

Key Outcomes Memorandum

Date: March 21, 2008

To: Members, MLPA Statewide Interests Group (SIG)

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

Re: Key Outcomes Memorandum – February 25, 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 February 25, 2008 conference call: Kevin Cooper, Henry Fastenau, Kaitilin Gaffney, Joe Geever, Joel Greenberg, Angela Haren, Bill James, Ken Kurtis, James Liu, Tom Raftican, Steve Scheiblaue, 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 and Melissa Miller-Henson (MLPA Initiative), and John Ugoretz, Susan Ashcraft, Rebecca Studebaker, Elizabeth Pope-Smith and Brian Naslund (California Department of Fish and Game, DFG) participated on behalf of MLPA Initiative staff (collectively known as “I-Team”). Tony Warrington and Doug Huckins participated on behalf of DFG enforcement staff. 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_022508.asp

Key Outcomes

I-Team staff summarized and clarified recent MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT) and BRTF guidance to the MLPA North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCCRSG). See meeting materials for details on the SAT evaluation methods and BRTF guidance.

Key clarifying comments included the following:

- BRTF Chair Susan Golding clarified that this guidance is based on best available information but is not being imposed on the NCCRSG as “rules”. NCCRSG members have been asked to clearly explain any cases in which they choose to deviate from the stated science guidelines, DFG feasibility criteria or BRTF guidance.

- I-Team staff clarified that the size and spacing guidance was developed in the central coast MLPA process and was peer reviewed through an effort convened by the California Sea Grant Program.
- I-Team staff clarified that modeling may play a greater role in the MLPA South Coast Study Region, both in MPA planning and evaluation.

SIG members offered advice regarding the I-Team’s use of “straw voting” to assist the NCCRSG in reducing the number of platforms for building final NCCRSG MPA proposals. In particular, SIG members recommended that straw voting be used selectively in the NCCRSG process, that alternative tools also be considered for reducing the number of proposals, and that staff provide greater advanced notice for any future straw voting.

DFG enforcement staff provided SIG members with an update on enforcement in the MLPA Central Coast Study Region. DFG enforcement staff, Captain Doug Huckins, described recent outreach, education and enforcement actions. SIG members offered the following comments:

- SIG members Kate Wing and Vern Goerhing announced that they have been working on the issue of strengthening DFG enforcement funding. They invited other SIG members to contact them if interested to work on this issue.
- SIG members recommended that outreach materials be kept clear and simple.
- For further questions on DFG enforcement issues, SIG members are invited to contact Captain Brian Naslund at bnaslund@dfg.ca.gov.

I-Team staff summarized the outcomes of the February 4-6, 2008 public workshops. Staff noted that over 300 individuals attended the workshops and submitted 135 comment sheets for the NCCRSG’s consideration.

SIG members received an update on ongoing planning for the MLPA South Coast Study Region and provided advice to guide the planning process. I-Team staff informed SIG members that the BRTF has approved funding for socioeconomic research and that staff have begun compiling a draft regional profile. It is anticipated that nominations for the MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group and the new BRTF will be solicited this summer. It is also anticipated that both will be convened in the fall. The current SAT will stay available until a new SAT containing additional south coast expertise is convened. Key SIG comments included:

- SIG members commented that the south coast is distinct from the other study regions in several respects—e.g., it is very large in area, it is characterized by densely populated coastal areas, and travel from one part of the study region to another can be onerous (i.e., for traffic reasons). I-Team staff agreed to agendize discussion of these and other south coast logistical issues at the next SIG meeting.
- SIG members asked to be provided with contact information for the MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group once the group is convened and that the same information be provided on the project website early in the process so that the public can communicate with the members.

SIG members offered guidance for disseminating monitoring and evaluation results. I-Team staff noted plans to present results from the recent California Islands Symposium (February 7-8, 2008) to both the California Fish and Game Commission and the general public.

SIG members offered several suggestions for making the symposium proceedings more user-friendly:

- A document tailored to the California Fish and Game Commission as an audience will be largely accessible to the general public.
- Include contact information detailing how stakeholders can participate in collaborative research projects (including contact information for key coordinators).
- Place large maps or charts on two pages.

John Ugoretz (DFG) will provide SIG members with a mock-up of the draft symposium proceedings for review.

Next SIG Meeting – Thursday, May 1, 2008 (2:30 – 4:30 PM) [**Note that this date has changed from the original April 30 date discussed on the call*]

The next SIG meeting was scheduled for Monday, May 1, 2008 from 2:30 – 4:30 PM.

Suggested agenda items for the meeting include:

- Discuss the outcomes of SAT and BRTF evaluation of the final round of MPA proposals.
- Discuss how to more effectively include issues of monitoring and evaluation earlier in the MPA design process.
- Provide a status update on planning for the MLPA South Coast Study Region, including a report on the budget and details for the anticipated timeline.

Summary of Next Steps

1. I-Team staff to prepare for March 4, 2008 NCCRSG work session and design steps to reduce the number of platforms for the final iteration of MPA proposals.
2. John Ugoretz to forward to the SIG a mock-up of the draft proceedings for the February 7-8, 2008 California Islands Symposium for review.
3. I-Team staff to prepare for the next SIG meeting on May 1, 2008 (2:30-4:30 PM).