



## Marine Life Protection Act



### Overview of DFG Feasibility Criteria and Evaluation Components for MPA Proposals

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## Overview of Department Role

The MLPA Initiative Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) explains role:

- The California Department of Fish and Game (Department) *will*
  - Provide a statement of feasibility criteria
  - Provide advice on feasibility aspects of MPA proposals
  - Provide advice on prospects of MPA proposals to achieve MLPA goals



## Overview of Department Role, cont.

- The Department *will not*
  - Make recommendation for preferred alternative
  - Support any individual stakeholder proposal
- The Department will provide its advice to the MLPA South Coast Regional South Game
  - During work group sessions, and
  - Through a formal evaluation of each submitted MPA proposal



## Categories of DFG Advice

- DFG advice and feedback on MPA proposals will cover:
  1. Feasibility of MPAs
  2. Stated goals, regional objectives, and site-specific rationales
  3. Prospects of proposals to meet the goals of the MLPA



## 1. Feasibility of MPAs

- Criteria set guidelines that include advice for:
  - MPA Boundaries (e.g. avoid irregular shapes)
  - Take Regulations (e.g. avoid complex regulations)
  - Enforceability (MPA designs and regulations should meet enforcement guidelines)
  - MPA Design and Orientation (e.g. avoid complex arrangements)
  - Special Closure Use and Design (e.g. should not be used for terrestrial based access issues)
- The Department will ID and advise on improving MPAs that don't meet criteria.



## 2. Goals and Regional Objectives

- The SCRSG will assign goals & regional objectives to each MPA proposed
- For each MPA proposal, the Department will:
  - Review stated regional objectives and site-level rationale for each MPA
  - Give feedback on alignment of goals & regional objectives to MPA design
  - Provide options to improve MPA design to meet stated goals & regional objectives



### 3. Prospects to Meet MLPA Goals

- The Department will evaluate MPA proposals based on:
  - Guidelines from Master Plan for MPAs
  - SAT guidance, and
  - DFG feasibility criteria
- The Department will advise on improving MPA proposals to better meet MLPA goals



### Summary of DFG Guidelines Purpose

DFG Guidelines are intended to ensure that MPAs have:

- Simple regulations, easy to enforce & understand
- Reasonable goals and objectives for each proposed MPA
- Good prospects to meet MLPA goals



## Next Steps

- Handout: “CDFG Feasibility Criteria and Evaluation Components for MPA Proposals”
- A detailed presentation of the criteria will be provided during the January RSG meeting