California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
Guidance to NCRSG Work Groups for Developing Draft Marine Protected Area Proposals in the MLPA North Coast Study Region

March 22, 2010

Work Group Charge

Two cross-interest "work groups" of the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG) are charged with developing draft marine protected area (MPA) proposals in Round 2 of the MPA design process for the north coast. This work group approach provided important benefits in the central coast, north central coast, and south coast study regions and is supported by lessons learned from all three of the MLPA Initiative study regions and the facilitation team's professional work on other collaborative planning efforts.

Work Group Structure

NCRSG members will participate in one of two work groups (named the Sapphire and Ruby work groups). Composition of work groups has been pre-assigned to ensure a broad balance across interests, geographic knowledge, and expertise; work group composition is identified on the final page of this document. Facilitation, planning, California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), and MarineMap/GIS staff will be assigned to each work group to assist work group members in their efforts. California Department of Parks and Recreation (California State Parks) staff will also be available to support the work groups.

MPA Proposal Development Process – Round 2 Guidance

MPA proposal development is taking place over the course of three "rounds" of work.

Round 1 – External MPA Arrays (November 2009 – March 2010)

In Round 1, community groups from throughout the north coast study region came together to develop "external proposed MPA arrays." In total, eight complete external arrays were submitted, and these have now been evaluated by the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT), DFG, California State Parks, and MLPA Initiative staff according to the guidelines and methods presented to the NCRSG.

Round 2 – NCRSG Draft MPA Proposals (March – July 2010)

In Round 2, each work group will draw on the Round 1 external MPA array evaluation results and input from the public to develop Round 2 "draft MPA proposals." Key guidance for the Round 2 process is as follows:

1. *Each work group aims for a single Round 2 draft proposal*. The charge for each work group is to produce a single "draft MPA proposal" that has broad-based support within the work group. If, at the end of Round 2, a work group finds that it is unable to come to agreement on a single proposal, the work group can develop two proposals with the goal of minimizing the differences between them.

2. *Approach to Round 1 External MPA Arrays*. The Round 2 work groups will build on the ideas contained within, and the evaluation results from, all of the Round 1 external MPA

arrays. It is not required that the work groups use a particular Round 1 external MPA array as a platform.

3. *Co-leads*. Each work group will select two or three co-leads. The co-leads will be responsible for:
    a. Reporting back on the efforts of their work groups to the full NCRSG or MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF), as requested
    b. Serving as point persons for coordinating within your work groups and with the I-Team
    c. At end of Round 2, assisting the I-Team with quality control of data inputs into MarineMap

The Round 2 work sessions[1] and meetings will proceed as follows:

- April 20-21, 2010 – work session in Fort Bragg to develop Round 2 draft MPA proposals.
- May 19, 2010 – work session in Crescent City to continue development of Round 2 proposals.
- May 20, 2010 – NCRSG meeting in Crescent City to finalize Round 2 proposals. This meeting will include a mix of formal meeting discussions, public comment, and additional work session time. Each work group will be provided with the opportunity to present its draft MPA proposal to the full NCRSG at the beginning of this meeting to encourage idea sharing and feedback from the public before finalizing proposals.

Each work session and meeting will be supported by I-Team staff (i.e., planning, MarineMap/GIS, DFG, California State Parks, and facilitation). Outside of these work sessions and meetings, work groups are encouraged to continue discussing ideas, exploring design options and developing proposals on MarineMap. Work groups may coordinate by email, teleconference, or in person to complete their task.

Following the May 19-20 NCRSG work session and meeting, each draft MPA proposal will be evaluated by the SAT, DFG, California State Parks, and MLPA Initiative staff, and reviewed by the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) and general public; public workshops will be held in the study region on July 6, 7, and 8.

Round 3 – Final NCRSG MPA Proposals July – October 2010)

In Round 3, the NCRSG will prepare “final MPA proposals” for evaluation and presentation to the BRTF. Process design for Round 3 has not yet been finalized and will depend on the

[1] As stated in the adopted NCRSG ground rules, the purpose of work sessions is to provide NCRSG members with focused, face-to-face opportunities to pursue their charge of developing alternative MPA proposals. NCRSG work sessions are not formal public meetings; they will not be webcast. Work sessions are open to the public, who may participate as observers, but there will not be opportunities for formal public comment. For reasons of creating a “safe space” for NCRSG members to explore possible MPA ideas, videotaping and taking pictures at work sessions will not be permitted.

outcomes of Round 2, as well as the interest of the NCRSG in working toward a single Round 3 NCRSG MPA proposal.

