

Work Group Guidance for Initial MPA Proposal Recommendations

California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative

North Central Coast Study Region

Work group charge

Three cross-interest work groups will be convened with the charge of developing initial recommendations for marine protected area (MPA) proposals for the MLPA North Central Coast Study Region for presentation and discussion at the October MLPA North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCCRSG) meeting. These initial recommendations should be as complete as possible given the timeframe for developing them; they should identify areas where the group agrees an MPA is appropriate (and proposed designation and regulations if possible). The work groups should also identify areas of disagreement within the group. In these cases, work groups should suggest options for consideration by the full NCCRSG.

Staff do not expect these initial recommendations to be fully formed proposals, but they should follow the general format of the MPA proposal template. Staff acknowledge that other groups (single or multiple interest) may also be developing MPA proposals simultaneously and we encourage those ideas to be brought into the work group process. It should be noted that during this timeframe (August-October), I-Team staff support will be focused on these work groups.

Proposals should be developed based on the best information available, acknowledging that not all information that is forthcoming is yet available. Key information sources include the draft *Regional Profile of the North Central Coast Study Region (Alder Creek near Point Arena to Pigeon Point, California)* and associated maps, GIS data layers available on the Internet map service website and in the MPA decision support tool (Doris, available at www.marinemap.org/mlpa), information gathered during joint fact-finding activities, and stakeholder personal knowledge.

Work group structure

NCCRSG members (primaries and alternates) are asked to participate in one of three work groups. Composition of work groups is pre-assigned to ensure a broad balance across interests and expertise. This approach encouraging cross-interest dialogue and full participation by NCCRSG members responds to lessons learned from the central coast process. Work group composition is as follows:

Emerald Group	Jade Group	Turquoise Group
Bob Wilson	Ben Sleeter	Ben Becker
Bud James	Cassidy Teufel	Bill Bernard
Craig Swolgaard	Christopher Chin	Bob Breen
Hedley Prince	Craig Merrilees	Dave Schaub
Henry Fastenau	Dave Yarger	Ed Tavasieff
Irina Kogan	Dirk Ammerman	Ellen Faurot-Daniels
Jay Yokomizo	Don Neubacher	Francesca Koe
Josh Churchman	Fred Smith	John Mellor
Kellyx Nelson	Jim Hobbs	Nelson Pinola
Ken Jones	Karen Garrison	Patricia King
Michael McHenry	Karen Reyna	Richard Charter
Neil Desai	Lance Morgan	Santi Roberts
Paul Pierce	Michael Corden	Sean White
Phil Sanders	Nick Tipon	Tom Baty
Rick Johnson	Peter Grenell	Tom Estes
Samantha Murray	Russell Herring	Tom Mattusch

Schedule, timing, and organization of work group activities

Each work group will have the opportunity to meet twice with staff support between the August 22-23 and October 16-17 NCCRSG meetings. Work group meeting dates with staff support are September 7 and 25 (locations to be determined). Participation by teleconference is a fallback possibility, but in-person participation is strongly preferred. Each work group meeting will be supported by MLPA Initiative and DFG staff (i.e., planning, GIS, facilitation). Outside of the staff supported meetings, work groups are encouraged to meet by phone or in person to complete their task.

Staff has provided a template to capture critical information needed in each MPA recommendation (e.g., boundaries, designation, regulations, MPA-specific regulations, etc.). Stakeholders will strive to contribute input from their respective constituencies and will work together toward identifying, at the minimum, areas of “convergence” and “divergence” within their work groups. Sharing among work groups is encouraged.

October 16-17, 2007 NCCRSG meeting

Work groups will each present their initial recommendations at the beginning of the October meeting. NCCRSG members will provide comment to inform revisions. Further revisions to the initial recommendations will also be informed by presentations on the latest information available (e.g., socioeconomic data). Work groups will revise their recommendations into first draft proposals at the October meeting. First round proposals will be “packaged” to be consistent in format.

Staff intend to forward these three draft proposals to the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT) and MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) for initial review and evaluation. As such, we ask that initial proposal recommendations be completed by the end of the October meeting.

At the end of the October meeting, we will reassess how to move forward with MPA proposal development. Next steps may include continuing with the work groups or forming new work groups. Additional MPA proposal development will take place in both work group and plenary settings.

Post-October meeting next steps

Preliminary evaluations based on the science guidelines will be provided by staff and the SAT North Central Coast Evaluation Sub-team to the full SAT for review at its November 13, 2007 meeting and to the BRTF at its November 29-30 meeting. SAT and BRTF feedback and guidance will be provided to NCCRSG members to inform ongoing MPA proposal development.

Contact information for support during MPA planning

- General planning support: Mary Gleason (mgleason@tnc.org, 831-333-2049), Evan Fox (evanwfox@gmail.com, 650-387-9306), or Nicole Douglas (nicoledouglas.mlpa@yahoo.com, 831-359-3773)
- Spatial data layers (GIS) or analysis: Paulo Serpa (pserpa@dfg.ca.gov, 831-649-7143)
- Internet map service (IMS) site or Doris (MPA decision support tool): Will McClintock (mcclintock@msi.ucsb.edu, 805-893-8782)
- Meeting logistics: Delbra Gibbs (dga_mlpa@sbcglobe.net, 916.424.8897)