

**Briefing Document U.1: MLPA Goals and Regional Objectives Adopted in the MLPA Central Coast, North Central Coast and South Coast Study Regions**

**California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative  
Central Coast Project  
Adopted Regional Goals and Objectives Package as  
Amended by the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force  
November 30, 2005**

**Design and Implementation Considerations**

***Introduction***

The members of the Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (CCRSG) agree that Regional Goals, Objectives, and Design and Implementation Considerations are all very important in the development of an effective system of marine protected areas (MPAs) that have stakeholder support. Regional goals are statements of what the regional MPAs are ultimately trying to achieve (Pomeroy et al. 2004)<sup>1</sup>. The Regional goals are largely taken directly from the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) itself. Regional objectives are more specific measurable statements of what must be accomplished to attain a related goal (Pomeroy et al. 2004).

Design considerations are additional factors that may help fulfill provisions of the MLPA related to facilitating enforcement, encouraging public involvement, and incorporating socio-economic considerations, while meeting the act's goals and guidelines. Design considerations will be applied as the location, category (reserve, park or conservation area), size and other characteristics of potential MPAs are being developed (Kirlin Memo, 8/22/05). Design considerations are cross cutting (they apply to all MPAs) and are not necessarily measurable (Kirlin Memo, 8/22/05). MPA alternatives developed by the CCRSG should include analysis of how the proposal addresses both regional goals and objectives and design guidelines. (Kirlin Memo, 8/22/05).

***Design Considerations***

In developing regional goals and objectives for the central coast, the CCRSG identified several issues that should be considered in the design and evaluation of marine protected areas. Like the "Considerations in the Design of MPAs" that appears in the Master Plan Framework, these considerations may apply to all MPAs and MPA proposals regardless of the specific goals and objectives for that MPA. The design considerations below will be incorporated with the provisional goals and objectives and provided to the Master Plan Science Advisory Team, the Blue Ribbon Task Force, and the California Fish and Game Commission. Design considerations with long-term monitoring components will be used in developing monitoring plans and to inform the adaptive management process.

1. In evaluating the siting of MPAs, considerations shall include the needs and interests of all users.

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<sup>1</sup> Pomeroy R.S., J.E. Parks, and L.M. Watson. 2004. How is your MPA doing? A Guidebook of Natural and Social Indicators for Evaluating Marine Protected Area Management Effectiveness. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK. xvi + 216 p. (Accessed 17 January 2004). <http://effectivempa.noaa.gov/guidebook/guidebook.html>.

2. Recognize relevant portions of existing state and federal fishery management areas and regulations, to the extent possible, when designing new MPAs or modifying existing ones.
3. To the extent possible, site MPAs to prevent fishing effort shifts that would result in serial depletion.
4. When crafting MPA proposals, include considerations for design found in the Nearshore Fishery Management Plan<sup>2</sup> and the draft Abalone Recovery and Management Plan.<sup>3</sup>
5. In developing MPA proposals, consider how existing state and federal programs address the goals and objectives of the MLPA and the central coast region as well as how these proposals may coordinate with other programs.
6. To the extent possible, site MPAs adjacent to terrestrial federal, state, county, or city parks, marine laboratories, or other "eyes on the water" to facilitate management, enforcement, and monitoring.
7. To the extent possible, site MPAs to facilitate use of volunteers to assist in monitoring and management.
8. To the extent possible, site MPAs to take advantage of existing long-term monitoring studies.
9. To the extent possible, design MPA boundaries that facilitate ease of public recognition and ease of enforcement.

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<sup>2</sup>Design considerations from Nearshore Fishery Management Plan:

1. Restrict take in any MPA [intended to meet the NFMP goals] so that the directed fishing or significant bycatch of the 19 NFMP species is prohibited.
2. Include some areas that have been productive fishing grounds for the 19 NFMP species in the past but are no longer heavily used by the fishery.
3. Include some areas known to enhance distribution or retain larvae of NFMP species
4. Consist of an area large enough to address biological characteristics such as movement patterns and home range. There is an expectation that some portion of NFMP stocks will spend the majority of their life cycle within the boundaries of the MPA.
5. Consist of areas that replicate various habitat types within each region including areas that exhibit representative productivity.

