

Key Outcomes Memorandum

Date: January 23, 2008

To: Members, MLPA Statewide Interests Group (SIG)

From: Scott McCreary and Eric Poncelet, CONCUR, Inc.

Re: Key Outcomes Memorandum – January 17, 2008 SIG Meeting

cc: BRTF members, MLPA Initiative Staff, and California Department of Fish and Game MLPA Staff

Participation and Materials

The following Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Initiative Statewide Interests Group (SIG) members participated in the January 17, 2008 conference call: Kevin Cooper, Harold Davis, Kaitilin Gaffney, Joe Geever, Joel Greenberg, Angela Haren, Bill James, Ken Kurtis, James Liu, Tom Raftican, Steve Scheiblauser, Shelly Walther, and Kate Wing.

Chair Susan Golding, Don Benninghoven, and Cathy Reheis-Boyd participated as members of the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF).

Ken Wiseman, Melissa Miller-Henson, and Darci Connor (MLPA Initiative), and Susan Ashcraft, Jason Vasquez, Rebecca Studebaker, and Lynn Takata (California Department of Fish and Game, DFG) participated on behalf of MLPA Initiative staff (collectively known as “I-Team”). Scott McCreary and Eric Poncelet (CONCUR, Inc.) facilitated the conference call.

Meeting materials may be found on the MLPA website at:
http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/meeting_011708.asp

Key Outcomes

SIG members received a status report on recent meetings in the MLPA Initiative process and offered suggestions for upcoming meetings. I-Team staff described key outcomes from the December 11-12, 2007 North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCCRSG) meeting and the January 8, 2008 MLPA Science Advisory Team (SAT) meeting. Participants also discussed key objectives for the upcoming January 23, 2008 SAT and February 13-14, 2008 meetings.

SIG members offered comments on the MLPA process. Key comments included the following:

SAT

- SIG members expressed an interest in seeing further model refinement. They further requested that stakeholders be given the opportunity to discuss the applicability of the new models with SAT members.

- I- team staff noted that the models are still very much in the formative stages and that their role and use will be determined by SAT recommendations to the BRTF and the California Fish and Game Commission and any decisions made by the BRTF and the California Fish and Game Commission as to the future value of the models.
- SIG members asked for more information on the current methodology underlying the current SAT size and spacing guidelines. I-Team staff committed to provide a key report to SIG members that references supporting studies and research.
- SIG members noted that the transmission of the January 8, 2008 SAT meeting webcast was interrupted several times. I-Team staff acknowledged that the location of the meeting (SFO airport) was a key source of the problem, and that staff was addressing this by scheduling future SAT meetings at alternative sites. The January 23, 2008 SAT meeting will take place in Pacifica, CA.

BRTF/NCCRS

- SIG members requested further clarity from the BRTF regarding how the BRTF will determine what constitutes “enough protection” to meet the goals of the MLPA. BRTF members underscored their obligation to implement the MLPA. As well, BRTF members and I-Team staff clarified that the goals include terms like “protect”, “preserve,” and “sustain” that are open to some interpretation. As such, the BRTF will have to determine for itself, through deliberation, how much protection will be enough to achieve the goals of the Act. BRTF members and I-Team staff further clarified that while the MLPA does not include specific scientific guidelines, the BRTF intends to adopt scientific guidelines based on input from the SAT.
- SIG members emphasized that the monitoring and evaluation program is especially important as a way of ensuring that the initial array of MPAs adopted are indeed achieving the goals of the Act.
- SIG members expressed strong support for convergence within the NCCRS and recommended that the BRTF take steps at its next meeting to encourage convergence around a single MPA array. Chair Golding confirmed that the BRTF also prefers that the NCCRS converge as much as possible.

SIG members expressed an interest in learning more about the monitoring and evaluation process. As part of their discussion of the recent and upcoming SAT meetings, SIG members offered the following comments:

- SIG members expressed interest in learning more about how the SAT’s models would be used in monitoring and evaluation.
- SIG members posed technical questions on how the effectiveness of MPAs, as part of the adaptive management process, would be tested. For example, one SIG member asked how the “rate of production” (of fish ‘exported’ from MPAs) would be measured. I-Team staff noted that the SAT had discussed this issue at the January 8, 2008 SAT meeting. Staff invited interested SIG members to review the video archive or to direct specific questions to some of the key developers of the new models, including Loo Botsford and Chris Costello. I-Team staff also pointed out that the MLPA monitoring and evaluation program is based on a variety of approaches and methods, including surveys, fish counts, and changes in fish landings.
- I-Team staff acknowledged the SIG’s interest in monitoring and evaluation issues and committed to agendize the topic for the next SIG meeting.

