

# Draft Key Outcomes Memorandum

**Date:** July 5, 2007

**To:** Science Advisory Team, North Central Coast Study Region

**From:** MLPA I-team

**Re:** 1<sup>st</sup> North Central Coast Regional SAT – June 26, 2007 Meeting

**cc:** MLPA Initiative Staff and California Department of Fish and Game MLPA Staff (collectively the I-team)

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## Executive Summary – Key Outcomes

The first North Central Coast Study Region Science Advisory Team meeting took place on June 26, 2007 at the San Francisco International Airport Aviation Library and Museum. The key outcomes of this meeting are as follows:

- I-team staff described the mandates of the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) and the Master Plan in developing the SAT. Additionally, staff presented the charter and operating principles – the members adopted the operating principles.
- The SAT members were briefed on the Bagley-Keen Open Meeting Act
- The Master Plan Team, as described in the MLPA, was identified as: Mr. John Ugoretz (representative from California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG)); Mr. Dominic Gregorio (representative from the State Water Resources Control Board); and Dr.'s Mark Carr, Steve Gaines, Ray Hillborn, Steve Morgan, Karina Nielsen, Astrid Scholz, and Carl Walters (the “five to seven scientists” listed in MLPA). One more scientist on the team will be designated as the representative coming from “a list prepared by Sea Grant marine advisors” after consulting Sea Grant. A member will also be requested to represent the California Department of Parks and Recreation.
- The SAT members elected Mark Carr and Steve Morgan as co-chairs
- Volunteers to the North Central Coast Science Sub-team are: Caroline Hermans, Sara Allen, Karina Nielsen, Astrid Scholz, and Steve Morgan
- The central coast SAT guidance on MPA design from the Master Plan was presented by I-team staff. This presentation and discussion included a summary of the MLPA goals and objectives, a discussion on size and spacing, MPA replication with respect to habitats, connectivity issues, and a discussion of biogeographic components pertinent to the North Central Coast Study Region (NCCSR) such as offshore islands, shelf size, riverine areas, estuaries, and oceanographic components such as the San

Francisco Bay plume. Additionally various models were discussed at length and will be presented at the next SAT meeting

- I-team staff presented criteria developed by the central coast SAT for reviewing MPA proposals which focused on MLPA goals 1, 2, 4, and 6, and discussed automation of size analysis, habitat replication, and habitat coverage and GIS habitat calculations, and discussed a list of species likely to benefit from MPAs that was developed in the central coast process and will be revised by the north central coast study region SAT
- I-team staff presented a draft evaluation of existing MPAs in the NCCSR which includes size, spacing, and habitat analysis, regulations, and conformity to feasibility criteria

## **I. Meeting Objectives, Participants and Materials**

On June 26, 2007 the first Science Advisory Team meeting for the north central coast region was held. Science Advisory Team members present were; Carl Walters, Pete Raimondi, Steve Morgan, Chris Costello, Ray Hilborn, Astrid Scholz, Sara Allen, Karina Nielsen, Mark Carr, Gerry McChesney, Caroline Hermans, John Ugoretz, others present were; Steve Ralston and Constance Anderson, not present were; Steve Gaines and Dominic Gregorio.

The primary objectives of the meeting were to:

- 1) Introduce new SAT members, select chairs, and select North Central Science Sub-team
- 2) Review SAT charter
- 3) Review and potentially adopt draft SAT operating guidelines
- 4) Review "California MLPA Master Plan for Marine Protected Areas" guidance on MPA design
- 5) Review 205-206 SAT criteria for reviewing MPA proposals; and
- 6) Preliminary discussion of existing north central coast MPAs evaluation

MLPA Initiative and California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) staff—collectively known as the "I-Team"—staffed the meeting.

Meeting agenda may be found on the MLPA website at:  
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/mlpa/meetings.html#sat>

## **II. Key Outcomes**

### **1. SAT charter and draft operating principles**

- a. I-team staff described the mandates of the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) with respect to developing the SAT. Key points were that • The Master Plan Team, as described in the MLPA, was identified as: Mr. John Ugoretz (representative from California Department of Fish and Game); Mr. Dominic Gregorio (representative from the State Water Resources Control Board);

and Dr.'s Mark Carr, Steve Gaines, Ray Hillborn, Steve Morgan, Karina Nielsen, Astrid Scholz, and Carl Walters (the "five to seven scientists" listed in MLPA). One more scientist on the team will be designated as the representative coming from "a list prepared by Sea Grant marine advisors" after consulting Sea Grant. A member will also be requested to represent the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

- b. There is an emphasis towards increased involvement with the North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCCRSG). The SAT will not craft their own proposal but will work with and inform the NCCRSG in developing alternative proposals. A sub-team will be formed to work with the NCCRSG and at least one member should be present at NCCRSG meetings. The SAT will work with I-team staff to craft documents and field incoming questions. The SAT is also subject to the Bagley-Keen Open Meetings Act 2004.
  - i. A question about the use of web based public discussions such as message boards was raised. *I-team staff will discuss this with Department legal counsel and report back at the next SAT meeting.*
- c. Selection of chair(s) – SAT members elected Mark Carr and Steve Morgan as co-chairs
- d. Selection of North Central Coast Science Sub-team – volunteers to the science sub-team are: Caroline Hermans, Sara Allen, Karina Nielsen, Astrid Scholz, and Steve Morgan
- e. The SAT adopted the operating principles by unanimous vote.