<sup>3</sup>Design considerations from draft Abalone and Recovery and Management Plan:

Proposed MPA sites should satisfy at least four of the following criteria.

1. Include within MPAs suitable rocky habitat containing abundant kelp and/or foliose algae
2. Insure presence of sufficient populations to facilitate reproduction.
3. Include within MPAs suitable nursery areas, in particular crustose coralline rock habitats in shallow waters that include microhabitats of moveable rock, rock crevices, urchin spine canopy, and kelp holdfasts.
4. Include within MPAs the protected lee of major headlands that may act as collection points for water and larvae.
5. Include MPAs large enough to include large numbers of abalone and for research regarding population dynamics.
6. Include MPAs that are accessible to researchers, enforcement personnel, and others with a legitimate interest in resource protection.

### ***Implementation Considerations***

Implementation considerations arise after the design of MPAs as the California Department of Fish and Game and any other responsible agencies implement decisions of the California Fish and Game Commission and, if appropriate, the California Park and Recreation Commission, with funding from the Legislature or other sources.

1. Improve public outreach related to MPAs through the use of docents, improved signage, and production of an educational brochure for central coast MPAs.
2. When appropriate, phase the implementation of central coast MPAs to ensure their effective management, monitoring, and enforcement.
3. Ensure adequate funding for monitoring, management, and enforcement is available for implementing new MPAs. [In addition to approving this language, the BRTF also adopted three statements related to funding<sup>4</sup>]
4. Develop regional management and enforcement measures, including cooperative enforcement agreements, adaptive management, and jurisdictional maps, which can be effectively used, adopted statewide, and periodically reviewed.

### **Regional Objectives**

***Goal 1. To protect the natural diversity and abundance of marine life, and the structure, function, and integrity of marine ecosystems.***

1. Protect areas of high species diversity and maintain species diversity and abundance, consistent with natural fluctuations, of populations in representative habitats.
2. Protect areas with diverse habitat types in close proximity to each other.
3. Protect natural size and age structure and genetic diversity of populations in representative habitats.
4. Protect natural trophic structure and food webs in representative habitats.

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<sup>4</sup> 1. The MLPA requires development of a plan of protected areas, while implementing the program of protected areas occurs as resources are available (Section 2855[a]).

2. The adopted MLPA Master Plan Framework includes a feasibility analysis of proposed MPAs contingent upon funds reasonably expected to be available during implementation (Activity 3.4)

3. A lack of funding for implementation does not preclude designing and adopting MPAs.

5. Protect ecosystem structure, function, integrity and ecological processes to facilitate recovery of natural communities from disturbances both natural and human induced.

***Goal 2. To help sustain, conserve, and protect marine life populations, including those of economic value, and rebuild those that are depleted.***

1. Help protect or rebuild populations of rare, threatened, endangered, depleted, or overfished species, where identified, and the habitats and ecosystem functions upon which they rely.
2. Protect larval sources and restore reproductive capacity of species most likely to benefit from MPAs through retention of large, mature individuals.
3. Protect selected species and the habitats on which they depend while allowing the harvest of migratory, highly mobile, or other species where appropriate through the use of state marine conservation areas and state marine parks.

***Goal 3. To improve recreational, educational, and study opportunities provided by marine ecosystems that are subject to minimal human disturbances, and to manage these uses in a manner consistent with protecting biodiversity.***

1. Ensure some MPAs are close to population centers and research and education institutions and include areas of traditional non-consumptive recreational use and are accessible for recreational, educational, and study opportunities.
2. To enhance the likelihood of scientifically valid studies, replicate appropriate MPA designations, habitats or control areas (including areas open to fishing) to the extent possible.
3. Develop collaborative scientific monitoring and research projects evaluating MPAs that link with fisheries management information needs, classroom science curricula, volunteer dive programs, and fishermen of all ages, and identify participants.
4. Protect or enhance recreational experience by ensuring natural size and age structure of marine populations.

***Goal 4. To protect marine natural heritage, including protection of representative and unique marine life habitats in central California waters, for their intrinsic value.***

1. Include within MPAs the following habitat types: estuaries, heads of submarine canyons, and pinnacles.
2. Protect, and replicate to the extent possible, representatives of all marine habitats identified in the MLPA or the Master Plan Framework across a range of depths.

