

Appendix F. Outline of Information Required for MPA Proposals

The Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) requires the development and evaluation of alternative proposals for marine protected areas (MPAs) in each biogeographical region. There are several sources of guidance regarding the contents and evaluation of MPA proposals:

- The MLPA
- Discussions of the Master Plan Team established under the MLPA
- Criteria developed by the State Interagency Coordinating Committee for Marine Managed Areas pursuant to the Marine Managed Areas Improvement Act
- Experience with establishing MPAs in California and elsewhere.

Distillation of this guidance will assist in developing and evaluating MPA proposals by identifying early in the process the required or desirable information, synthesis, analysis, and evaluation. The current limited capacity of state agencies to carry out all of these functions argues for encouraging the private sector to take on more of these activities. The more the information and analytical requirements of the MLPA are met by MPA proposals from the private sector, the more likely it will be that responsible agencies can carry out due diligence review of these proposals.

The proposed outline of information required for MPA proposals is based on the guidance identified above. Definition of key terms will require further discussion as part of the broader MLPA Initiative. Whether prepared by a public agency or by a private organization, a proposal should aim at addressing most, if not all, of the requirements listed below.

The outline is organized in four sections:

- A summary
- The setting
- The proposal
- Individual MPAs within the proposal

Summary

- Objectives of proposal
- How the proposal addresses the requirements of the MLPA and other relevant law

The Setting

- Description of region
 - Legal description of the boundaries of study area
 - Rationale for boundaries
 - Species or groups of species likely to benefit from MPAs [FGC §2856(a)(2)(B)] (See list of species at www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/mlpa/guidelines.html and www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/mlpa/table_inv.html.)
 - Distribution of these species in the region and beyond
 - Status of these species in the region and beyond
 - Representative or unique marine ecosystems in the region [FGC §2853(b)(1)]
 - Distribution of these ecosystems

- Status of these ecosystems (principally “function” and “integrity”)
- Distribution of representative and unique habitats in the region generally, and specifically for species likely to benefit:
 - Rocky reefs
 - Intertidal zones
 - Sandy or soft ocean bottoms
 - Submerged pinnacles
 - Kelp forests
 - Submarine canyons
 - Seagrass beds
- Distribution of oceanic features that may influence target species, including currents and upwelling zones (FGC §2856[a]2[B])
- Current and anticipated distribution of human uses
 - Aquatic
 - Commercial fishing
 - Recreational fishing
 - Diving
 - Etc.
 - Terrestrial
 - Discharges
 - Recreation
 - Aesthetics
 - Other
- Current management of human activities affecting target species, ecosystems, and habitats
- Evaluation of current management of human activities affecting target species, ecosystems, and habitats in relations to the goals and objectives of the MLPA

The Proposal

- Process used to develop the proposal
 - Participants and their roles
 - Sources of information
- Gap analysis
 - Description of existing MPAs
 - Adequacy of existing management plans and funding
 - Target habitats and ecosystems entirely unrepresented or insufficiently protected by existing MPAs and other management activities
 - Target habitats and ecosystems insufficiently protected by existing MPAs and other management activities, without replicates in the region or with replicates too widely spaced
- Framework for regional MPA proposal
- Regional goals and objectives for a MPA proposal
 - Relation of goals and objectives to the MLPA generally and to resource problems and opportunities in the region specifically

- General description of preferred proposal (and alternatives)
 - Spacing of MPAs and overall level of protection
 - Proposed management measures
 - Proposed monitoring for evaluating the effectiveness of the site in achieving its goals
 - Proposed research programs
 - Proposed education programs
 - Enforcement needs and means of meeting those needs
 - Funding requirements and sources
 - Proposed mechanisms for coordinating existing regulatory and management authority
 - Opportunities for cooperative state, federal, and local management,
 - Name