- I-Team staff invited SIG members to attend the California Islands Symposium scheduled for February 5-7, 2008 in Oxnard, CA. Monitoring and research will be a key focus of the symposium. For more information on the symposium, go to:
<http://www.californiaislands.org/>

SIG members reviewed, provided comment on, and expressed support for the draft agenda for the February 4-6, 2008 public workshops.

Key comments included the following:

- SIG members suggested that staff include in its overview of the current MLPA process a description of the SAT evaluation guidelines. This will help inform public comments on the individual draft MPA proposals.
- SIG members strongly supported using a breakout group format to solicit input on the current iteration of draft MPA proposals. SIG members further supported organizing the breakout groups by sub-regions rather than by MPA proposals, as this will provide greater opportunities for members of the public to comment on more than one proposal.
- SIG members recommended that I-Team staff direct part of their outreach efforts toward members of the public who have not been following the MLPA Initiative process.
- I-Team staff noted that the public workshops would not be webcast, due to the breakout session format and the significant costs involved.
- I-Team staff described the outreach strategy for the public workshops. Key steps include the following:
 - Finalize the public workshop agenda, incorporating SIG comments.
 - Send an announcement for the public workshops to the list server (and print copy list), and post the agenda on the MLPA website.
 - Ask NCCRSG and SIG members to forward copies of the announcement and agenda to their respective constituent groups.
 - Conduct outreach through the local media.

SIG members received an update on initial planning for the South Coast Study Region and provided advice to guide the planning process. Key comments and advice included:

- Socio-economic data needs to be collected earlier in the planning process than it was for the Central Coast or North Central Coast processes. Additionally, I-Team staff should make as much of this information as possible available to the public (this includes exploring ways to disaggregate socioeconomic data in a manner that does not undermine confidentiality). SIG members also acknowledged that some of this information may not be available due to confidentiality agreements.
- I-Team staff described its intent to take the budget for the South Coast Study Region to the BRTF for approval at the BRTF's February 13-14, 2008 meeting.
- I-Team staff noted that the timeline for completing the South Coast Study Region is expected to be approximately 18 months.
- I-Team staff confirmed that the Initiative is working with DFG staff to find ways to address next year's expected budget shortfall. This may include efforts to shift some North Central Coast funding to the South Coast.

Next SIG Meeting – Monday, February 25, 2008 (2:00 – 4:00 PM)

The next SIG meeting was scheduled for Monday, February 25, 2008 from 2:00 – 4:00 PM. Suggested agenda items for the meeting include:

- Provide a report on the outcomes of key MLPA Initiative meetings, including upcoming SAT (January 23, 2008), BRTF (February 13-14, 2008), and NCCRSG (February 21, 2008) meetings, as well as the February 4-6, 2008 public workshops. This should include an update on the results of the SAT's evaluation of draft MPA proposals and the status of SAT modeling efforts.
- Provide an update on planning for the South Coast Study Region, including a report on the budget and details for the anticipated timeline.
- Provide a summary of the outcomes of the February 5-7, 2008 California Islands Symposium.
- Continue discussions on MPA monitoring and evaluation approach and methods.

Summary of Next Steps

1. I-Team staff to finalize the agenda for the February 4-6, 2008 public workshops and transmit it, along with the invitation email, to the MLPA Initiative list serve (and print copy list). SIG members are invited to forward the invitation and agenda to their respective constituent groups.
2. I-Team staff to provide SIG members with NCCRSG contact information.
3. I-Team staff to provide SIG members with a copy of the report containing literature citations supporting the SAT's size and spacing guidelines.
4. I-Team staff to forward to SIG members information on the February 5-7, 2008 California Islands Symposium.
5. I-Team staff to prepare for the next SIG meeting on February 25, 2008 (2:00-4:00 PM)