***Goal 5. To ensure that central California's MPAs have clearly defined objectives, effective management measures, and adequate enforcement, and are based on sound scientific guidelines.***

1. Minimize negative socio-economic impacts and optimize positive socio-economic impacts for all users, to the extent possible, and if consistent with the Marine Life Protection Act and its goals and guidelines.
2. For all MPAs in the region, develop objectives, a long-term monitoring plan that includes standardized biological and socioeconomic monitoring protocols, and a strategy for MPA evaluation, and ensure that each MPA objective is linked to one or more regional objectives.
3. To the extent possible, effectively use scientific guidelines in the Master Plan Framework.

***Goal 6. To ensure that the central coast's MPAs are designed and managed, to the extent possible, as a component of a statewide network.***

1. Develop a process for regional review and evaluation of implementation effectiveness that includes stakeholder involvement to determine if regional MPAs are an effective component of a statewide network.
2. Develop a mechanism to coordinate with future MLPA regional stakeholder groups in other regions to ensure that the statewide MPA network meets the goals of the MLPA.

**California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative**  
**North Central Coast Regional Goals and Objectives**  
*Adopted by the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force on February 14, 2008*

## **Introduction**

The members of the North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCCRSG) agree that regional goals, objectives, and design and implementation considerations are all very important in the development of an effective system of marine protected areas (MPAs) that have stakeholder support. Regional goals are statements of what the regional MPAs are ultimately trying to achieve (Pomeroy et al. 2004)<sup>1</sup>. The regional goals are largely taken directly from the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) itself. Regional objectives are more specific measurable statements of what MPAs may accomplish to attain a related goal (Pomeroy et al. 2004). The NCCRSG recognizes that MPAs are one among a suite of tools to manage marine resources.

Design considerations are additional factors that may help fulfill provisions of the MLPA related to facilitating enforcement, encouraging public involvement, and incorporating socio-economic considerations, while meeting the act's goals and guidelines. Design considerations will be applied as the location, category (reserve, park or conservation area), size and other characteristics of potential MPAs are being developed. Design considerations are cross-cutting (they apply to all MPAs) and are not necessarily measurable. MPA alternatives developed by the NCCRSG should include analysis of how the proposal addresses both regional goals and objectives and design guidelines.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Pomeroy R.S., J.E. Parks, and L.M. Watson. 2004. How is your MPA doing? A Guidebook of Natural and Social Indicators for Evaluating Marine Protected Area Management Effectiveness. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK. xvi + 216 p. (Accessed 17 January 2004).  
<http://effectivempa.noaa.gov/guidebook/guidebook.html>.

<sup>2</sup> John Kirilin Memo, August 22, 2005.

## Regional Objectives

### **Goal 1. To protect the natural diversity and abundance<sup>3</sup> of marine life, and the structure, function, and integrity of marine ecosystems.**

1. Protect species diversity and abundance consistent with natural fluctuations by including and maintaining areas of high native species diversity and representative habitats.
2. Include areas with diverse habitat types in close proximity to each other.
3. Protect natural size and age structure and genetic diversity of populations in representative habitats.
4. Protect natural trophic structure and food webs in representative habitats.
5. Protect ecosystem structure, function, integrity and ecological processes to facilitate recovery of natural communities from disturbances both natural and human induced.

### **Goal 2. To help sustain, conserve, and protect marine life populations, including those of economic value, and rebuild those that are depleted.**

1. Help protect or rebuild populations of rare, threatened, endangered, depressed, depleted, or overfished species, where identified, and the habitats and ecosystem functions upon which they rely.<sup>4</sup>
2. Sustain or increase reproduction by species most likely to benefit from MPAs through retention of large, mature individuals<sup>5</sup>.
3. Sustain or increase reproduction by species most likely to benefit from MPAs through protection of breeding, foraging, rearing or nursery areas.
4. Protect selected species and the habitats on which they depend while allowing the commercial and/or recreational harvest of migratory, highly mobile, or other species

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<sup>3</sup> *Natural diversity* is the species richness of a community or area when protected from, or not subjected to, human-induced change (drawn from Allaby 1998 and Kelleher 1992). *Natural abundance* is the total number of individuals in a population protected from, or not subjected to, human-induced change (adapted from Department 2004 and Kelleher 1992).

