



## Marine Life Protection Act



### **Overview of DFG Feasibility Criteria and Evaluation Methods for MPA Proposals**

Presentation to the MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group

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## Categories of DFG Advice

DFG will review proposals for:

1. Feasibility of MPAs
2. Stated goals, regional objectives, and site specific rationales
3. Prospects of proposals to meet the goals of the MLPA



## Feasibility of MPAs

MPA design and regulations should be:  
*simple, easily understood and enforceable*

- Categories of Feasibility Criteria:
  - MPA Names
  - Boundaries
  - Take Regulations
  - Design Considerations
  - Other Guidance



## MPA Names

### **Names** Should:

- Be simple, reasonably short, and reflect the geographic area designated
- Not be named after individuals or groups



## Boundaries

### Boundaries Should Not:

- Use depth contours or distance offshore
- Use curving or undulating lines

### Boundaries Should:

- Use straight due north/south, east/west lines
- Be placed at **readily determinable lines** of latitude and longitude
- Placed at **easily recognizable landmarks**



## Boundaries: Readily Determined Lines

### Examples of Readily Determinable Lines of Latitude and Longitude

- Preferred: Whole minutes (36° 50' N; 121° 46' W)
- Less Desirable: Half minutes (36° 50.5' N; 121° 46.5' W)
- Least Preferred: 1/10<sup>th</sup> Minutes (36° 50.3' N; 121° 46.7' W)



## Boundaries: Landmarks

### Landmarks Should:

- Be easily recognizable
- Be permanent and readily observable
  - E.g., rocks, points, headlands, buoys, etc.
- Have coordinates assigned
  - Utilize 1/10<sup>th</sup> Minutes (e.g., 36°50.3' N; 121°46.7' W)

If landmarks are utilized, include both landmark and coordinates in the proposal



## Boundaries: Corners and Diagonals

### Corners Should:

- Be at 90° angles
- Be at readily determinable lines of latitude and longitude

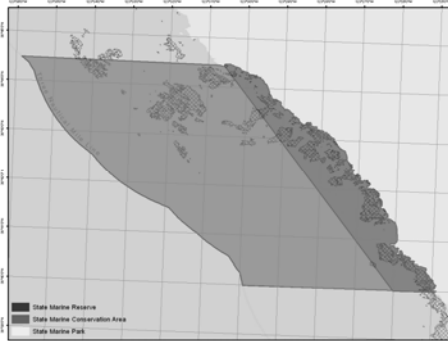
### Diagonal Lines:

- Should be used sparingly
- Should follow the angle of the coastline
- Should be placed sufficiently offshore to accommodate nearshore users without GPS
- Should be “anchored” at whole minutes of latitude and longitude

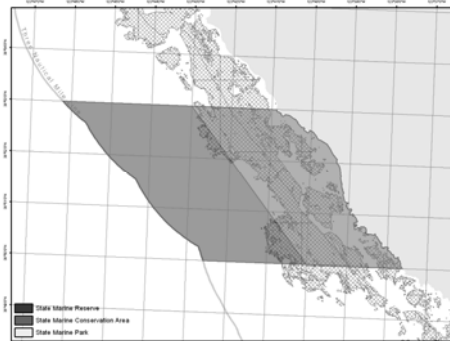


## Feasibility Criteria: Boundaries

### Boundaries: Diagonal Lines



Not Consistent with Guidelines



Consistent with Guidelines



## Feasibility Criteria: Take Regulations

### Take Regulations Should:

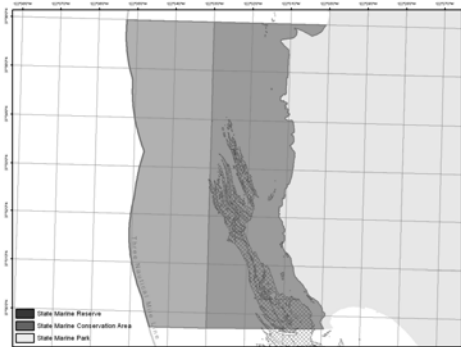
- Be simple and easily understood
- Avoid conflict with existing regulations
- Not create new fishery management regulations (i.e., different bag limits, size limits, or seasons)
  
- The best regulations are those that can be simply stated in one or two sentences without clarifying language



