

1

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative

Overview of the MLPA Process and Participants

**Presentation to the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team
October 30, 2009 • Eureka, California**

Tom Mason, Biologist • Marine Region, California Department of Fish and Game

2


Marine Life Protection Act Background

- California's MPAs created over decades without a coherent plan, scientific guidelines or overall goals
- Legislation passed in 1999
- Directs that California's MPAs be reexamined and redesigned to function as a network

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
 North Coast Study Region
 Existing Marine Protected Areas

- Study Region Boundary
- Existing State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA)
- Existing State Marine Reserve (SMR)

3



Six Goals of the MLPA

1. **Protect the natural diversity and abundance** of marine life, and the structure, function and integrity of marine ecosystems.
2. **Help sustain, conserve and protect marine life populations**, including those of economic value, and rebuild those that are depleted.
3. **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.
4. **Protect marine natural heritage**, including protection of representative and unique marine life habitats in California waters for their intrinsic values
5. Ensure California's MPAs have **clearly defined objectives**, effective mgmt. measures and adequate enforcement and are based on sound scientific guidelines.
6. Ensure the State's MPAs are **designed and managed, to the extent possible, as a network.**

4



MPA Designations

- **SMR** - State Marine Reserve
- **SMP** - State Marine Park
- **SMCA** - State Marine Conservation Area





State Marine Reserve (SMR)

State Marine Reserve-

Prohibits all extractive activities.

North Coast Study Region
example: Punta Gorda
SMR -
No take



State Marine Park (SMP)



State Marine Park-
Prohibits all commercial extractive activities and potentially some recreational activities.

Maria Brown

7

State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA)



State Marine Conservation Area -
Limits recreational and/or commercial extractive activities.



*North Coast Study Region
example: Point Cabrillo
SMCA*

8

California MLPA Initiative



- Public-private partnership among the California Natural Resources Agency, California Department of Fish and Game, and Resources Legacy Fund Foundation
- Planning process designed to help California implement the MLPA
- Citizen-driven, transparent process with public input at every stage



MLPA Initiative Participants

9

California Fish and Game Commission: Ultimate decision-making authority.

MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force: Oversees and provides policy advice on the development of MPA proposals.


Master Plan Science Advisory Team: Evaluates MPA proposals and addresses scientific questions raised by the Blue Ribbon Task Force or stakeholders.

MLPA Regional Stakeholder Group: Develops MPA proposals with feedback and outreach to constituent groups.

MLPA Statewide Interest Group: Advises the task force and Initiative staff with statewide perspective on overall process.

California Department of Fish and Game: Lead agency for design & implementation of master plan, provides biological and management expertise. Evaluates feasibility and appropriateness of goals and objectives for MPA proposals.

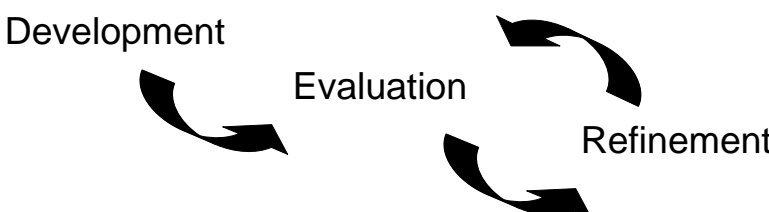
MLPA Initiative Staff: Includes Department of Fish and Game, California Natural Resource agency, Department of Parks and Recreation, and contractors that provide support for the planning process.



Creation of MPA Proposals

10

Iterative Process:



```

graph TD
    Development --> Evaluation
    Evaluation --> Refinement
    Refinement --> Development
  
```

It is anticipated that there will be multiple versions of several alternative MPA proposals.

