# Using Science to Inform Policy

## *Innovative Approaches from California*

Brian Baird

# Governor Pete Wilson

# Governor Gray Davis

# And of course...

# Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger

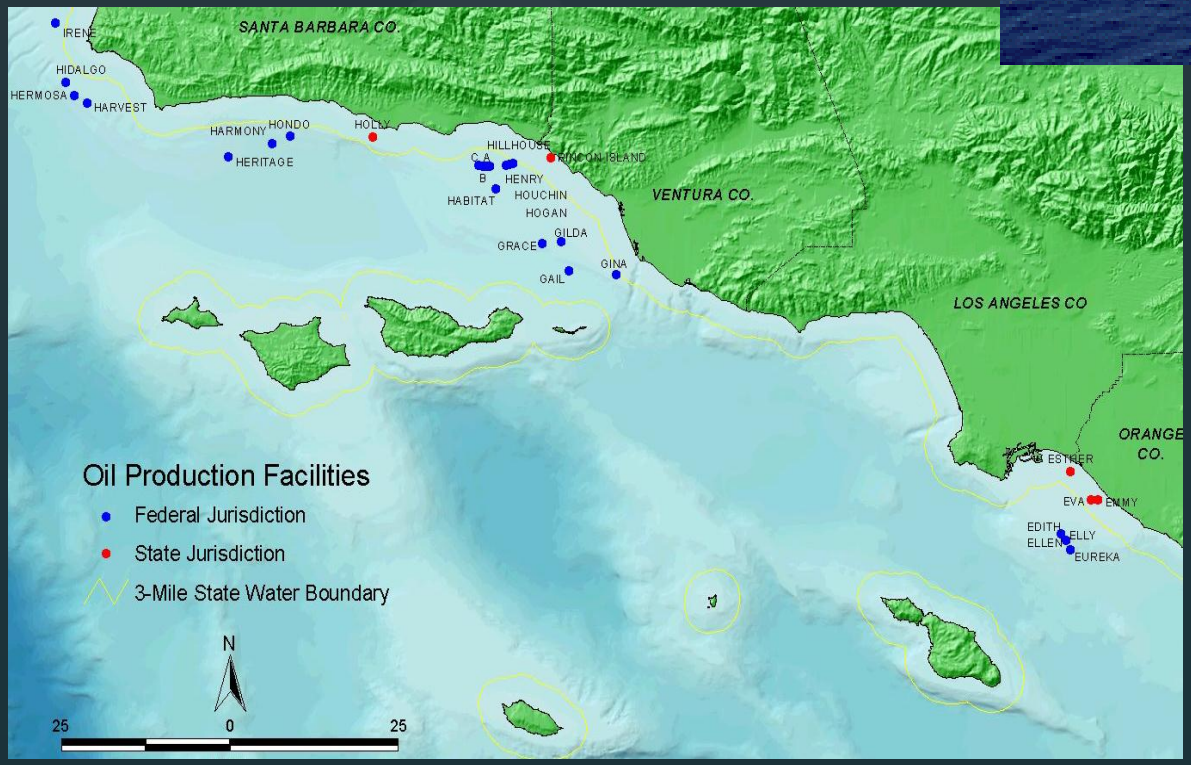
# Goal

Use Science to convince decision-makers that rational environmental protection is good for both the environment and the economy.

# Key Elements

- Clarity about the information decision-makers need – Are the questions clear?
- Clarity about the scientific process – Is the process impartial, objective, and fair?
- Clarity about the process for public engagement – Is the process open and transparent?
- Clarity about how all this will result in on-the-ground action for the environment/economy

California has 27 platforms in State Tidelands and off the Outer Continental Shelf.


