

**California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative:
Proposed Table of Contents for Draft Master Plan Framework**

The Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) requires that the Fish and Game Commission adopt a Master Plan and Marine Life Protection Program developed by the Department of Fish and Game. The Master Plan is composed of two major parts. The first element includes recommendations on specific aspects of implementing the MLPA. The second element includes the development and evaluation of alternative networks of marine protected areas (MPAs) in regions of the state and selection of a preferred alternative.

This document outlines the proposed table of contents for the first element of the Master Plan, otherwise known as the draft Master Plan Framework. This guidance and recommendation document will assist in the preparation of the second element of the Master Plan, the development of alternative networks of MPAs. The best available science and other information relevant to the design and management of MPAs will be used in developing the draft Master Plan Framework, which will then be used to design and evaluate alternative networks of MPAs in individual regions.

PROPOSED CONTENTS

Executive Summary

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 - iii. Process for Review of Proposals (PRC §36900)
- II. Interpretation and guidance in the application of legislative language regarding the Marine Life Protection Program
- A. Goals of the Marine Life Protection Program
1. To protect natural diversity and abundance, and structure, function, and integrity of marine ecosystems (FGC §2853[b]1),
 2. To help sustain, conserve, and protect marine life populations, and rebuild where necessary (FGC §2853[b]2),
 3. To improve recreational, educational, and study opportunities in minimally disturbed marine ecosystems consistent with protecting biodiversity (FGC §2853[b]3),
 4. To protect marine natural heritage, including representative and unique marine habitats, for their intrinsic value (FGC §2853[b]4),
 5. To set clearly defined objectives, effective management, adequate enforcement, and based on sound science (FGC §2853[b]5), and
 6. To manage the state's MPAs as a network, to the extent possible (FGC §2853[b]6).
- B. Required elements in the Marine Life Protection Program
1. Improved marine life reserve component (FGC §2853[c]1),
 2. Identified objectives and enforcement measures for all MPAs (FGC §2853[c]2),
 3. Monitoring, research, and evaluation at selected sites for adaptive management and insures system meets terms of the MLPA (FGC §2853[c]3),
 4. Education of the public, and encouragement of public participation (FGC §2853[c]4), and

5. A process for establishment, modification, or abolishment of existing or new MPAs that involves constituents as in FGC §7050 and facilitates designation of MPAs (FGC §2853[c]5).
 - C. Department proposal for clarification of Marine Life Protection Program
- III. Interpretation and guidance in the application of legislative language regarding the Master Plan
- A. Process for preparing the Master Plan, including constituent involvement (FGC §2855)
 - B. Sources of information (FGC §2856[a]1)
 - C. Required elements of a Master Plan
 1. Recommendations on extent and types of habitat for the MPA system and marine life reserves, described on maps with existing information, including rocky reefs, intertidal zones, sandy or soft ocean bottoms, underwater pinnacles, sea mounts, kelp forests, submarine canyons, seagrass beds (FGC §2856[a]2[A]),
 2. Identification of species or groups of species likely to benefit from MPAs and their habitat (FGC §2856[a]2[B]),
 3. Recommendations for improving the guidelines for MPA networks in FGC §2857(c) including minimum sizes for individual marine reserves (FGC §2856[a]2[C]),
 4. Recommended alternative networks of MPAs in each biogeographic region (FGC §2856[a]2[D]),
 5. A simplified classification system (FGC §2856[a]2[E]),
 6. Recommendations for a preferred siting alternative for a network of MPAs (FGC §2856[a]2[F]),
 7. An evaluation of current MPAs against the preferred alternative and recommendations whether they should be altered (FGC §2856[a]2[G]),
 8. Recommendations for monitoring, research, and evaluation in selected areas of the preferred alternative in support of adaptive management (FGC §2856[a]2[H]),
 9. Recommendations for enforcement and management in the preferred alternative that may apply statewide or specific types of sites (FGC §2856[a]2[I]),
 10. Recommendations for improving enforcement, including use of advanced surveillance technology (FGC §2856[a]2[J]);
 11. Recommendations for funding sources for management of MPAs and implementation of the MLPA (FGC §2856[a]2[K]), and
 12. Additional appropriate components of the Master Plan (FGC §2856[b]).

- D. Department proposal for clarification of Master Plan elements
- IV. Interpretation and guidance in the application of legislative language regarding preferred alternative networks
- A. Objectives are to protect habitat from human activities including fishing, and/or enhance a species or group of species by restricting fishing for that species or group (FGC §2857[b]);
 - B. Each MPA shall have goals and objectives (FGC §2857[c]1);
 - C. Marine life reserves shall include a representative variety of habitats and communities across range of depths and environmental conditions (FGC §2857[c]2);
 - D. Similar types of habitats and communities shall be represented in more than one reserve in each region (FGC §2857[c]3);
 - E. Reserves are to be designed to avoid activities that upset natural ecological functions (FGC §2857[c]4);
 - F. Network and individual MPAs are to be of adequate size, number, type of protection, and location to meet objectives of network and network as a whole meets goals and guidelines of the MLPA (FGC §2857[c]5);
 - G. Network design shall take account of kelp beds (FGC §2857[d]), and
 - H. Phasing in MPAs may be recommended (FGC §2857[e]).
- V. Appendices
- A. References
 - B. Preparers, Master Plan Team Members
 - C. Consultations with other agencies (FGC §2855[b]4)
 - D. Consultations with constituents (FGC §2855[b]4)
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 - F. Regional workshops (FGC §2857)
 - G. Peer review of the master plan (FGC §2858)
 - H. Departmental public hearings on the draft master plan (FGC §2859[b])
 - I. Commission public hearings on the master plan (FGC §2859[c])
 - J. Comments from the Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture (FGC §2859[d])