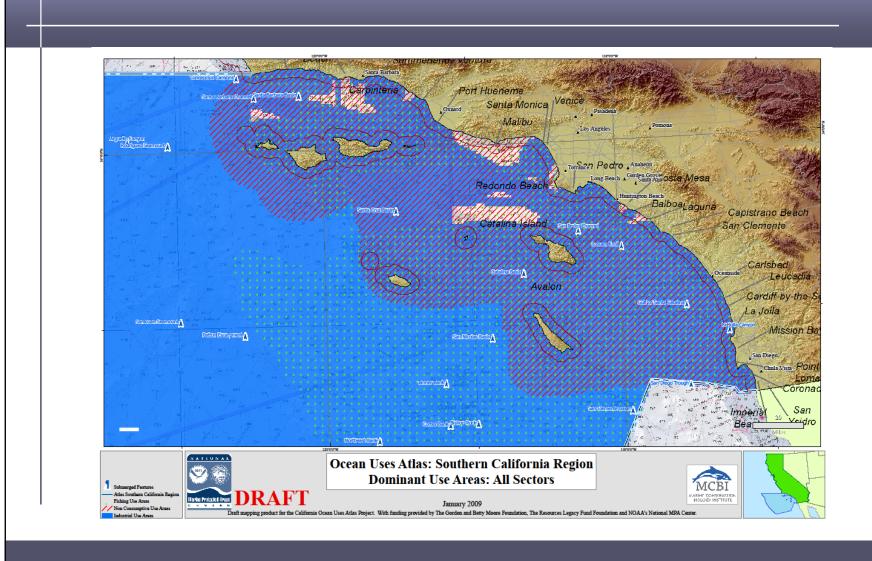
### Related Uses Combined: Non-Consumptive Sector



### **All Uses Combined**



### Overlap Among Use Sectors



# Ocean Management Issues: Uses Affected by Water Quality



### Selected Insights from Atlas Patterns

Overall Extent – from small concentrations of use to the whole EEZ

**Intensity** – dominant areas localized or throughout max footprint

**Depth Range** – many uses bounded by depth contours

**Regulatory** – some uses constrained by area-base regulations

**Infrastructure** – many uses radiate from ports or harbors

Onshore-Offshore – some are tied to land; some in state waters; some tied to Channel Islands; some far offshore in federal waters

**Density** – SoCal region saturated with human uses of the ocean

### **Next Steps in SoCal**

Atlas data currently in use by RSG via Marine Map

Give summary report and maps to MLPAI, RSG, SAT, BRTF

Post data and products on NOAA web site

Ongoing consultations w/ MLPA Monitoring Enterprise

Comparison / validation with other data sets (pending funding)

#### **CONTACTS**

Dr. Charlie Wahle, Project Manager <a href="mailto:charles.wahle@noaa.gov">charles.wahle@noaa.gov</a>

Dr. Lance Morgan, Co-Pl lance@mcbi.org

Cheryl Butner, Proj. Coord.

Cheryl.butner@noaa.gov

Dr. Mimi D'Iorio, GIS Manager mimi.diorio@noaa.gov





