



Marine Life Protection Act



Overview of DFG Feasibility Criteria and Evaluation Methods for MPA Proposals

Presentation to the MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group

January 13, 2008 • San Diego, CA

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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 ($36^{\circ} 50' \text{ N}$; $121^{\circ} 46' \text{ W}$)
- Less Desirable: Half minutes ($36^{\circ} 50.5' \text{ N}$; $121^{\circ} 46.5' \text{ W}$)
- Least Preferred: 1/10th Minutes ($36^{\circ} 50.3' \text{ N}$; $121^{\circ} 46.7' \text{ W}$)



Boundaries: Landmarks

Landmarks Should:

- Be easily recognizable
- Be permanent and readily observable
 - E.g., rocks, points, headlands, buoys, etc.
- Have coordinates assigned
 - Utilize 1/10th 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

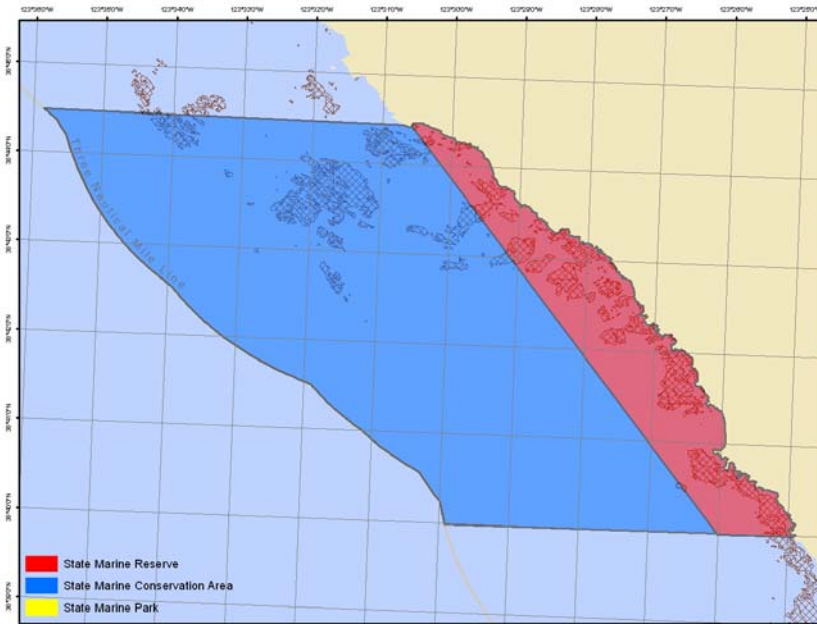
Diagonal Lines:

- 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

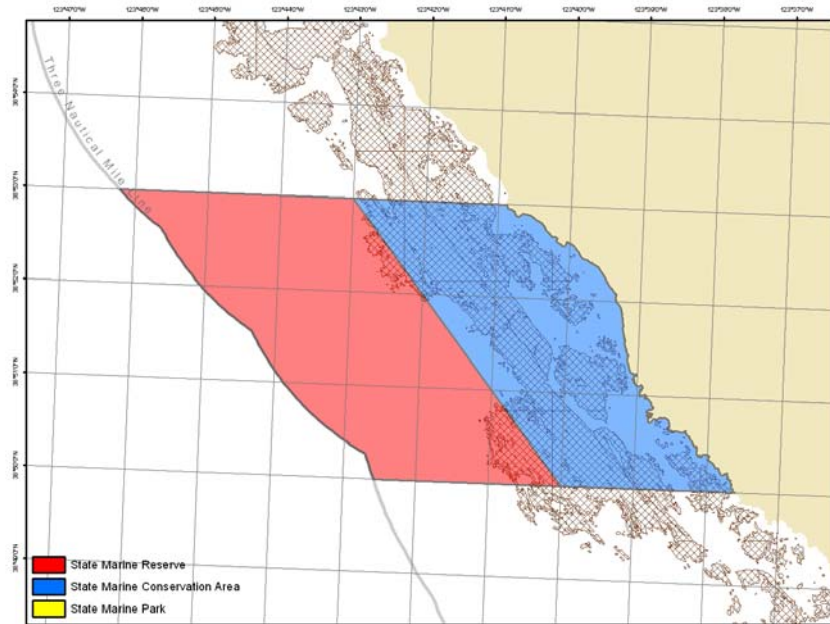


Feasibility Criteria: Boundaries

Boundaries: Diagonal Lines



Not Consistent with Guidelines



Consistent with Guidelines



Feasibility Criteria: Take Regulations

Take Regulations Should:

