Marine Life Management Act Master Plan Amendment Discussion for Interested Stakeholders

Considering Approaches to Fisheries Partnerships Under the MLMA

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Today’s Discussion

• Introductions
• Review MLMA Master Plan amendment goals and process
• Discuss draft ideas and approaches to achieve MLMA collaboration objectives
• Solicit feedback, address questions
Marine Life Management Act (MLMA) Master Plan

- MLMA provides a framework for ecosystem-based fisheries management
  - Based on best-available science and involvement of tribes, fishing communities, and other interested stakeholders

- Master Plan adopted in 2001 and acts as a guide for the development of Fishery Management Plans
  - Amendment will reflect advancements in management tools, changing ocean conditions, stakeholder priorities, and new information to expand the scope of the current Master Plan
Goals: MLMA Master Plan Amendment Process

• Enhance resource stewardship and sustainability of fisheries
• Elevate ecosystem health in decision-making
• Help promote more efficient, effective, and streamlined fisheries management
• Establish a clear pathway for improving the management of individual fisheries
• Set clear expectations for managers and the public
• Foster transparency and flexibility in fisheries management with tribes and native communities, stakeholders, and interested members of the public
Phase I: Build Knowledge
Gather Information
Tribal Engagement
Stakeholder Engagement
Draft Amended Framework for MLMA-Based Management

Phase II: Amend Master Plan
Stakeholder Input
Prepare Draft Master Plan Amendment
Late 2017
*NEW* Initial Draft Master Plan available for stakeholder review
Submit Final Draft Master Plan to Fish and Game Commission

Phase III: Review and Possible Adoption
Adoption of Amended MLMA Master Plan

Engagement with California Tribal Governments
Stakeholder Engagement

2015
2016
2017
2018

Updated: July 2017
Draft Framework Overview *(simplified)*

- Draft framework for **prioritizing** and **scaling the intensity of management** to the risks and potential benefits for each fishery.

- MLMA objectives are translated into key questions.


Diagram:

- Where are there risks to stocks?
  - Where are there ecological risks?
    - Medium risk → High risk
    - Are those risks being addressed?
      - Somewhat → No
      - Where are there economic opportunities?
        - Priority fisheries
        - What should management strategies be?
          - What scale of management is appropriate?
            - Enhanced Status Report—ESR & Rulemaking—Streamlined FMP—Standard FMP
            - California Fisheries Web-based Dashboard
MLMA Objectives, FGC Section 7059

- Successful marine life and fishery management is a complex and collaborative process that requires ongoing communication and participation of all involved in the management process
- Maximize expertise in marine science, economics, collaborative fact-finding, and dispute resolution
- Inform development and implementation of research plans, marine managed area plans, Fishery Management Plans (FMPs), etc.
CDFW Goals and Potential Benefits

- Well-structured fisheries partnerships may help to:
  - Support short- and long-term fishery management goals
  - Add adaptability and additional perspective to management decisions
  - Strengthen support for management decisions
  - Enhance and increase the state’s capacity to effectively manage all fisheries under the MLMA
Examples of CDFW Marine Region Collaborations and Partnerships

- Herring FMP, steering committee
- Dungeness Crab Task Force (DCTF), advisory body
- Marine Protected Area (MPA) signage, local MPA Collaboratives and the California Marine Sanctuary Foundation
- MLMA Master Plan Amendment process, key communicators
Improving Partnerships

- Currently, no standardized approach to identify and engage in constructive fisheries partnerships
- Information Gathering Project with The Nature Conservancy
  - Opportunities, benefits, and limitations of partnerships
  - Elements of effective partnerships
- Master Plan Amendment aims to translate lessons learned into more structured guidance to help managers and stakeholders effectively partner
Fisheries Partnerships Considerations

• Partnerships vary in terms of responsibility-sharing and duration
• Require different approaches
• Organization capacity of CDFW and partner organizations is an important consideration
Matching Opportunities with ‘Partner Capacity’

- How representative the group is of the broader fleet or community
- The level of resources the group has available to allocate to the collaboration
- How long-standing and durable the partner is
Some Elements of Effective Partnerships

- Partnership organization has necessary capacity, resources, and durability, and is sufficiently representative
- Advance shared or aligned goals and operate within agreed-upon defined roles and objectives
- Depend on effective communication, the ability to build trust, and the exchange of knowledge and information
Discussion and Q&A

- Are there questions about how CDFW is considering the role of partnerships in fisheries management (now and in the future)?
- Have you engaged in a successful partnership with CDFW? Were there any lessons learned?
- Are there specific elements of effective partnerships that CDFW should prioritize?
Thank you!

For more information, please visit:
https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MLMA
or contact MLMA@wildlife.ca.gov