- Evaluation of the proposal:
 - How does the proposal emphasize:
 - areas where habitat quality does (or potentially can) support diverse and high-density populations
 - benthic habitats and non-pelagic species
 - habitats associated with those species that are officially designated as overfished, with threatened or endangered species, and productive habitats such as kelp forests and seagrass beds
 - How does the proposal include:
 - unique habitats
 - a variety of ocean conditions such as upwelling centers, upwelling shadows, bays, estuaries, and exposed and semi-protected coastlines
 - How does the proposal address existing MPAs?
 - How does the proposal include a variety of sizes and types of MPAs that:
 - Provide enough space within individual MPAs for the movement of juveniles and adults of many species
 - Achieve beneficial ratios of edge to area
 - Help to include a variety of habitats
 - Facilitate analysis of the effects of different-sized MPAs
 - Facilitate analysis of the effects of different types of MPAs
 - Provide for biological connectivity
 - Enable the use of MPAs as reference sites to evaluate the effects of climate change and other factors on marine ecosystems, without the effects of fishing
 - Enable the use of MPAs as reference sites for fisheries management,
 - Minimize the likelihood that catastrophic events will impact all replicate MPAs within a biogeographic region
 - If an MPA is less restrictive than a reserve, how do different uses and restrictions affect achieving the objectives immediately above?
 - How does the proposal use simple and easily recognizable boundaries to facilitate identification and enforcement of MPA regulations?
 - Where feasible, how does the proposal locate MPAs in areas where there is onsite presence to facilitate enforcement?

- How does the proposal consider non-extractive uses, cultural resources, and existing fisheries and fishing regulations?
 - How does the proposal consider proximity to ports, safe anchorage sites, and points of access, to minimize negative impacts on people and increase benefits?
 - How does the proposal facilitate monitoring of MPA effectiveness by including well-studied sites, both in MPAs and unprotected areas?
 - How does the proposal consider positive and negative socioeconomic consequences?
- What are the socio-economic impacts of the proposal?
 - Current uses:
 - What are the current uses of sites within the proposal that are likely to be affected?
 - What are the likely impacts of MPAs upon these uses?
 - Future uses:
 - How are current uses expected to change in response to the sites within the proposal?
 - What are the socio-economic impacts of these changes?
 - Costs and benefits:
 - What uses are likely to benefit from sites within the proposal, and how?
 - What uses are likely to suffer from MPAs, and how?
- What is the improved marine reserve component of the proposal? (FGC §2857[c])
 - Which habitat types are represented in at least one marine reserve in this biogeographical region?
 - Do reserves include habitat types and communities across different depth ranges?
 - Do reserves include habitat types and communities across different environmental conditions?
 - Is each habitat type and community represented in at least one reserve in this region?
- Which species will benefit from the proposal and how?
(See list of species at www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/mlpa/guidelines.html and www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/mlpa/table_inv.html.)
- How does this proposal meet the goals and guidelines of the MLPA (FGC § 2853[b]):
 - Protect the natural diversity and abundance of marine life, and the structure, function, and integrity of marine ecosystems;
 - Help sustain, conserve, and protect marine life populations, including those of economic value, and rebuild those that are depleted;
 - Improve recreational, educational, and study opportunities provided by marine ecosystems that are subject to minimal human disturbance, and to manage these uses in a manner consistent with protecting biodiversity;
 - Protect marine natural heritage, including protection of representative and unique marine life habitats in California waters for their intrinsic value;

- Ensure that California's MPAs have clearly defined objectives, effective management measures, and adequate enforcement, and are based on sound scientific guidelines;
 - Ensure that the state's MPAs are designed and managed, to the extent possible, as a network.
- Information necessary for fulfilling required CEQA alternative analysis.

Individual MPAs within the Proposal

- What are the boundaries of this MPA?
- What is the total area of the MPA?
- What is the total shoreline length of the MPA?
- Does this MPA expand upon an existing MPA?
- What is the overall goal of this MPA?
- What are the objectives that serve this goal?
- What species, populations, habitats, or ecosystem functions are of most concern in this area?
 - What are the chief threats to these features?
 - Which of these threats are amenable to management?
 - What restrictions are proposed that address these threats?
 - What additional restrictions or designations (e.g. water quality protection areas) would help address these threats?
- Many of the general design issues identified for the network apply here as well.
- What features does the site display among those identified for different types of MPAs by the State Interagency Coordinating Committee for Marine Managed Areas? (See Attachment A.)

Attachment A to Appendix F: Criteria for Designating MMAs

Excerpted from California State Interagency Coordinating Committee for MMAs
CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATING MARINE MANAGED AREAS

Pursuant to statute, these designation criteria have been developed by the State Interagency Coordinating Committee for Marine Managed Areas to assist individuals or groups in developing site proposals. While the criteria are based on language in California law, it is not required that a site meet all of the criteria listed for a specific classification. Because different MMAs will have different goals and purposes, some of the criteria listed overlap or are mutually exclusive. All the criteria are presented here to help applicants prepare appropriate documentation. Site proposals need only address those criteria that apply to the specific site and classification being proposed (see item #6 on the application form).