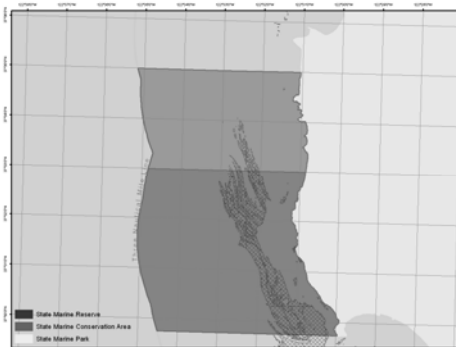
## Feasibility Criteria: MPA Design

### Cluster Orientation:

- Alongshore orientation preferred



Inshore/ Offshore



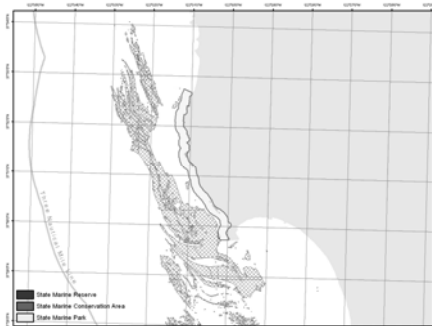
Alongshore



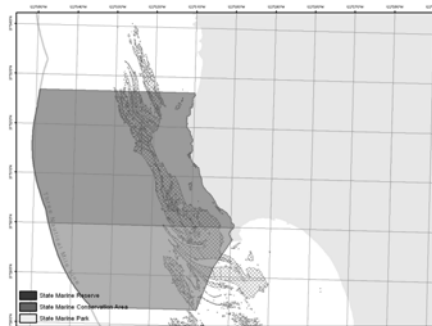
## Feasibility Criteria: MPA Design

### Intertidal MPAs:

- Not Recommended
- MPAs should extend to adjacent subtidal waters



Existing MPA



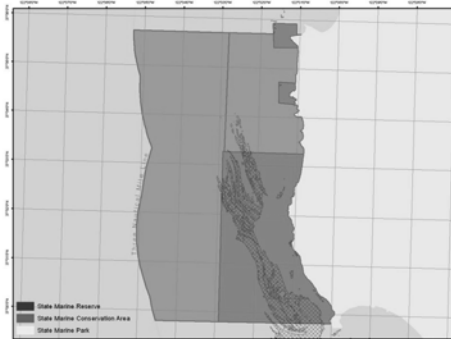
Improved MPA



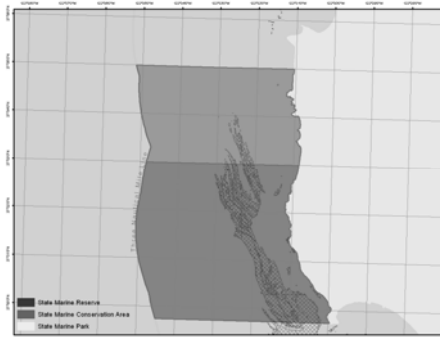
## Feasibility Criteria: MPA Design

### Multiple Zoning:

- Occurs when an area is split to allow for different uses in multiple portions of the area.



Not Consistent with Guidelines,  
Doughnut and L-Shapes

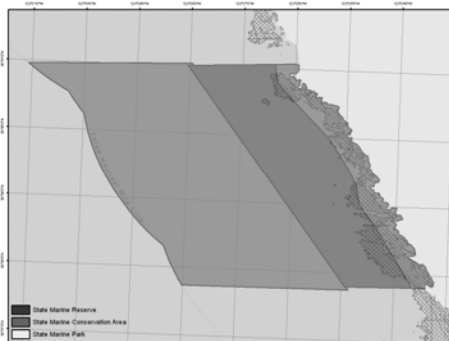


Consistent with Guidelines

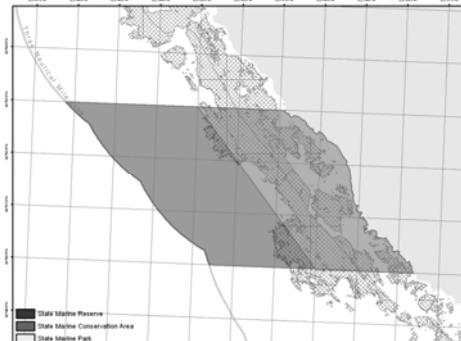


## Feasibility Criteria: MPA Design

### Multiple Zoning: Ribbon Design



Not Consistent with  
Guidelines, "Ribbon" Design



Consistent with Guidelines



## Feasibility Criteria: Other Guidance

### Redesigning Existing MPAs

#### Existing MPA

- Boundaries do not meet guidelines
- Allows most existing take to continue



MPA Type: SMP

**Take Regulations:** prohibited, All marine aquatic plants; All invertebrates EXCEPT red abalone, chionoes, clams, cockles, rock scallops, native oysters, crabs, lobsters, ghost shrimp, sea urchins, mussels and worms.

#### Meets Guidelines

- Boundaries meet guidelines
- LOP increased



MPA Type: SMR

**Take Regulations:** No take of living marine resources allowed.



## Other Guidance: Special Closures

### Special Closures:

- No access regulations
- Can only be used for water-based access concerns (not land-based)
- Should use lines of latitude and longitude along mainland
- Can use circle only around island or rock
  - Either 300' or 1000' distance from shoreline
- Only if other state and federal regulations are inadequate
- Should be used sparingly





## Other Guidance: SMRMAs

- SMRMA = State Marine Recreational Management Area
- If considering placing an MPA where waterfowl hunting currently occurs:
  - Use SMRMA designation
  - SMRMAs provide MPA-like protection subtidally while allowing hunting to continue
- Staff are compiling list of areas in study region where waterfowl hunting occurs



## DFG Evaluation Summary

- Every MPA will be compared to all feasibility categories
- Options to remedy will be provided
- Feedback given on what works well
  - “Elegant solutions” to design challenges;
  - Adjacent to special management areas
  - Preferred orientation/design; etc.
- Expect proposal feasibility to improve over time