# Platform Jacket


Abalone mortality spatially patchy
Photo D. Stein

# Evaluating Alternatives for Decommissioning California's Offshore Oil and Gas Platforms

**A TECHNICAL ANALYSIS TO INFORM STATE POLICY**

CALIFORNIA OST Ocean Science Trust

CONNECTING SCIENCE TO OCEAN MANAGEMENT

# BEACH WATER MONITORING


Beachgoers feel protected

## The Problem

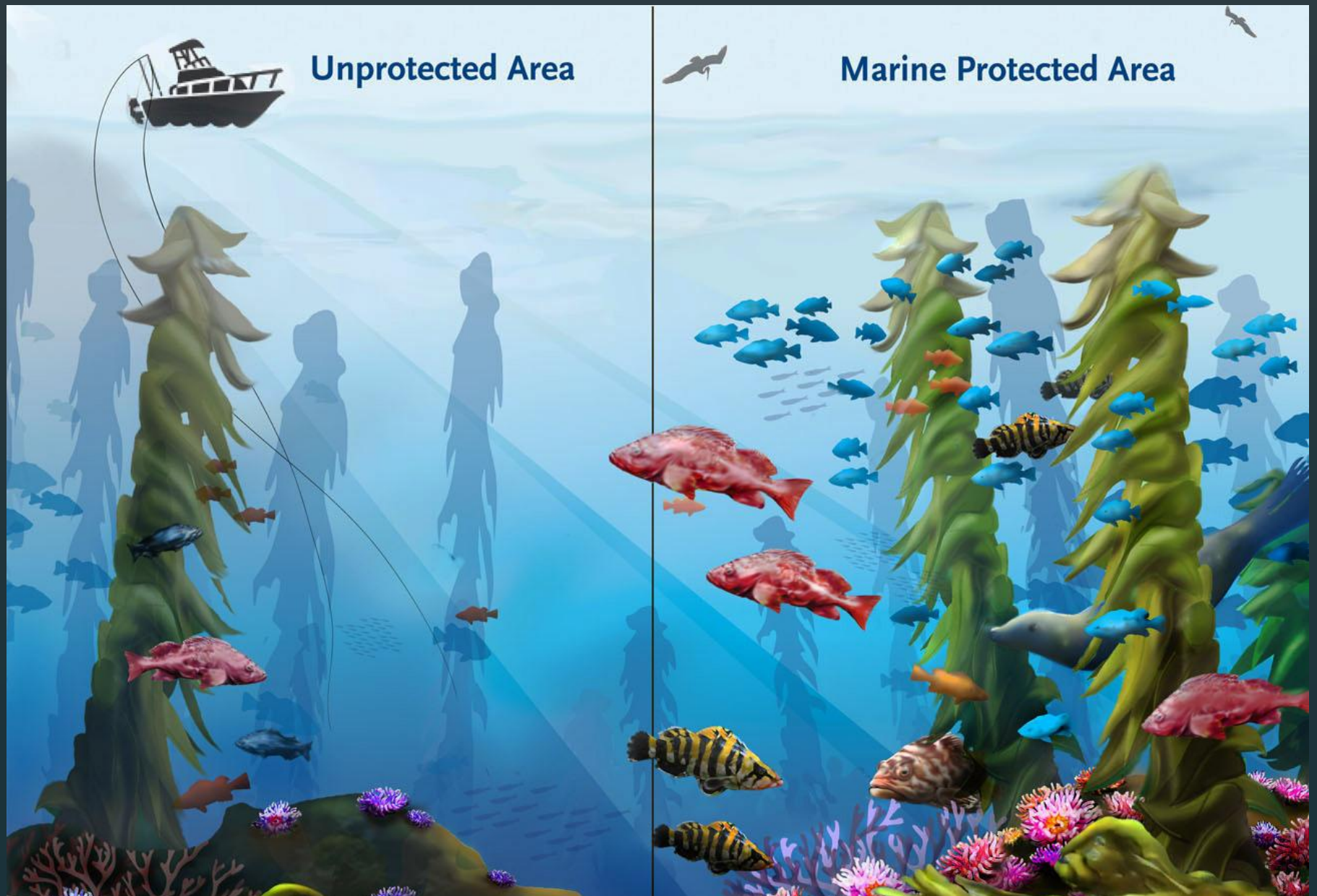
Results in 24-96 hours


Reality

## The Solution

Results in 2 hours

# California Marine Life Protection Act



PROTECTED AREAS INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY

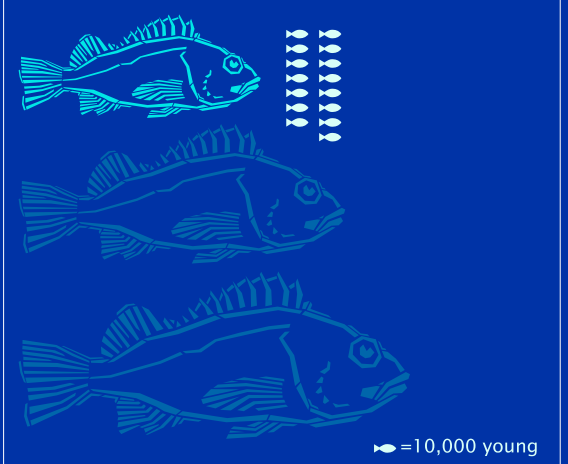
# What's a BOFFFF?

## A Big, Old, Fat, Fertile Female Fish!

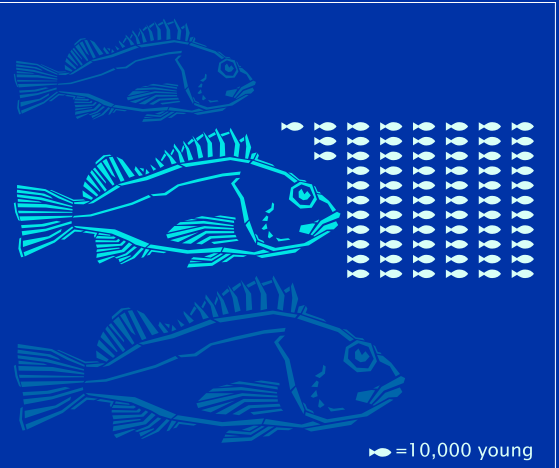
Older, larger female fish play a big role in supporting healthy fish populations. Compared to smaller females, they produce far more and healthier young. MPAs that limit fishing can help provide a safe refuge for BOFFFFs.

How many young can each of these female rockfish produce?

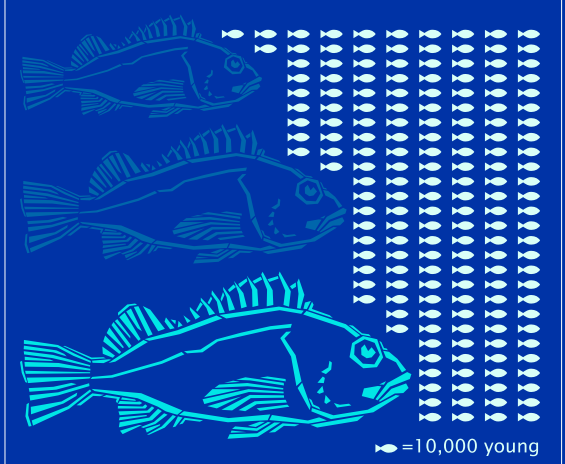
Lift to find out!




A 14.6-inch (37 cm.) vermilion rockfish can produce 150,000 young.