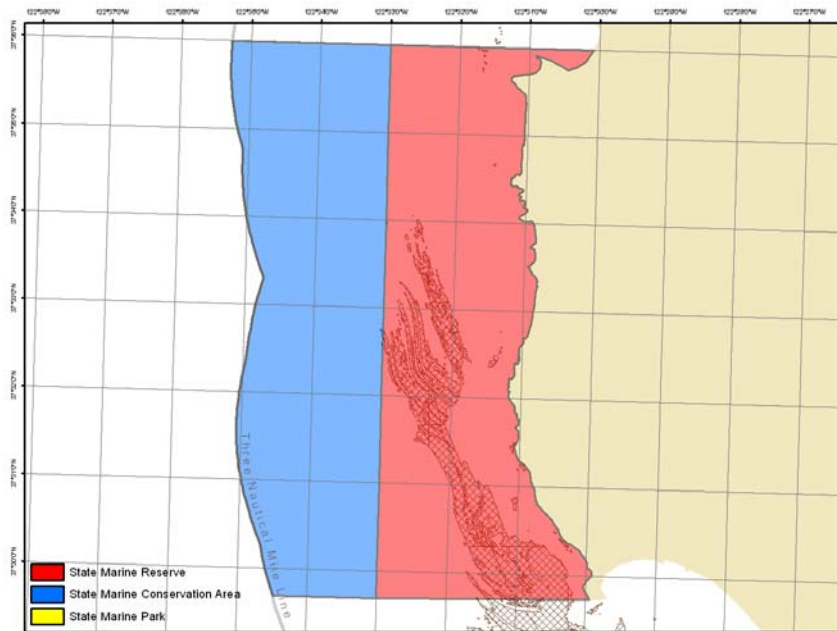
- Be simple and easily understood
- Avoid conflict with existing regulations
- Not create new fishery management regulations (i.e., different bag limits, size limits, or seasons)
- The best regulations are those that can be simply stated in one or two sentences without clarifying language



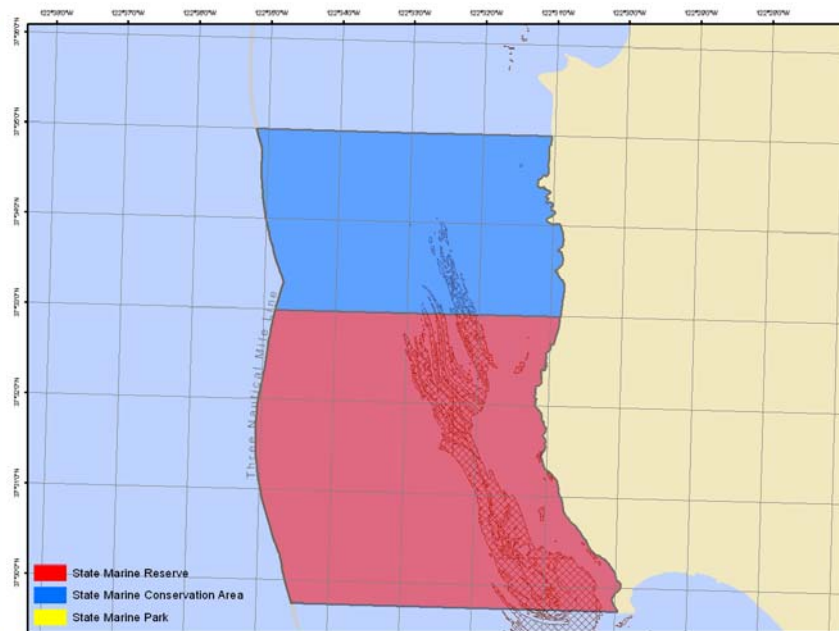
Feasibility Criteria: MPA Design

Cluster Orientation:

- Alongshore orientation preferred



Inshore/ Offshore



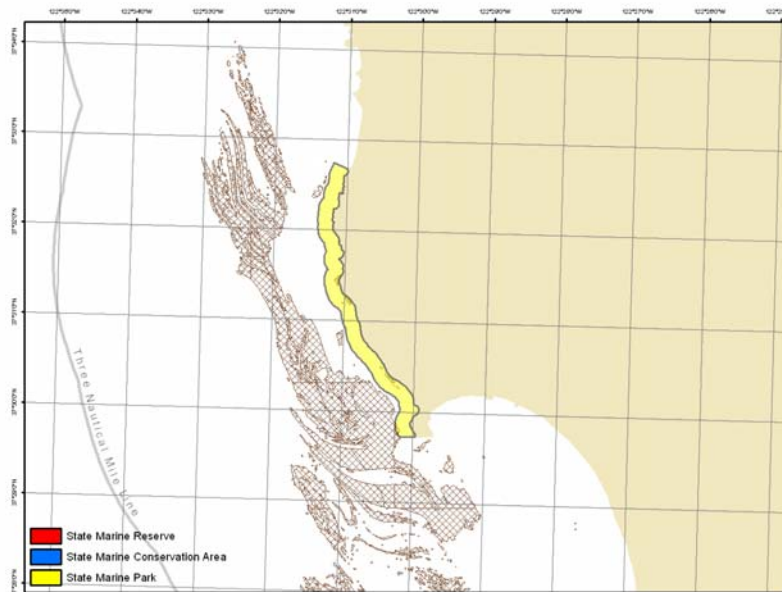
Alongshore



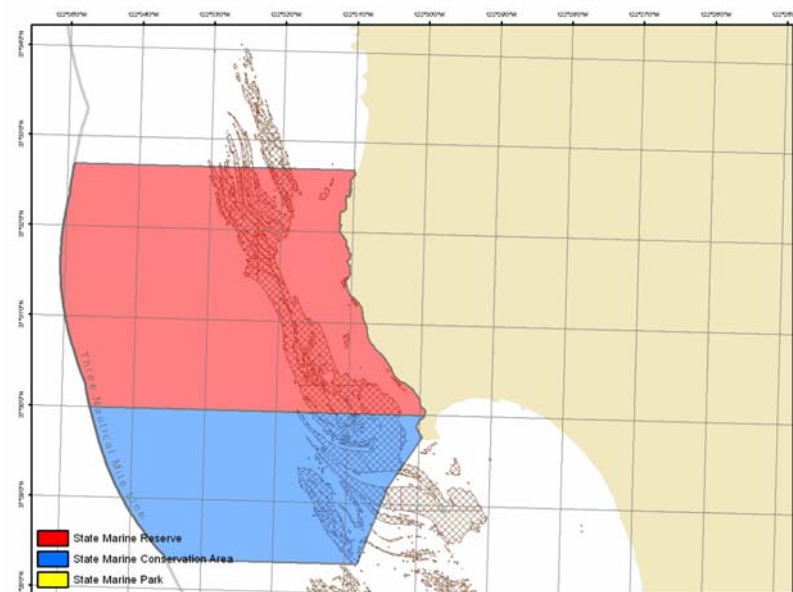
Feasibility Criteria: MPA Design

Intertidal MPAs:

- Not Recommended
- MPAs should extend to adjacent subtidal waters



Existing MPA



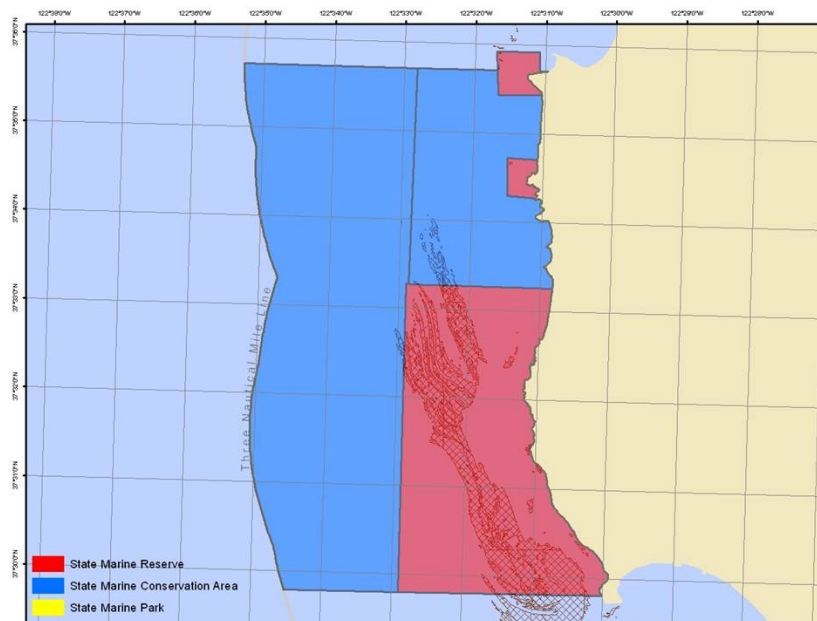
Improved MPA



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

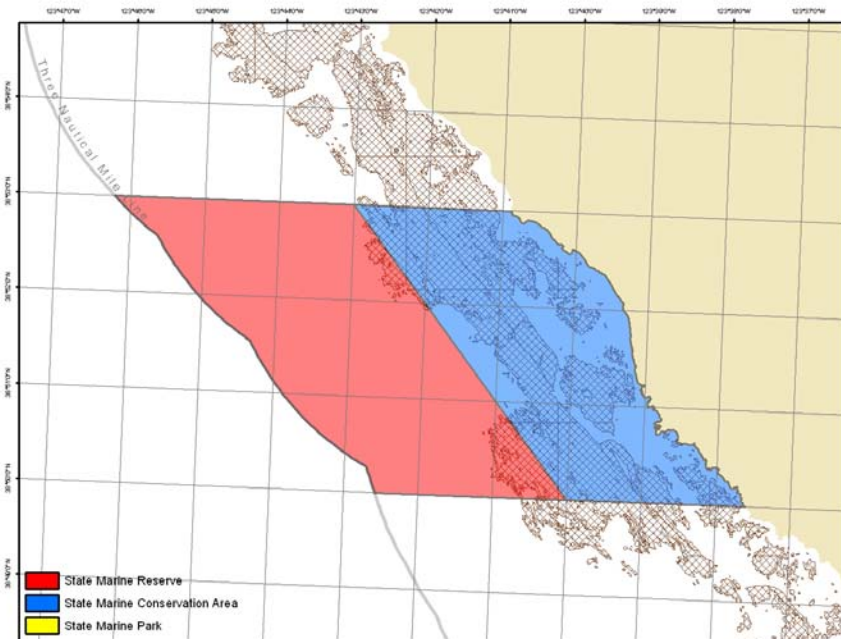


Feasibility Criteria: MPA Design

Multiple Zoning: Ribbon Design



Not Consistent with Guidelines, "Ribbon" Design



Consistent with Guidelines

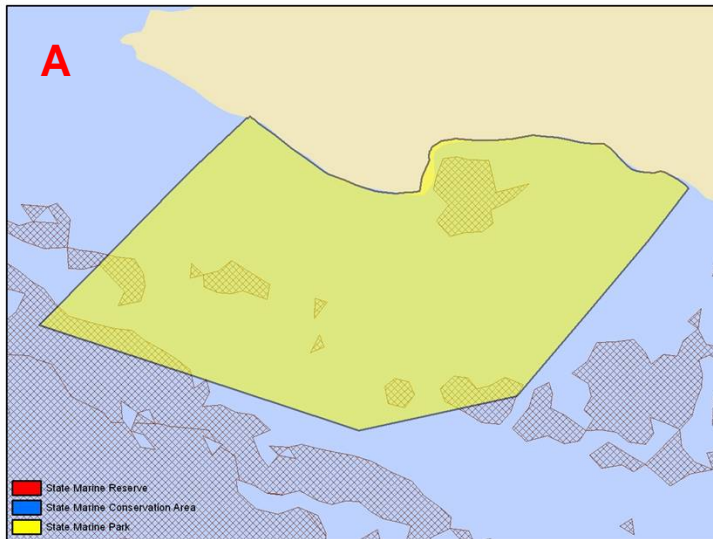


Feasibility Criteria: Other Guidance

Redesigning Existing MPAs

Existing MPA

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

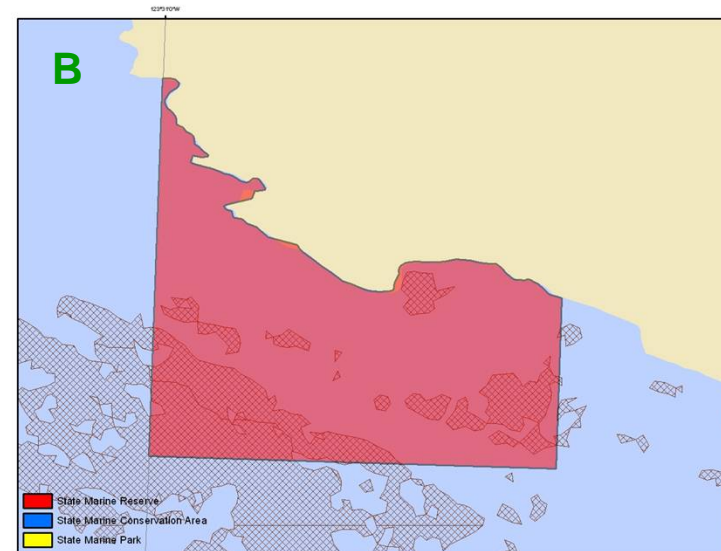


MPA Type: SMP

Take Regulations: prohibited, All marine aquatic plants; All invertebrates EXCEPT red abalone, chiones, 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