<sup>4</sup> The terms “rare,” “threatened,” “endangered,” “depressed,” “depleted,” and “overfished” referenced here are designations in state and federal legislation, regulations, and fishery management plans (FMPs)—e.g., California Fish and Game Code, Marine Mammal Protection Act, Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), California Nearshore FMP, Federal Groundfish FMP). Rare, *endangered*, and *threatened* are designations under the California Endangered Species Act. *Depleted* is a designation under the federal Marine Mammal Protection Act. *Depressed* means the condition of a marine fishery that exhibits declining fish population abundance levels below those consistent with maximum sustainable yield (California Fish and Game Code, Section 90.7). *Overfished* means a population that does not produce maximum sustainable yield on a continuing basis (MSA) and in the California Nearshore FMP and federal Groundfish FMP also means a population that falls below the threshold of 30% or 25%, successively, of the estimated unfished biomass

<sup>5</sup> An increase in lifetime egg production will be an important quantitative measure of an improvement of reproduction.



where appropriate through the use of state marine conservation areas and state marine parks.

**Goal 3. To improve recreational, educational, and study opportunities provided by marine ecosystems that are subject to minimal human disturbances, and to manage these uses in a manner consistent with protecting biodiversity.**

1. Ensure some MPAs are close to population centers, coastal access points, and/or research and education institutions and include areas of educational, recreational, and cultural use.
2. Sustain or enhance cultural, recreational, and educational experiences by improving catch rates, high scenic value, lower congestion, or increased size or abundance of species.
3. To enhance the likelihood of scientifically valid studies, replicate appropriate MPA designations, habitats or control areas (including areas open to fishing) to the extent possible.
4. Develop collaborative scientific monitoring and research projects evaluating MPAs that link with fisheries management information needs, classroom science curricula, volunteer dive programs, and fishermen, and identify participants.

**Goal 4. To protect marine natural heritage, including protection of representative and unique marine life habitats in north central California waters, for their intrinsic value.**

1. Include within MPAs the following habitat types: estuaries, the intertidal zone at the Farallon Islands, and subtidal waters (including the water column and benthic habitats) around the Farallon Islands
2. Include and replicate to the extent possible [practicable], representatives of all marine habitats identified in the MLPA or the *California MLPA Master Plan for Marine Protected Areas* across a range of depths.

**Goal 5. To ensure that north central California's MPAs have clearly defined objectives, effective management measures, and adequate enforcement, and are based on sound scientific guidelines.**

1. Minimize negative socio-economic impacts and optimize positive socio-economic impacts for all users, to the extent possible, and if consistent with the Marine Life Protection Act and its goals and guidelines.
2. For all MPAs in the region involve interested parties to help; develop objectives, a long-term monitoring plan that includes standardized biological and socioeconomic monitoring protocols, and a strategy for MPA evaluation, and ensure that each MPA objective is linked to one or more regional objectives.

3. To the extent possible, effectively use scientific guidelines in the *California MLPA Master Plan for Marine Protected Areas*.

***Goal 6. To ensure that the north central coast's MPAs are designed and managed, to the extent possible, as a component of a statewide network.***

1. Develop a process to inform adaptive management that includes stakeholder involvement for regional review and evaluation of management effectiveness to determine if regional MPAs are an effective component of a statewide network.
2. Develop a mechanism to coordinate with future MLPA regional stakeholder groups in other regions to ensure that the statewide MPA network meets the goals of the MLPA.

## **Regional Design and Implementation Considerations**

### ***Design Considerations***

The NCCRSG recognizes several issues that should be considered in the design and evaluation of marine protected areas. Like the “Considerations in the Design of MPAs” that appears in the *California MLPA Master Plan for Marine Protected Areas*, these considerations may apply to all MPAs and MPA proposals regardless of the specific goals and objectives for that MPA. The design considerations below will be incorporated with the goals and objectives and provided to the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team, MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force, and California Fish and Game Commission. Design considerations with long-term monitoring components will be used in developing monitoring plans and to inform the adaptive management process.

