

**California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative**  
**Process Summary of Efforts to Implement the Marine Life Protection Act**  
*Prepared by the California Department of Fish and Game*  
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**January 2000 to April 2001**

The Department of Fish and Game began implementing the MLPA. A Master Plan Team was formed per the MLPA requirements. Meetings of this team were held to discuss the requirements of the act and how to proceed.

**April to July 2001**

A mass mailing was sent to commercial permittees and limited numbers of recreational anglers and angling groups to obtain input on existing marine protected areas (MPAs) and possible changes or additions to them.

The department developed a web site for the MLPA and began to use a public relations officer.

The department and Master Plan Team began developing the initial draft concepts (IDCs) for a network of MPAs in each of the four marine regions.

In July 2001, 10 public workshops were held to discuss the IDCs. More than 2,500 people attended and the overwhelming response was highly critical.

**August to December 2001**

The department received numerous public comments concerning the July workshops.

The department held approximately 60 small group meetings throughout the state. Each meeting consisted of a specific constituent group and one or two department staff. The results of these meetings were used to develop a process for increased constituent involvement.

**January to December 2002**

The department formed seven regional working groups (RWGs) with constituent representatives. Each group focused on a particular region of the coast and was professionally facilitated.

The orientations and first two sets of RWG meetings were held.

The department produced MLPA Clarification Guidelines, the Working Group Process and Operating Principles, and the Evaluation of Existing MPAs with GIS Maps.

**January to December 2003**

After completing the second set of RWG meetings, the department funding for professional facilitation was exhausted and staff reductions made it infeasible to continue the process. The RWGs were put on a temporary hold while the department developed a variety of potential strategies for funding and process support.

**January to August 2004**

The department formally placed the process on hold and disbanded the RWGs. Efforts focused on developing new ways to fund and staff the process and resulted in the MLPA Initiative.

**August 2004 to January 2005**

The MLPA Initiative process was developed and an MOU put in place to formally establish the joint public/private partnership. A blue ribbon task force was assembled by California Secretary for Resources Mike Chrisman. The task force contracted staff to support the initiative and the department reformed its MLPA staff to sit on a steering committee with the task force staff. Meetings were held to discuss the process as a whole and help develop a draft Master Plan Framework.