Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
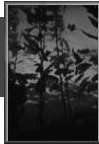

Draft Provisional North Central Coast Regional Goals and Objectives

Presentation to the MLPA NCCRSG

August 22-23, 2007 • San Rafael, CA

Jason Vasques – Associate Marine Biologist

California Department of Fish and Game, Marine Region

NCCRSG Request

- Review draft provisional regional goals and objectives for the NCCSR
- Consider measurability of objectives and how this might be improved
  - Reason: to incorporate goals and objectives into monitoring and evaluation program
- Where appropriate, suggest language to strengthen measurability and clarity
- Provide guidance in identifying unique habitats for the north central coast

Goal 1

To protect the natural diversity and abundance of marine life, and the structure, function, and integrity of marine ecosystems

Objectives

1. ~~Protect~~/Include areas of high species diversity and maintain species diversity and abundance, consistent with natural fluctuations, of populations in representative habitats.

    1. *"Include areas of high species diversity and representative habitats in order to protect species diversity and abundance consistent with natural fluctuations."*

2. ~~Protect~~/Include areas with diverse habitat types in close proximity to each other.

Goal 2

To help sustain, conserve, and protect marine life populations, including those of economic value, and rebuild those that are depleted.

Objectives

1. Help protect ~~and~~/or rebuild populations of rare, threatened, endangered, depleted, or overfished species, where identified, and the habitats and ecosystem functions upon which they rely.
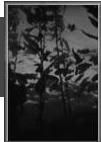
Goal 2

To help sustain, conserve, and protect marine life populations, including those of economic value, and rebuild those that are depleted.

Objectives

2. Sustain or increase reproductive capacity of species most likely to benefit from MPAs through retention of large, mature individuals, protection of larval source areas, and/or protection of breeding, foraging and rearing areas.

   2. *Sustain or increase reproduction by species most likely to benefit from MPAs through retention of large, mature individuals, protection of larval source areas or protection of breeding, foraging and rearing areas.*

Note: An increase in lifetime egg production will be an important quantitative measure of an improvement of reproduction.
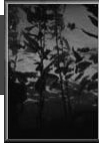

Goal 3

To improve recreational, educational, and study opportunities provided by marine ecosystems that are subject to minimal human disturbances, and to manage these uses in a manner consistent with protecting biodiversity.

Objectives

1. Protect or enhance cultural and recreational experiences, including collecting and recreational fishing, by …
   - The SAT subteam did not fininsh review
   - Features under consideration include:
     – Catch rates
     – Accessibility
     – Size/abundance
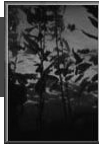   – Scenic value
     – Congestion

3

Goal 4

To protect marine natural heritage, including protection of representative and unique marine life habitats in north central California waters, for their intrinsic value.

Objectives

1. Include within MPAs the following habitat types: estuaries, *and the intertidal/subtidal waters around the Farallon Islands.* ~~and other habitats identified by the MLPA science advisory team as unique to the north central coast study region.~~

2. Include and replicate to the extent possible *[practicable]*, representatives of all marine habitats identified in the MLPA or the *California MLPA Master Plan for Marine Protected Areas* across a range of depths.

Goal 5

To ensure that north central California's MPAs have clearly defined objectives, effective management measures, and adequate enforcement, and are based on sound scientific guidelines.

Objectives

1. For all MPAs in the region involve ~~interested~~ *qualified* parties to; develop objectives, a long-term monitoring plan that includes standardized biological and socioeconomic monitoring protocols, and a strategy for MPA evaluation, and ensure that each MPA objective is linked to one or more regional objectives.