

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative



Developing MPA Proposals in the MLPA South Coast Study Region

Expectations

Key objective of the stakeholder process:

- Create multiple alternative marine protected area (MPA) proposals that will go through an iterative process of development, evaluation and refinement
- Should be full proposals that strive to meet all guidelines

Expectations

- Start by considering “areas of interest”
- Consider existing MPAs and other management measures
- Consider regional goals and objectives
- Consider various forms of guidance and guidelines
- Make use of readily available tools and data
- Collaborate across interest groups and work together toward solutions that all participants can live with

Guidance for MPA Planning

- California Marine Life Protection Act
- *California Marine Life Protection Act Master Plan for Marine Protected Areas* (includes science guidelines)
- California Master Plan Science Advisory Team
- California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) feasibility criteria
- California State Parks design guidelines
- MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force policy guidance



Data and Information Available

- Draft south coast regional profile
- MarineMap (spatial data layers)
- Joint fact finding – presentations and group discussions
- Input from the task force, science team, DFG, California State Parks, and other staff
- Fellow SCRSG members
- Public input (including “external proposals”)



What Constitutes a Full Proposal?

- Narrative rationale for proposal
- A collection of specifically defined MPAs that will constitute the regional component of the statewide network
- Incorporates 13 existing northern Channel Islands and Santa Barbara Island MPAs as part of proposal
- Proposes recommendations for disposition of remaining 29 existing state MPAs in the study region (retained, modified or eliminated)



What Constitutes a Full Proposal?

- Each MPA should have:
 - A name linked to geography
 - Boundaries (may use lat/long coordinates)
 - Designation (e.g. marine reserve, marine park, marine conservation area)
 - Regulations (proposed allowed take)
 - Site-specific rationale
 - Identified goals and regional objectives (each MPA should contribute to at least one regional objective)



What Constitutes a Full Proposal?

- Full MPA proposals should be broad in geographic scope to encompass the regional component of the statewide network
- Individual MPAs, or collections of MPAs focused on a particular location do NOT constitute full MPA proposals

Iterative Evaluation Process

Iterative process:

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      Develop --> Evaluate
      Evaluate --> Refine
      Refine --> Develop
  
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It is anticipated that several alternative proposals will go through multiple iterations

Three Rounds of Proposal Development

- Round 1 - Draft MPA arrays
 - March 4 to be completed
 - April 28 - SCRSG receives evaluations
- Round 2 - Draft MPA proposals
 - May 21 to be completed
 - August 4 - SCRSG receives evaluations
- Round 3 - Final MPA proposals
 - Sept 10 to be completed
 - Oct 20-22 - BRTF/SCRSG receives evaluations

Basic Steps for Round 1

1. Review data and learn tools
2. Begin cross-interest discussions (including “areas of interest”)
3. Assign “gems” work groups for developing “draft MPA arrays”
4. Convene work sessions between formal regional stakeholder group meetings, with I-Team support
5. Work groups share initial recommendations at March 3-4 SCRSG meeting
6. Full “draft MPA arrays” finalized at end of March 3-4 meeting and forwarded for evaluations

Round 1 Timeline

Date	Event
Jan 13-14	Areas of Interest
Jan 29	Work Sessions
Feb 10	External Proposals due
Feb 18	Share/finalize draft arrays
March 3-4	Receive evaluations
April 28	Receive evaluations
April 29	Begin “round 2”



Purpose of Round 1 Work Sessions

- Start considering “areas of interest”
- Consider existing MPAs in the study region
- Share information among SCRSG members
- Use available guidance and information to draft individual MPAs
- Begin to create no more than two “draft MPA arrays” per work group



Purpose of March 3-4 Meeting

- Share draft work group products with entire SCRSG
- Receive presentations on external proposals
- Finalize draft MPA arrays by end of March 4



Internal and External MPA Proposals

- Internal proposals
 - Developed by assigned SCRSG cross-interest workgroups
- External proposals
 - Developed by members of public and interest groups/organizations outside of the MLPA Initiative process



External MPA Proposals

- May inform development of MPA proposals by the SCRSG
- Must meet the same criteria as proposals developed by the SCRSG
- Draft external proposals due no later than February 18, 2009
- External proposals will be presented to the SCRSG during March 3-4 meeting



Summary

- Goal is multiple alternative MPA proposals; consensus not required
- Iterative MPA planning process; initial arrays are refined over time
- Cross-interest discussion and collaboration are key to success
- MLPA I-team will help SCRSG workgroups during every step of the design process