

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative



Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT) Activities

Presentation to the
MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force and the California Fish and Game Commission

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SAT Meetings

- June 26, 2007
- August 16, 2007
- September 17, 2007 (via conference call)
- October 1, 2007
- November 13, 2007
- November 29, 2007 (via conference call)
- January 8, 2008
- January 23, 2008



Recent/Upcoming Meetings

- January 8 – Parallel Processes (modeling)
Approaches to complement SAT evaluation of marine protected area (MPA) proposals
- January 23 – SAT evaluation of “second round” draft MPA proposals
- April 3 – SAT evaluation of “third round” MPA proposals



SAT Guidance to the NCCRSG

- Responses to science questions
 - 37 questions since August
 - Range of topics: birds/mammals, water quality, shorefishing “ribbon”, etc.
- Attendance at North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group meetings
 - Presentations on marine ecosystems and habitats, seabirds and marine mammals, oceanography, fish biology, ecology and ecosystem interactions
 - Presentations on evaluation methods and results



SAT Evaluations of Proposals

- Habitat Representation (MLPA goals 1 and 4)
- Size and Spacing (MLPA goals 2 and 6)



Second Round Evaluations

- Habitat Representation (MLPA goals 1 and 4)
- Size and Spacing (MLPA goals 2 and 6)
- **NEW – Marine Birds and Mammals (MLPA Goal 2)**



Levels of Protection

- Levels of Protection (“LOPs”) are determined by the SAT, based on proposed regulations (allowed extractive activities)
- LOPs affect how MPAs are grouped in evaluations
- Most LOPs assigned in November to different extractive activities were confirmed on January 23.



LOP for Salmon Trolling

- LOP for one activity, salmon trolling, was discussed in detail
- Different LOPs based on how salmon are extracted.
In previous evaluations:
 - Salmon trolling < 50 meters = Moderate-High LOP
 - Salmon trolling > 50 meters = High LOP
- Does salmon trolling in < 50 meters result in greater ecosystem impacts than >50 meters?
- Results of 2005 Benthic-Pelagic Linkages Workshop; 50 meter threshold identified



LOP for Salmon Trolling (<50m)

- Logbook data submitted by fishermen during MLPA process suggests very limited associated catch of rockfish during salmon trolling in MLPA North Central Coast Study Region; limited data on associated catch from California Department of Fish and Game
- SAT members have differing perspectives on whether existing data is sufficient to determine impacts at local level of MPA
- SAT voted (7 in favor, 4 opposed) to rank salmon trolling <50 meters depth somewhere between high and moderate-high LOP



Parallel Processes Workgroup

- Initially 5 modeling efforts developed to complement SAT evaluations
- SAT has focused on two similar models
 - Equilibrium Delay-difference Optimization Model (Costello, Walters, Hilborn)
 - Population Sustainability and Yield Model (Botsford)
- Provide comparison between draft proposals on potential contribution to population sustainability of selected targeted fish/invertebrate species
- Group working to make results more “digestible”



Next Steps

- Fine-tuning evaluation methodology
- Parallel processes group working to make model results more easily understood
- Preparing for third round of evaluations