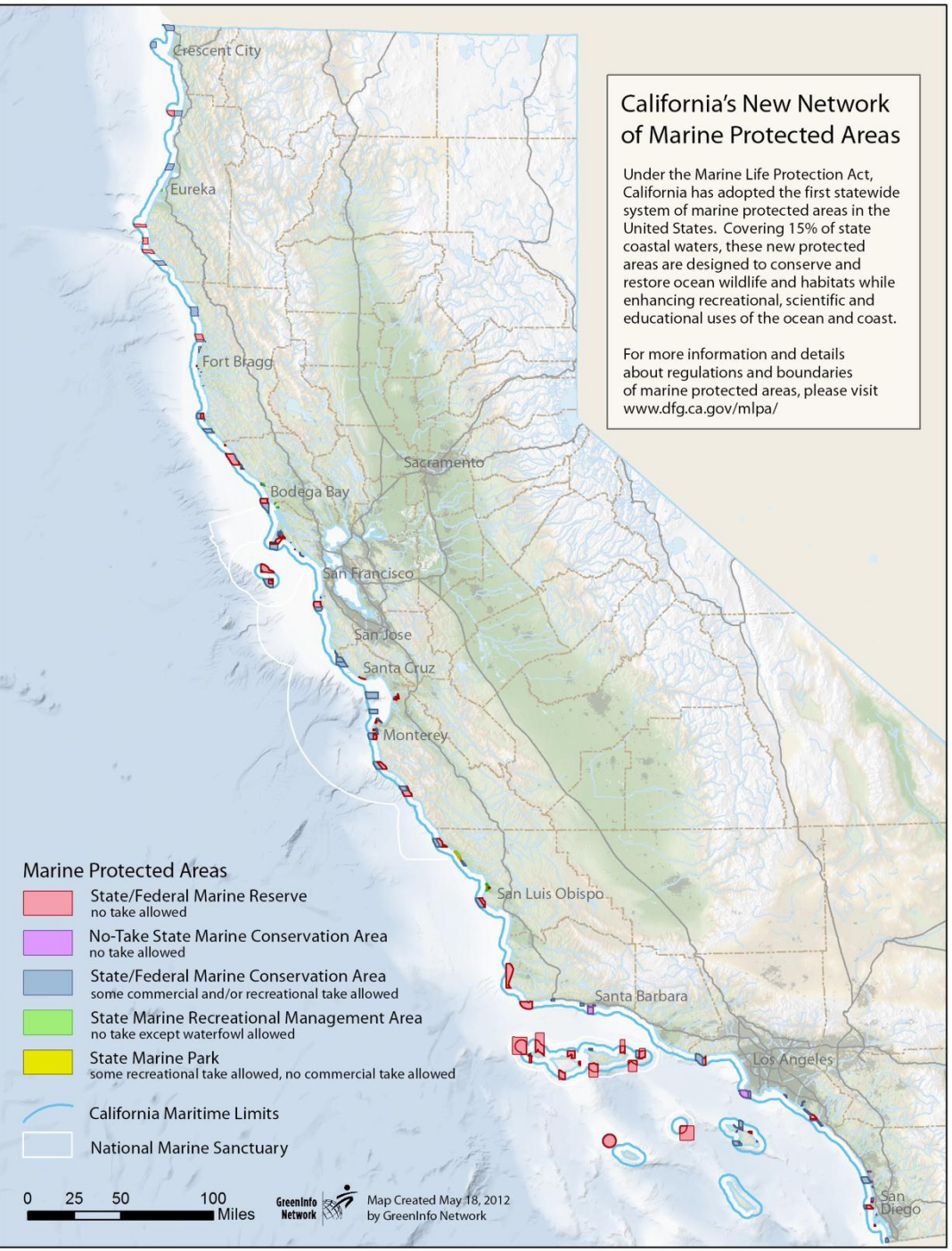



A 19.7-inch (50 cm.) vermilion rockfish can produce 700,000 young.




A 23.6-inch (60 cm.) vermilion rockfish can produce 1.7 million young.

# North Central Coast




# Conclusions

- With procedural clarity and political will, science can be an important part of policy decisions
- Boundary or Bridging organizations dedicated to integrating science can play a key role in policy
- Innovative processes to evaluate stakeholder concerns with science have been critical (i.e. MLPA)
- When the hurdles were overcome, policies were improved
- With planning and collaboration, these approaches can be applied at local, national, international levels