## **2. Master Plan guidance on MPA design**

- a. The SAT guidance on MPA network design was reviewed and discussed. A summary of the MLPA goals and objectives was presented. The existing size and spacing guidelines were discussed (size – along shore span of 5-10 km with preference for 10-20 km, and spacing – 50-100 km). SAT discussions included questioning whether these guidelines were appropriate for the NCCR and how modeling might help refine them. The need for MPA replication for habitat within a biogeographical region was discussed (3-5 replicate MPAs for each habitat are recommended).
- b. An important note is that, although the BRTF and Fish and Game Commission adopted these guidelines, there are areas that need amending. These include consideration for offshore islands, extended shelf area (lack of canyon habitat), and riverine areas or oceanographic features such as the San Francisco Bay plume. Discussion points included biodiversity at the Farallon Islands as having a suite of species that are not as prevalent along the mainland. Additionally, connectivity issues regarding various models and how they differ for sessile organism versus more mobile organisms and larval dispersal were discussed. As

mentioned above it was identified that the San Francisco Bay plume would have a large impact on dispersal patterns and would need specific consideration.

- c. As a starting point to reviewing the existing guidance and developing new guidance for the NCCRSR various models were discussed at length. Key points were that all models are restricted to the input data and are species oriented. There was also a desire to use a model that would assess how MPA proposals would affect factors such as species abundance or fisheries catch. Chris Costello and Ray Hilborn were asked to run their models for existing NCCSR MPAs over the next month. At the next SAT meeting various models will be presented by Ray Hilborn, Chris Costello, Carl Walters, and Lou Botsford. Additionally, Astrid Scholz will discuss decision support tools such as Marxan or Marzone.
  - i. Data needs include a list of species most likely to benefit from MPAs (*this draft list is attached and requires review by the SAT*), species distribution and habitat distribution, (it should be noted much of this information is included in the regional profile and some is being presented to the NCCRSR and will be presented to the SAT), and water quality aspects.

### **3. SAT criteria for reviewing MPA proposals**

- a. I-team staff presented how the SAT evaluated proposals in the central coast study region. This discussion included size and spacing analysis, a discussion of the automation of those analyses, habitat replication and coverage, and GIS habitat calculation. Habitat in the NCCSR has been mapped at a finer resolution than the central coast study region and is expected to be available August or September. The SAT members discussed the use of sub-regions as a means to determine fine scale variations among communities. The process by which habitat categories were determined was discussed and is essentially included in the *SAT guidance on MPA design* document. Again, a species list developed for the central coast study region and the criteria for amending this list for the NCCSR was discussed (attached).
- b. There was an additional discussion on the level of socioeconomic analysis that would be necessary. The MLPA and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) do not specifically require an economic analysis. However, Ecotrust is conducting a use pattern and stated importance analysis in the NCCSR. Additional discussion included the need to predict impacts outside of MPAs such as displacement of fishing pressure.
- c. The SAT and I-team staff also discussed how the MLPA and CDFG relate to other management processes. In general CDFG co-manages with federal partners in and out of state waters and the

State does not have the authority to establish MPAs outside of state waters. In general the MLPA is not about fishery management and fishery management through the MLMA may change to help meet the goals of the MLPA.

#### **4. Draft evaluation of existing north central coast MPAs**

- a. An overview of a draft evaluation of existing MPAs in the NCCSR was presented by I-team staff. The preliminary evaluation includes habitat coverage (habitat information will be updated when fine scale maps become available, expected to be August or September), MPA regulations and level of protection, size and spacing, and conformity to feasibility criteria.
  - i. The SAT asked that information on when and why these MPAs were created be included (*this information is included in the attached revised version*). It is important to keep in mind that an analysis should look at whether these MPAs meet the goals of the MLPA rather than the specific MPA objectives when they were created.
  - ii. A question was raised about whether existing data for these MPAs could provide a baseline. However, since these MPAs are significantly smaller than the SAT guidelines developed in the central coast and all but one allows some form of take, the catch data are unlikely to be identifiable in the existing data layers at the resolution that catch is reported.

#### **Summary of public comments**

Public comments addressed issues such as water quality, fisheries specific issues, and consideration for other management measures. Additionally, members of the NCCRSB that were present stressed the need for clear and specific guidance from the SAT to assist them in developing a single proposal. Communication Partnership for Science and the Sea offered communication services to the SAT.

### **III. Next Steps**

- 1. Proposed meeting schedule:** (to be confirmed)
  - a. August 14, 2007 - Location: San Francisco International Airport, Aviation Library and Museum
  - b. November 13, 2007 (Location TBD)
  - c. January 8, 2008 (Location TBD)
  - d. March 6, 2008 (Location TBD)
- 2. Next SAT meeting presentations**
  - a. Presentation of models by Ray Hilborn, Chris Costello, Carl Walters, and Lou Botsford
  - b. Decision support tools by Astrid Scholz
  - c. Presentation given to the NCCRSB to be provided to SAT

- d. MLPA I-team presentation of specific goals of the MLPA and language specific to guidance such as size and spacing

### **3. Reviews**

- a. Review and assessment of draft evaluation of existing NCCSR MPAs
- b. Review and revision of species list
- c. Review Draft North Central Coast Regional Profile

#### **Documents provided at June 26, 2007 meeting**

1. SAT member contact list
2. MLPA Initiative meeting schedule
3. A handy guide to the Bagley-Keen Act 2004
4. Draft operating principles
5. Science guidance on MPA design from the Master Plan
6. CD copies of the draft north central coast regional profile

#### **Documents provided subsequent to meeting**

1. Contact information for I-team support staff – to be emailed
2. Revised draft preliminary evaluation of existing NCCSR MPAs
3. Species list and criteria