1. In evaluating the siting of MPAs, considerations shall include the needs and interests of all users.
2. Recognize relevant portions of existing state and federal fishery management areas and regulations, to the extent possible, when designing new MPAs or modifying existing ones.
3. To the extent possible, site MPAs to prevent fishing effort shifts that would result in serial depletion.
4. When crafting MPA proposals, include considerations for design found in the Nearshore Fishery Management Plan<sup>6</sup> and the draft Abalone Recovery and Management Plan.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>6</sup>Design considerations from Nearshore Fishery Management Plan:

1. Restrict take in any MPA [intended to meet the NFMP goals] so that the directed fishing or significant bycatch of the 19 NFMP species is prohibited.
2. Include some areas that have been productive fishing grounds for the 19 NFMP species in the past but are no longer heavily used by the fishery.
3. Include some areas known to enhance distribution or retain larvae of NFMP species
4. Consist of an area large enough to address biological characteristics such as movement patterns and home range. There is an expectation that some portion of NFMP stocks will spend the majority of their life cycle within the boundaries of the MPA.
5. Consist of areas that replicate various habitat types within each region including areas that exhibit representative productivity.

<sup>7</sup>Design considerations from Abalone Recovery and Management Plan:

Proposed MPA sites should satisfy at least four of the following criteria.

1. Include within MPAs suitable rocky habitat containing abundant kelp and/or foliose algae
2. Insure presence of sufficient populations to facilitate reproduction.
3. Include within MPAs suitable nursery areas, in particular crustose coralline rock habitats in shallow waters that include microhabitats of moveable rock, rock crevices, urchin spine canopy, and kelp holdfasts.
4. Include within MPAs the protected lee of major headlands that may act as collection points for water and larvae.
5. Include MPAs large enough to include large numbers of abalone and for research regarding population dynamics.
6. Include MPAs that are accessible to researchers, enforcement personnel, and others with a legitimate interest in resource protection.

5. In developing MPA proposals, consider how existing state and federal programs address the goals and objectives of the MLPA and the north central coast region as well as how these proposals may coordinate with other programs.
6. To the extent possible, site MPAs adjacent to terrestrial federal, state, county, or city parks, marine laboratories, or other "eyes on the water" to facilitate management, enforcement, and monitoring.
7. To the extent possible, site MPAs to facilitate use of volunteers to assist in monitoring and management.
8. To the extent possible, site MPAs to take advantage of existing long-term monitoring studies.
9. To the extent possible, design MPA boundaries that facilitate ease of public recognition and ease of enforcement.
10. Consider existing public coastal access points when designing MPAs.
11. MPA design should consider the benefits and drawbacks of siting MPAs near to or remote from public access.
12. Consider the potential impacts of climate change, community alteration, and distributional shifts in marine species when designing MPAs.
13. To the extent possible, preserve the diversity of recreational, educational, commercial, and cultural uses.
14. To the extent possible, optimize the design of the MPA network to facilitate monitoring and research that answers resource management questions; an example is including MPAs of different protection levels in similar habitats and depths, adjacent or in otherwise comparable locations, to state marine reserves, to evaluate the effectiveness of different protection levels in meeting regional and statewide goals.

### ***Implementation Considerations***

Implementation considerations arise after the design of MPAs as the California Department of Fish and Game and any other responsible agencies implement decisions of the California Fish and Game Commission and, if appropriate, the California Park and Recreation Commission, with funding from the Legislature or other sources.

1. Improve public outreach related to MPAs through the use of docents, improved signage, and production of an educational brochure for north central coast MPAs.
2. When appropriate, phase the implementation of north central coast MPAs to ensure their effective management, monitoring, and enforcement.
3. Ensure adequate funding for monitoring, management, and enforcement is available for implementing new MPAs.

*California MLPA North Central Coast Project  
North Central Coast Regional Goals and Objectives  
Adopted by the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force on February 14, 2008*

4. Develop regional management and enforcement measures, including cooperative enforcement agreements, adaptive management, and jurisdictional maps, which can be effectively used, adopted statewide, and periodically reviewed.
5. Incorporate volunteer monitoring and/or cooperative research, where appropriate.