[Note that the word “potential” has been added before each set of criteria in this attachment. This word has been added during development of the draft master plan framework for the MLPA Initiative and was not part of the original attachment as developed by the California State Interagency Coordinating Committee for MMAs.]

I. STATE MARINE RESERVE

A. Potential Biological Criteria

1. The proposed site will protect or restore rare, threatened, or endangered native species or habitats.
2. The proposed site will protect outstanding, representative, or imperiled marine species, communities, habitats, or ecosystems.
3. The proposed site will protect populations of one or more fish species that have been declared “overfished” by the National Marine Fisheries Service. [see www.nmfs.noaa.gov for list]
4. The proposed site will protect populations of harvested species that are of concern to state or federal fishery managers.
5. One or more habitats within the proposed site is/are designated as essential fish habitat (EFH) by the National Marine Fisheries Service. [see www.nmfs.noaa.gov for list]
6. The proposed site will protect habitat, or biological communities, populations, species or gene pools that are under-represented or not replicated in the existing network of state marine managed areas.
7. The proposed site will protect connections between geographic areas and/or habitat types, including estuarine and marine, wetland and intertidal, intertidal and subtidal, and deep and shallow water.
8. The proposed site is biologically highly productive.

9. The proposed site contains multiple habitat types.
10. The proposed site has historically received relatively heavy fishing effort, it is likely that some populations of fished species are locally depleted, and populations of fished species are expected to rebound if protected.

B. Potential Socio-Economic Criteria

1. The proposed site currently or potentially provides public access, consistent with resource protection goals.
2. The proposed site currently or potentially provides educational and interpretive activities for the public.
3. The proposed site has historically received relatively little fishing effort.
4. Designation of the proposed site is not likely to have a significant negative socio-economic impact on those who have traditionally used the area.
5. Designation of the proposed site is likely to have a positive socio-economic impact.
6. The proposed site is bordered by similar habitat in which spillover effects from protecting one or more species could benefit those fishing adjacent to the site.

C. Potential Management and Enforcement Criteria

1. The proposed site overlaps or is adjacent to an existing protected or managed area, thus facilitating enforcement.
2. The proposed site is adjacent to a populated area in which public stewardship would facilitate enforcement.
3. The proposed site has boundaries that are practical and enforceable.
4. Designating this site would lessen the impact of human uses on sensitive populations of marine or estuarine organisms.
5. The proposed site has little or no direct access from land, or the access is controlled.
6. The proposed site has or will have funding sources and/or in-kind resources for enforcement.
7. The proposed site has or will have funding sources and/or in-kind resources for management activities.

D. Potential Evaluation and Research Criteria

1. The proposed site will provide an opportunity for scientific research or monitoring in outstanding, representative, or imperiled marine habitats or ecosystems.
2. The proposed site has or will have funding for scientific research or monitoring.
3. The proposed site has been the site of previous scientific research or monitoring studies.
4. Seafloor habitat within the proposed site has been partially or totally mapped using side-scan sonar or equivalent technology.

II. STATE MARINE PARK

A. Potential Biological Criteria

1. The proposed site will protect a spacious natural system.
2. The proposed site will protect outstanding, representative, or imperiled marine species, communities, habitats, or ecosystems.
3. The proposed site will afford some protection to populations of harvested species that are of concern to state or federal fishery managers.
4. One or more habitats within the proposed site are designated as essential fish habitat (EFH) by the National Marine Fisheries Service. [see www.nmfs.noaa.gov for list]
5. The proposed site will protect habitat, or biological communities, populations or species that are under-represented or not replicated in the existing network of state marine managed areas.
6. The proposed site will protect connections between geographic areas and/or habitat types, including estuarine and marine, wetland and intertidal, intertidal and subtidal, and deep and shallow water.
7. The proposed site is biologically highly productive.
8. The proposed site contains multiple habitat types.
9. The proposed site has historically received relatively heavy fishing effort, it is likely that some populations of fished species are locally depleted, and populations of fished species are expected to increase if protected.
10. The proposed site will protect populations of one or more fish species that have been declared "overfished" by the National Marine Fisheries Service. [see www.nmfs.noaa.gov for list]

B. Potential Cultural Criteria

1. The proposed site has cultural objects or sites of historical, archaeological or scientific interest.

C. Potential Socio-Economic Criteria

2. The proposed site currently or potentially provides public access, consistent with resource protection goals.
3. The proposed site currently or potentially provides educational and interpretive activities for the public.
4. The proposed site will provide sustainable recreational opportunities in the absence of conflicting uses.
5. The proposed site will provide recreational opportunities to meet other than purely local needs.
6. The proposed site has historically received relatively little fishing effort.
7. Designation of the proposed site is not likely to have a significant negative socio-economic impact on those who have traditionally used the area.
8. Designation of the proposed site is likely to have a positive socio-economic impact.
9. The proposed site is bordered by similar habitat in which spillover effects from protecting one or more species could benefit those fishing adjacent to the area.

