

## Marine Life Protection Act Initiative



### Setting the Decision-Making Context for the MLPA North Coast Study Region

Presentation to the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force  
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## Key Decisions and Recommendations



Three key decisions for the task force:

- What north coast marine protected area (MPA) proposal(s) to forward to the California Fish and Game Commission for consideration?
- What is the BRTF's preferred alternative MPA proposal?
- What north coast special closures recommendation to forward to the California Fish and Game Commission for consideration?

Any other recommendations for the state?

- Example is tribal uses or "tribal use" category for MPAs per recommendation of the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG)



## MPA Proposals to Potentially Forward

- Proposal 0 (existing MPAs), also referred to as “no action” alternative required for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) analysis
- Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal; identified as Option 3a in staff memo (Briefing Document V.1)
- Options 3b-3f in staff memo
- Other options identified by the BRTF



## Key Guidance for North Coast Planning

- Marine Life Protection Act (especially six goals)
- California MLPA Master Plan for MPAs (especially science guidelines)
- California Department of Fish and Game Feasibility Criteria
- California State Parks Guidance
- BRTF Guidance (relative to meeting guidelines, developing cross-interest support, considering tribal uses, etc.)
- Additional guidance provided by the state



## Strong Foundation for Decisions

- Successful deliberative process; choices framed and interests expressed
- Use of best, readily-available science
- Robust process where stakeholders develop ideas and public is able to directly contribute
- Significant data and information available about choices through various evaluations, analyses, stakeholder-developed materials



## Information Available at This Meeting

- Descriptive materials for Proposal 0 (existing MPAs) and Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal
- SAT evaluations for both, as well as supplemental evaluation for NCRSG MPA Proposal
- DFG and California State Parks analyses
- Goal 3 Analysis
- Various summaries prepared by staff
- Discussions with members of the NCRSG
- SAT presentations and discussion with SAT members
- Additional public input



## BRTF Considerations

- MLPA offers six goals without any priority
- Stakeholders differ in emphasis they give goals, how they interpret goals, where to place MPAs to achieve goals, and how they assess possible future impacts
- MLPA goals do not give priority to socioeconomics, yet cannot be ignored
- SAT evaluations provide informative and important metrics; lack application of values to metrics
- Differing impacts on stakeholders in the short- and long-term
- Different guidelines sometimes conflict
- In general, policy judgment required



## Next Steps for North Coast

- BRTF completes recommendations: MPA proposal(s) to forward, preferred alternative, special closures
- Any additional evaluations conducted by SAT, DFG, California State Parks, and MLPA Initiative staff
- Additional feedback from the public
- Recommendations and evaluations presented to the California Fish and Game Commission on February 2, 2011
- Commission starts CEQA and regulatory rule-making processes (additional public input)
- Potential legislation?