**California MLPA South Coast Project**  
**Adopted Regional Goals and Objectives and Design and Implementation**  
**Considerations for the MLPA South Coast Study Region**  
*February 26, 2009*

*Adopted by the MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group on January 14, 2009*  
*Approved by the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force on February 26, 2009*

## **Introduction**

The members of the MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (SCRSG) agree that regional goals, objectives, and design and implementation considerations are all very important in the development of an effective system of marine protected areas (MPAs) that has stakeholder support and meets the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) goals. MLPA goals are broad statements of what the regional MPAs are ultimately trying to achieve (Pomeroy et al. 2004)<sup>1</sup> and are provided in the MLPA. Regional objectives are more specific measurable statements of what MPAs may accomplish to attain a related goal (Pomeroy et al. 2004). The SCRSG recognizes that MPAs are one among a suite of tools to manage marine resources.

Design considerations are additional factors that may help fulfill provisions of the MLPA related to facilitating enforcement, encouraging public involvement, and incorporating socio-economic considerations, while meeting the MLPA's goals and guidelines. Design considerations will be applied as the location, classification (reserve, park or conservation area), size and other characteristics of potential MPAs are being developed. Design considerations are cross-cutting (they apply to all MPAs) and are not necessarily measurable. MPA alternatives developed by the SCRSG should include analysis of how the proposal addresses the MLPA goals and regional objectives and design and implementation considerations.

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<sup>1</sup> Pomeroy R.S., J.E. Parks, and L.M. Watson. 2004. How is your MPA doing? A Guidebook of Natural and Social Indicators for Evaluating Marine Protected Area Management Effectiveness. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK. xvi + 216 p. (Accessed 17 January 2004).  
<http://effectivempa.noaa.gov/guidebook/guidebook.html>.

## Regional Goals and Objectives

The marine protected area (MPA) design process begins with setting regional goals and objectives that are consistent with the MLPA, then identifying site-specific rationales for individual MPAs. Once set, regional goals and objectives influence crucial decisions regarding MPA size, location and boundaries, as well as management measures and the focus of monitoring and evaluation programs.

### ***Goal 1. To protect the natural diversity and abundance<sup>2</sup> of marine life, and the structure, function, and integrity of marine ecosystems.***

1. Protect and maintain species diversity and abundance consistent with natural fluctuations, including areas of high native species diversity and representative habitats.
2. Protect areas with diverse habitat types in close proximity to each other.
3. Protect natural size and age structure and genetic diversity of populations in representative habitats.
4. Protect biodiversity, natural trophic structure and food webs in representative habitats.
5. Promote recovery of natural communities from disturbances, both natural and human induced, including water quality.

### ***Goal 2. To help sustain, conserve, and protect marine life populations, including those of economic value, and rebuild those that are depleted.***

1. Help protect or rebuild populations of rare, threatened, endangered, depressed, depleted, or overfished species, and the habitats and ecosystem functions upon which they rely.<sup>3</sup>
2. Sustain or increase reproduction by species likely to benefit from MPAs, with emphasis on those species identified as more likely to benefit from MPAs, and promote retention of large, mature individuals<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> *Natural diversity* is the species richness of a community or area when protected from, or not subjected to, human-induced change (drawn from Allaby 1998 and Kelleher 1992). *Natural abundance* is the total number of individuals in a population protected from, or not subjected to, human-induced change (adapted from Department 2004 and Kelleher 1992).

<sup>3</sup> The terms "rare," "threatened," "endangered," "depressed," "depleted," and "overfished" referenced here are designations in state and federal legislation, regulations, and fishery management plans (FMPs) - e.g., California Fish and Game Code, Marine Mammal Protection Act, Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, California Nearshore FMP, Federal Groundfish FMP. Rare, *endangered*, and *threatened* are designations under the California Endangered Species Act. *Depleted* is a designation under the federal Marine Mammal Protection Act. *Depressed* means the condition of a marine fishery that exhibits declining fish population abundance levels below those consistent with maximum sustainable yield (California Fish and Game Code, Section 90.7). *Overfished* means a population that does not produce maximum sustainable yield on a continuing basis (MSA) and in the California Nearshore FMP and federal Groundfish FMP also means a population that falls below the threshold of 30% or 25%, successively, of the estimated unfished biomass

3. Sustain or increase reproduction by species likely to benefit from MPAs with emphasis on those species identified as more likely to benefit from MPAs through protection of breeding, spawning, foraging, rearing or nursery areas or other areas where species congregate.
4. Protect selected species and the habitats on which they depend while allowing some commercial and/or recreational harvest of migratory, highly mobile, or other species; and other activities.

