

# Marine Life Protection Act Initiative



## Wetland and Eelgrass Restoration and Construction in the South Coast Study Region

Presentation to the MLPA Master Plan Science



## Background

- Should restored or constructed wetlands and eelgrass beds count as habitat in evaluations?
- Document details studies on wetland and eelgrass restoration in the MLPA South Coast Study Region (SCSR)
- Restored habitats are currently included in evaluations



## Document Revisions

- Added paragraph on eelgrass
- Included several additional studies comparing restored and natural wetlands
- Added statement recommending that restored wetland and eelgrass habitats continue to be included in habitat calculations



## Document Conclusion

**“The habitat provided by restored sites is particularly important considering how few natural wetlands remain and how many eelgrass mitigation sites occur in the SCSR. Therefore, the SAT recommends that existing restored wetlands and eelgrass beds continue to be included with natural habitats when conducting the habitat representation evaluations for proposed MPA arrays.”**