D. Potential Geological Criteria

1. The proposed site has outstanding or unique geological features that contribute to the biological productivity of the area.
2. The proposed site has geological features that are critical to the lifecycle of native marine or estuarine species.

E. Potential Management and Enforcement Criteria

1. The proposed site overlaps or is adjacent to an existing protected or managed area, thus facilitating enforcement.
2. The proposed site is adjacent to a populated area in which public stewardship would facilitate enforcement.
3. The proposed site has boundaries that are practical and enforceable.
4. Designating this site would lessen the impact of human activities on sensitive populations of marine or estuarine organisms.
5. The proposed site has or will have funding sources and/or in-kind resources for enforcement.

6. The proposed site has or will have funding sources and/or in-kind resources for management activities.

F. Potential Evaluation and Research Criteria

1. The proposed site will provide an opportunity for scientific research or monitoring in outstanding, representative, or imperiled marine habitats or ecosystems.
2. The proposed site has or will have funding for scientific research or monitoring.
3. The proposed site has been the site of previous scientific research or monitoring studies.
4. Seafloor habitat within the proposed site has been partially or totally mapped using side-scan sonar or equivalent technology.

III. STATE MARINE CONSERVATION AREA

A. Potential Biological Criteria

1. The proposed site will protect or restore rare, threatened, or endangered native species or habitats.
2. The proposed site will protect outstanding, representative, or imperiled marine species, communities, habitats, or ecosystems.
3. The proposed site will protect populations of one or more fish species that have been declared “overfished” by the National Marine Fisheries Service. [see www.nmfs.noaa.gov for list]
4. The proposed site will protect populations of harvested species that are of concern to state or federal fishery managers.
5. One or more habitats within the proposed site are designated as essential fish habitat (EFH) by the National Marine Fisheries Service. [see www.nmfs.noaa.gov for list]
6. The proposed site will protect habitat, or biological communities, populations, species or gene pools that are under-represented or not replicated in the existing network of state marine managed areas.
7. The proposed site will protect connections between geographic areas and/or habitat types, including estuarine and marine, wetland and intertidal, intertidal and subtidal, and deep and shallow water.
8. The proposed site is biologically highly productive.
9. The proposed site contains multiple habitat types.

10. The proposed site has historically received relatively heavy fishing effort, it is likely that some populations of fished species are locally depleted, and populations of fished species are expected to rebound significantly if protected.

B. Potential Socio-Economic Criteria

1. The proposed site currently or potentially provides public access, consistent with resource protection goals.
2. The proposed site currently or potentially provides educational and interpretive activities for the public.
3. The proposed site has historically received relatively little fishing effort.
4. Designation of the proposed site is not likely to have a significant negative socio-economic impact on those who have traditionally used the area.
5. Designation of the proposed site is likely to have a positive socio-economic impact.
6. The proposed site is bordered by similar habitat in which spillover effects from protecting one or more species could benefit those fishing adjacent to the area.

C. Potential Geological Criteria

1. The proposed site has outstanding or unique geological features that contribute to the biological productivity of the area.
2. The proposed site has geological features that are critical to the lifecycle of native marine or estuarine species.

D. Potential Management and Enforcement Criteria

1. The proposed site overlaps or is adjacent to an existing protected or managed area, thus facilitating enforcement.
2. The proposed site is adjacent to a populated area in which public stewardship would facilitate enforcement.
3. The proposed site has boundaries that are practical and enforceable.
4. Designating this site would lessen the impact of human activities on sensitive populations of marine or estuarine organisms.
5. The proposed site has living marine resources that if managed properly will allow for sustainable harvest.
6. The proposed site has or will have funding sources and/or in-kind resources for enforcement.
7. The proposed site has or will have funding sources and/or in-kind resources for management activities.

E. Potential Evaluation and Research Criteria

1. The proposed site will provide an opportunity for scientific research or monitoring in outstanding, representative, or imperiled marine habitats or ecosystems.
2. The proposed site has or will have funding for scientific research or monitoring.
3. The proposed site has been the site of previous scientific research or monitoring studies.
4. Seafloor habitat within the proposed site has been partially or totally mapped using side-scan sonar or equivalent technology.