***Goal 3. To improve recreational, educational, and study opportunities provided by marine ecosystems that are subject to minimal human disturbances, and to manage these uses in a manner consistent with protecting biodiversity.***

1. Sustain or enhance cultural, recreational, and educational experiences and uses (for example, by improving catch rates, maintaining high scenic value, lowering congestion, increasing size or abundance of species, and protection of submerged sites).
2. Provide opportunities for scientifically valid studies, including studies on MPA effectiveness and other research that benefits from areas with minimal or restricted human disturbance.
3. Provide opportunities for collaborative scientific monitoring and research projects that evaluate MPAs that promote adaptive management and link with fisheries management, seabird and mammals information needs, classroom science curricula, cooperative fisheries research and volunteer efforts, and identifies participants.

***Goal 4. To protect marine natural heritage, including protection of representative and unique marine life habitats in south coast California waters, for their intrinsic value.***

1. Include within MPAs key and unique habitats identified by the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team for this study region.
2. Include and replicate to the extent possible [practicable], representatives of all marine habitats identified in the MLPA or the *California Marine Life Protection Act Master Plan for Marine Protected Areas* across a range of depths.

***Goal 5. To ensure that south coast California's MPAs have clearly defined objectives, effective management measures, and adequate enforcement, and are based on sound scientific guidelines.***

1. Minimize negative socio-economic impacts and optimize positive socio-economic impacts for all users including coastal dependent entities, communities and interests, to

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<sup>4</sup> An increase in lifetime egg production will be an important quantitative measure of an improvement of reproduction.



the extent possible, and if consistent with the Marine Life Protection Act and its goals and guidelines.

2. Provide opportunities for interested parties to help develop objectives, a long-term monitoring plan that includes standardized biological and socioeconomic monitoring protocols, a long-term education and outreach plan, and a strategy for MPA evaluation.
3. Effectively use scientific guidelines in the *California Marine Life Protection Act Master Plan for Marine Protected Areas*.
4. Ensure public understanding of, compliance with, and stakeholder support for MPA boundaries and regulations.
5. Include simple, clear, and focused site-specific objectives/rationales for each MPA and ensure that site-level rationales for each MPA are linked to one or more regional objectives.

***Goal 6. To ensure that the south coast's MPAs are designed and managed, to the extent possible, as a component of a statewide network.***

1. Provide opportunities to promote a process that informs adaptive management and includes stakeholder involvement for regional review and evaluation of management effectiveness to determine if regional MPAs are an effective component of a statewide network.
2. Provide opportunities to coordinate with future MLPA regional stakeholder groups in other regions to ensure that the statewide MPA network meets the goals of the MLPA.
3. Ensure ecological connectivity within and between regional components of the statewide network.
4. Provide for protection and connectivity of habitat for those species that utilize different habitats over their lifetime.

## **Regional Design and Implementation Considerations**

### ***Design Considerations***

The SCRSG recognizes several issues that should be considered in the design and evaluation of MPAs. Like the “Considerations in the Design of MPAs” that appears in the *California Marine Life Protection Act Master Plan for Marine Protected Areas*, these considerations may apply to all MPAs and MPA proposals regardless of the specific regional goals and objectives for that MPA and may contribute to the site-level rationales for individual MPA design and placement.

The design considerations will be incorporated with the goals and objectives and transmitted to the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force for adoption and then to the California Fish and Game Commission as part of the suite of recommendations for the study region. Design considerations with long-term monitoring components will be used in developing monitoring plans and to inform the adaptive management process.

