California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative

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To: MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force

From: MLPA Initiative Staff

Subject: Guidelines for the Use of MarineMap in Marine Protected Area Planning

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The purpose of this memorandum is to provide background information to the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) about MarineMap, an online decision-support tool and guidelines for its use within the MLPA Initiative.

Background

The MLPA planning process involves the iterative development of marine protected area (MPA) arrays and proposals. The first round of proposal development in the north coast will be led by community groups, which will have the opportunity to submit proposed external MPA arrays. During rounds 2 and 3, the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group will draft and revise MPA proposals. In all three rounds, participants will use MarineMap as their primary tool to design MPAs as part of an array or proposal.

Purpose and Use of MarineMap

MarineMap is an Internet-based, decision-support tool to enhance participants' efforts to view data, as well as draft and share MPA concepts and arrays. Members of the public and MLPA Initiative participants can access MarineMap, which provides a wide range of information over the Internet. Additionally, MarineMap users may obtain a user name and passcode for a personalized, individual account, which then provides access to additional functionality. This tool will be the primary way in which MLPA Initiative staff and users capture and store information regarding individual MPAs and MPA arrays.

Using MarineMap, users can view geospatial data layers compiled by the MLPA Initiative, and overlay or superimpose, two or more different maps (or data layers) of the same area to display information of interest. Users can use MarineMap to draw individual MPA concepts and specify MPA boundaries, regulations and rationale. Individual MPA concepts can be grouped together to create a full MPA array. By default, individual MPA concepts and MPA arrays can be viewed only by the person who created them; however, users may share their work by selecting this option within MarineMap.

In addition, MarineMap can compare various individual MPAs and full MPA arrays. The tool provides basic feedback on MPA concepts, including the size of MPAs and amount of habitat captured, in relation to identified science guidelines. For MPA arrays, users can generate basic calculations on areas and distances between protected habitats, as well as statistics regarding habitat coverage and potential fishery impacts. While some of these numbers are used in analyses conducted by the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT), note that the basic reports generated within MarineMap do not serve as a substitute for a full SAT analysis.

Obtain Access to MarineMap

MarineMap for the MLPA North Coast Study Region can be accessed online at http://northcoast.marinemap.org/marinemap/. To obtain an individual account in MarineMap, please send a request for an account to help@lists.marinemap.org. Staff will respond and send a user name and default passcode, which can be changed once logged into the account.

Guidelines for Creating Individual MPAs

In order to maximize the usefulness and efficiency of MarineMap, MLPA Initiative staff recommends that users adhere to a set of guidelines when drawing and attributing individual MPAs:

- Use the following format for naming individual MPAs: [geographical name] [designation type]. For example, if one wishes to propose a state marine conservation area (SMCA) near Point Lobos, the MPA name would be "Point Lobos SMCA."
- Enter supporting information (also known as attribute information) for each individual MPA. The following is the required information for each MPA, unless otherwise noted as optional:
 - o **MPA Name** Identifies the individual MPA, using the format described above.
 - Designation Describes the type of MPA proposed. This choice should reflect the kind of regulations that are proposed. State marine reserves (SMRs) should be used for proposed regulations that allow no commercial or recreational extraction, state marine parks (SMPs) should be used for proposed regulations that prohibit commercial extraction but allow some recreational extraction, and state marine conservation areas (SMCAs) should be used for proposed regulations that limit commercial and/or recreational extraction.
 - O Proposed Allowed Uses Outlines the extractive uses that are allowed within an MPA. In MarineMap, users will have the capacity to select from a list of allowed uses that have been assigned a "level of protection" by the SAT. If users wish to propose an allowed use that is not listed, they may indicate this in the "Additional Proposed Allowed Uses" field. Initially, external array proponents will need to assign proposed allowed uses by entering them in that field. Staff will review requests to propose additional allowed uses and forward to the SAT, as appropriate, to be assigned a "level of protection".
 - Site-Specific Rationale Provides the main reasons for creating the MPA.
 Describes why the MPA was placed in a particular location, the reasons for proposing associated take regulations (otherwise referred to as extractive allowed uses), and what the proposer is trying to accomplish with this particular MPA.
 - Boundary Description A written description of proposed boundaries, including intended latitude and longitude coordinates and key landmarks, should be entered here
 - Design Considerations Provides further information regarding the major considerations behind the design of a proposed MPA. For example, users may enter socioeconomic or feasibility considerations in this space. (optional)

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- Other Regulated Activities Non-fishing activities that should be considered may be described in this space. (optional)
- Maintain a reasonable number of individual MPAs within your account. Edit and update MPA boundaries and associated information as your thinking evolves. Maintain MPAs that are being actively considered and delete MPAs that are no longer relevant to current discussions.
- When designing individual MPAs and MPA arrays, consider guidelines from the Marine Life Protection Act, California Marine Life Protection Act Master Plan for Marine Protected Areas, California Department of Fish and Game, California State Parks, and MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force, as complete MPA arrays and proposals will be evaluated against these guidelines. Note that MarineMap has the capacity to generate basic feedback on the design of individual MPAs, but that this feedback is not a substitute for formal evaluations that will follow submission of complete MPA arrays and proposals.
- Consider MPAs only within state waters. Individual MPAs may not be drawn outside of state waters or on land, and portions of individual MPAs that fall outside of the study region will be automatically "clipped" by MarineMap.
- Separately consider MPAs that focus primarily on estuarine areas and MPAs that focus
 primarily on areas along the open coastline. If users wish to have an MPA that includes
 an estuary and an adjacent area along the open coast, this idea should be submitted as
 two separate MPAs.

MLPA Initiative staff has worked to make MarineMap as user-friendly as possible. Any comments, questions or requests for MarineMap accounts should be sent to help@lists.marinemap.org.