

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative



Status of the MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group Process

Presentation to the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force
July 28-29, 2009 • Santa Monica, California

Dr. Scott McCreary, CONCUR, Inc.

Where are we in the planning process?

South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group

- Introduction
 - October 6-7, 2008 meeting
 - November 18-19, 2008 meeting
 - January 13-14, 2009 meeting
- Round 1 (Draft MPA Arrays)
 - January 29, 2009 work session
 - February 10, 2009 work session
 - March 3-4, 2009 meeting
- Round 2 (Draft MPA Proposals)
 - April 28-29, 2009 meeting and work session

Where we are in the planning process?

MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (SCRSG)

- 3 Rounds of MPA proposal development
- Now at the end of Round 2
- 6 SCRSG meetings and 4 work sessions to date
- Round 1 – SCRSG was asked to produce 2 "arrays" to test with science and other guidelines
- Round 2 – Each work group was asked to produce a single draft MPA proposal while working to reach cross-interest supported ideas
- Round 3 – SCRSG will solidify 3 proposals that

SCRSG Meetings and Work Sessions

- **October 6-7, 2008 meeting (El Segundo)**
 - Project kick-off
 - Members unanimously adopted a set of ground rules
 - Review SCRSG roles, charge, and workplan
 - Joint Fact Finding
 - Initial review of draft regional profile
 - Share each other's interests and knowledge of the region
- **November 18-19, 2008 meeting (Ventura)**
 - Initial development of draft regional goals and objectives
 - Joint Fact-Finding
 - Received presentations of MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT), California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), State Parks, and staff guidelines for developing marine protected area (MPAs) proposals
 - Introduced MarineMap, new decision tool
 - Received informational briefings (continued throughout the SCRSG process)

SCRS Meeting and Work Sessions

- **January 13-14, 2009 meeting (San Diego)**
 - Discussed and unanimously adopted regional goals and objectives for the MLPAs South Coast Study Region
 - Organized into **cross-interest** work groups: “gem” groups Lapis, Opal, and Topaz
 - Joint fact-finding
 - Received additional briefings on topics involving the MLPAs Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT) preliminary evaluation methods, water quality, marine birds and mammals, oceanography and an update on the Ecorust Fisheries Uses and Values Project.
- **January 29 and February 10, 2009 work sessions**
 - MPA proposal discussion and deliberation (Round 1)
 - Initial development of two “draft options for MPA arrays” per gem group

SCRS Meeting and Work Sessions

- **March 3-4, 2009 meeting (Long Beach)**
 - Joint Fact-Finding
 - Received update on SAT evaluation methodology for south coast study region
 - Received presentation and updates on additional data available for MPA planning
 - MPA proposal discussion and deliberation (Round 1)
 - Received presentation from each work group regarding progress-to-date on developing draft arrays
 - Received presentation on external MPA proposals
 - Finalized draft arrays (round 1) for evaluation

SCRS Meeting and Work Sessions

- **April 28-29, 2009 meeting (Oxnard)**
 - Joint fact finding
 - Received evaluations from SAT, DFG, State Parks, and staff and MLPAs BRTF guidance on first round draft MPA arrays and draft external proposals
 - MPA proposal discussion and deliberation (Round 2)
 - Planned next steps to revise draft options into full draft proposals
 - SCRS gem groups began work on Round 2 proposals
 - Round 2 co-leads confirmed
 - Each gem group chose to use a slightly different process; broke into sub-regions or worked as full gem group

SCRS Meeting and Work Sessions

- **May 19-21, 2009 meeting (Santa Ana)**
 - Proposal development deliberations (Round 2)
 - Significant work done informally amongst SCRS members between meetings
 - SCRS heard extensive public comments
 - All 3 gem groups worked to complete Round 2 proposals. Each group used a slightly different process.
 - Lapis group was not able to converge, produced two draft proposals
 - Opal group produced one draft MPA proposal
 - Topaz group produced one draft MPA proposal
 - SCRS members asked to express preferences as to which proposals among non-converged Lapis and external A, B and C to evaluate in Round 2

Distinctive Characteristics of the South Coast



- Size of study region (5 counties)
- Population, types and density of uses
- U.S. Department of Defense as land owner and pending military closures
- Size of SCRSG; major role of both primaries and alternates
- Extent of upfront proposal development
- Importance of tribal uses
- Inter-jurisdictional challenges
- Existing Northern Channel Island MPAs will be part of each proposal
- MarineMap assisted in MPA design

Next Steps



July 28-29	BRTF meeting to review revised proposals and provide additional guidance for SCRSG
August 3	SCRSG meeting to receive SAT, DFG, State Parks, and staff evaluations and BRTF guidance; plan next steps to revise proposals
August 4	SCRSG work session to begin to revise draft proposals
TBD	Potential additional work team meetings
September 9-10 (as scheduled)	SCRSG work session and meeting to complete Round 3 MPA proposals; express relative preferences
October 13 (Proposed)	SAT meeting to review proposals
October 20-22	BRTF meeting to review and consider SCRSG proposals and select preferred alternative to forward to California Fish and Game Commission
December 10	Joint BRTF / Fish and Game Commission meeting to deliver south coast marine protected area recommendations