Design considerations include:

1. In evaluating the siting of MPAs, considerations shall include the needs and interests of all users.
2. When designing or modifying MPAs, consider leveraging relevant portions of existing management activities and area-based restrictions, including state and federal fishery management areas and regulations (such as rockfish conservation areas and trawl fishery closures, or other restricted access zones).
3. Site MPAs to prevent fishing effort shifts that would result in serial depletion.
4. When crafting MPA proposals, include considerations for design found in state fishery management plans such as the Nearshore Fishery Management Plan<sup>5</sup> and the Abalone Recovery and Management Plan.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>5</sup>Design considerations from the Nearshore Fishery Management Plan:

1. Restrict take in any MPA [intended to meet the NFMP goals] so that the directed fishing or significant bycatch of the 19 NFMP species is prohibited.
2. Include some areas that have been productive fishing grounds for the 19 NFMP species in the past but are no longer heavily used by the fishery.
3. Include some areas known to enhance distribution or retain larvae of NFMP species
4. Consist of an area large enough to address biological characteristics such as movement patterns and home range. There is an expectation that some portion of NFMP stocks will spend the majority of their life cycle within the boundaries of the MPA.
5. Consist of areas that replicate various habitat types within each region including areas that exhibit representative productivity.

<sup>6</sup>Design considerations from the Abalone Recovery and Management Plan:

Proposed MPA sites should satisfy at least four of the following criteria.

1. Include within MPAs suitable rocky habitat containing abundant kelp and/or foliose algae
2. Insure presence of sufficient populations to facilitate reproduction.
3. Include within MPAs suitable nursery areas, in particular crustose coralline rock habitats in shallow waters that include microhabitats of moveable rock, rock crevices, urchin spine canopy, and kelp holdfasts.
4. Include within MPAs the protected lee of major headlands that may act as collection points for water and larvae.

5. In developing MPA proposals, consider how existing state, local and federal programs address the goals and objectives of the MLPA and the south coast study region as well as how these proposals may coordinate with other programs.
6. Site MPAs adjacent to terrestrial federal, state, county, or city parks, marine laboratories, or other "eyes on the water" to facilitate management, enforcement, monitoring, education and outreach.
7. Site MPAs to facilitate use of volunteers to assist in monitoring and management.
8. Site MPAs to take advantage of existing long-term monitoring studies.
9. Design MPA boundaries that facilitate ease of public recognition and ease of enforcement.
10. Consider existing public coastal access points when designing MPAs.
11. MPA design should consider the benefits and drawbacks of siting MPAs near to or remote from public access.
12. Consider the potential impacts of climate change, ocean acidification, community alteration, and distributional shifts in marine species when designing MPAs.
13. Preserve the diversity of recreational, educational, commercial, and cultural uses.
14. Optimize the design of the MPA network to facilitate monitoring and research that answers resource management questions; an example is including MPAs of different protection levels in similar habitats and depths, adjacent or in otherwise comparable locations, to state marine reserves, to evaluate the effectiveness of different protection levels in meeting regional and statewide goals.
15. Ensure some MPAs are close to population centers, coastal access points, and/or research and education institutions and include areas of educational, recreational, and cultural use.

### ***Implementation Considerations***

Implementation considerations arise after the design of MPAs, when the California Department of Fish and Game and any other responsible agencies implement decisions of the California Fish and Game Commission and, if appropriate, the California Park and Recreation Commission, with funding from the California State Legislature or other sources.

Implementation considerations will be incorporated with the regional goals and objectives and design considerations and transmitted to the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force for adoption and, then to the California Fish and Game Commission as part of the suite of recommendations for the study region.

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5. Include MPAs large enough to include large numbers of abalone and for research regarding population dynamics.
  6. Include MPAs that are accessible to researchers, enforcement personnel, and others with a legitimate interest in resource protection.

The MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group recommends the following implementation and management activities, as appropriate, also be included in the regional MPA management plans required under the *California Marine Life Protection Act Master Plan for Marine Protected Areas* (section 4.0) for designated MPAs.

1. Improve public outreach related to MPAs through the use of docents, improved signage, and production of an educational brochure for south coast MPAs.
2. When appropriate, phase the implementation of south coast MPAs to ensure their effective management, monitoring, and enforcement.
3. Ensure adequate funding for monitoring, management, outreach and enforcement is available for implementing new MPAs.
4. Develop coordinated regional management and enforcement plans in coordination with state, local, and federal entities, including cooperative enforcement agreements, adaptive management, and jurisdictional maps, which can be effectively used, adopted statewide, and periodically reviewed.
5. Incorporate volunteer monitoring and/or cooperative research, where appropriate.