

California MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team
Draft Work Group Responses to Science Questions Posed at the
November 28, 2007 NCCRSB meeting
Revised January 3, 2008

The following are draft responses of the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT) to questions posed by the MLPA North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCCRSB) at its November 28, 2007 meeting. These draft responses have been prepared by work groups of the SAT and MLPA staff.

- 1. For no-disturbance zones for seabird and mammal species likely and most likely to benefit from MPAs, what are the seasons that need to be incorporated to protect these species (range of time)?**

Draft response: See attached table.

- 2. What area would encompass the congregation of Chinook salmon at the mouth of the Russian River, over an average of several years? [Alternatively, could you advise us about whether the areas at the Russian River mouth in two contrasting alternatives, such as Jade B and external option C, are big enough for that purpose?]**

Draft response: See response 8 and 8a from the October 16-17, 2007 set of science questions to the SAT.

- 3. Will the hundred-penny studies be used to analyze impacts of various alternatives on commercial and/or sport fishing; if so and if those studies ask fishermen to identify the most important areas they've fished throughout their career, could we also get an overlay of the current Rockfish Conservation Area on the MPA proposals, to better evaluate what areas would likely have less immediate impact because they include or intersect with areas currently closed? Will analyses using fishing grounds (including the area outside state waters) be available?**

Draft response: This question is addressed in the document *Draft MLPA Evaluation Methods for MPA Proposals*.

- 4. If models will be run to compare the different alternatives, will their assumptions and decision rules (a) be transparent to stakeholders and (b) be consistent with SAT guidelines, including levels of protection, so that the model evaluations provide information that's complementary to that provided through the primary evaluation procedures?**

Draft response: Transparency is a key component to the MLPA process. As such, any models that may be used to compliment the evaluation of MPA proposals will include a Fact Sheet which highlights important parameters, assumptions, and outputs. Additionally, any model used to compliment the evaluation of MPA proposals will be just that, complimentary information to further inform the evaluation process. The use of models in providing supplemental information is consistent with the guidelines in the MLPA and the Master Plan.

California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
Seasonality of Sensitive Life Stages of Birds and Mammals Most Likely to Benefit from Marine Protected Areas
Revised December 10, 2007

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Seabirds (breeding)													
cormorant, Brandt's	<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>												
cormorant, double-crested	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>												
cormorant, pelagic	<i>Phalacrocorax pelagicus</i>												
guillemot, pigeon	<i>Cephus columba</i>												
murre, common	<i>Uria aalge</i>												
murrelet, marbled	<i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i>				Year-round in foraging areas								
Seabird (migrant)													
brant	<i>Branta bernicla</i>												
grebe, Western/Clark's	<i>Aechmophorus occidentalis, clarkii</i>												
sandpiper, western	<i>Calidris mauri</i>												
scaup, lesser	<i>Aythya affinis</i>												
scoter, surf	<i>Melanitta perspicillata</i>												
willet	<i>Catoptrophorus semipalmatus</i>												
Marine mammals													
porpoise, harbor	<i>Phocoena phocena</i>				Year-round								
sea lion, Steller	<i>Eumetopias jubatus</i>				Year-round at haulout sites								
sea otter, southern	<i>Enhydra lutris</i>				Year-round in kelp beds with otters (near Half Moon Bay)								
seal, harbor	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>												

Buffers of 1,000 feet at rookeries, haulouts, and foraging areas are recommended during the times indicated with light grey.
 Protection during the times indicated in dark grey would also benefit the species.
 Light grey indicate sensitive life stages, primarily breeding/nesting times for resident species and foraging times for migrant species.

Sources: Dr. Sarah Allen, Point Reyes National Seashore and Dr. Gerry McChesney, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service