


Framing MPF Action

Presentation to the MLPA BRTF

Pasadena, California

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Natural and human factors impact oceans and marine life

The background of the slide is a photograph of a vast, deep blue ocean. The water is calm with subtle ripples. On the left side, there is a bright sun flare that creates a shimmering effect across the water's surface. The sky above the horizon is a lighter blue with some wispy clouds.

Natural factors

- Long-term environmental fluctuations, regime shifts
- Periodic environmental fluctuations, El Niño events
- Climate change
- Current patterns
- Nutrient level (bottom-up) and predator (top-down) dynamics
- Geological and habitat features
- Episodic events such as earthquakes or hurricanes

Human Factors

- Pollution
 - Non-point source (e.g., run off)
 - Point source (e.g., outfall)
- Direct effects of fishing
- Indirect effects of fishing (e.g., by catch)
- Alteration of wetlands and coastal habitats
- Forestry and siltation
- Direct impacts on habitats (e.g., dredging)
- Collateral effects of activities, such as oil wells

Many public policies affect oceans and marine life

- All levels of government
- Address virtually every human factor impacting oceans and marine life
- Variety of tools, including regulation, subsidies and education, for example

Examples of public policies

- Control of polluted runoff – California the first state to receive full federal approval of its Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program from U.S. EPA and NOAA in 2000
- California Coastal Management Program, has slowed conversion of coastal wetlands since 1972
- Fishery policies, national and state

Examples continued

- Under the Clean Beaches Initiative, the State Water Resources Control Board plans to reduce beach closures by 75 % by 2010 through grants and coordination
- As an example of local action, Los Angeles County voters approved \$500 million bond in 2004 to reduce pollutants in storm water runoff

Imperfect policies-no surprise

- Fragmented
- Rely on limited tools in each area
- Each imperfect in implementation
- Each with uncertain effects
- Little good information on interactions among tools or effects
- Gradual learning and improvement in individual policies and jointly

Improving ocean policy in California

- Fishery regulation, ongoing and improving
- Uncoordinated marine protected areas
- MLPA – 1999
- MMAIA – 2000
- California Ocean Protection Act – 2002
 - Establishes expectation of integration
 - Establishes mechanisms for integration

The Master Plan Framework

- Articulates with existing federal, state and local policies in three ways:
 - regional profile
 - design of MPAs and networks
 - management, enforcement and monitoring
- Adaptive management of MPAs and networks
- Adjust the Master Plan Framework over time

BRTF Approval of the MPF means:

- Transmittal to the California Department of Fish and Game for internal review, peer review and possible modification
- DFG recommends to Fish and Game Commission
- Full external review before Fish and Game Commission
- Guidance for implementation of the MLPA