As was the case in previous study regions, it is expected that the Round 3 MPA proposal(s) will be the product of a synthesis of proposals from the individual work groups, public comment, and the iterative feedback received from the SAT, DFG, California State Parks, MLPA Initiative staff and BRTF. Round 3 MPA proposal development also will be informed by feedback received from a suite of public workshops hosted in early July.

Key dates include:

- July 29, 2010 – NCRSG meeting in Fort Bragg. This meeting will include presentation of SAT/DFG/California State Parks/staff evaluations, as well as BRTF feedback on Round 2 draft MPA proposals.
- July 30, 2010 – NCRSG work session in Fort Bragg to begin developing Round 3 MPA proposal(s).
- August 30, 2010 – NCRSG work session in Eureka to continue development of Round 3 MPA proposal(s).
- August 31, 2010 (Eureka) – NCRSG meeting in Eureka to finalize Round 3 proposal(s). This meeting will include a mix of formal meeting discussions, public comment, and additional work session time.
- October 26-28, 2010 – NCRSG members will present their Round 3 MPA proposal(s) at a joint meeting with the BRTF.

Work Group Communications

Each work group has a listserv to facilitate work group communications. The same ground rules for email communications apply to these new work group lists as for the full NCRSG listserv. Communications on these listservs will not be moderated.

Sapphire Work Group: MLPA_Sapphire@lists.resources.ca.gov

Ruby Work Group: MLPA_Ruby@lists.resources.ca.gov

The I-Team will also set up groups in MarineMap to allow NCRSG members to share ideas.

Elements of Complete MPA Proposals

As in previous study regions, MPA proposals must include several elements to be considered “complete.” Proposals must be presented as an integrated array of MPAs throughout the MLPA North Coast Study Region. Thus, proposals for individual MPAs or collections of individual MPAs that focus only on a particular geographic area or habitat type do not constitute a complete MPA proposal.

Required elements of a complete MPA proposal include:

1. A narrative rationale, which is a one to two-page summary that describes the general approach to developing the complete MPA proposal, including a description of how the proposal helps meet the MLPA goals, evaluation guidelines, policy and staff guidance, as well as general rationale for MPA design.
2. A collection of specifically-defined MPAs that will constitute a regional component of the statewide network. Note: a document outlining the specific information required for each MPA will be distributed to the NCRSG prior to the April 20-21 work session.
3. A one-page document outlining the consideration of existing MPAs. For each of the five MPAs that currently exists within the MLPA North Coast Study Region, specify whether the proposal ***retains*** the MPA without change, ***modifies*** the boundaries and/or regulations of the MPA, or ***removes*** the MPA, as well as a one-sentence statement that explains the proposed action.

Complete MPA proposals should be designed consistent with the Marine Life Protection Act and guidelines in the *California Marine Life Protection Act Master Plan for Marine Protected Areas*. In addition, MPA proposals should consider additional guidance provided by the BRTF, SAT, DFG, California State Parks, and MLPA Initiative staff.

Composition of Round 2 NCRSG Work Groups

Sapphire Work Group	***Ruby Work Group***
Jim Bassler	Jim Burns
Russ Crabtree	Bruce Campbell
John Dixon	Steve Chaney
Ben Doane	Greg Dale
Brandi Easter	Jacque Hostler
Don Gillespie	Robert Jamgochian
Ben Henthorne	David Jensen
Larry Knowles	Tim Klassen
Zack Larson	Kevin McGrath
Bill Lemos	Kevin McKernan
Aaron Newman	Charlie Notthoff
Pete Nichols	Jennifer Savage
Megan Rocha	Atta Stevenson
Valerie Stanley	Tom Trumper
Harold Wollenberg	Adam Wagschal
David Wright	Rob Wakefield
Richard Young	Rewiti Wiki