Marine Life Protection Act Initiative



Stakeholder Group Role in Creating Marine Protected Area Proposals

Presented to the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group February 9, 2010 • Eureka, California

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Overview

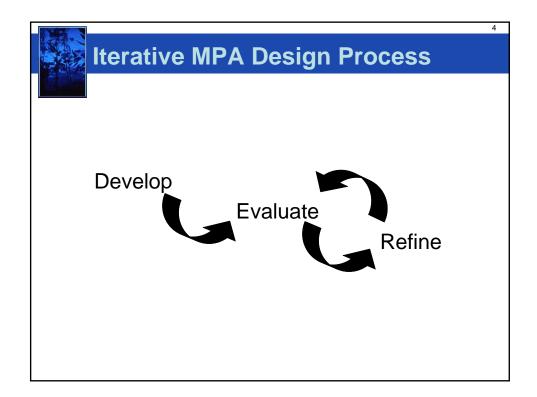
- Key role of the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG)
- Iterative planning process
- Creating a marine protected area network component
- Key marine protected area (MPA) information
- Initial steps to developing alternative MPA proposals
 - Learn/share information
 - Understand guidance
 - Consider regional goals and objectives
 - Review existing MPAs
 - Review external MPA arrays
- Advice, support and next steps





Develop alternative MPA proposals that:

- Meet the goals of the MLPA
- Follow guidance from the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF), Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT), California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), California State Parks, and MLPA Initiative staff
- Consider input from communities and members of the public
- Consider the entire MLPA North Coast Study Region
- Include recommendations for existing MPAs





Iterative Steps

Develop Alternative MPA Proposals

- External array proponents
- NCRSG with staff support

Evaluate Proposals

- SAT
- DFG
- California State Parks
- MLPA staff
- BRTF review and policy guidance

Refine Proposals

- NCRSG with staff support
- Incorporate input from other stakeholders and the public



Developing MPA Proposals

Developed by the NCRSG

- Round 2: Current thinking is NCRSG members assigned to one of two cross-interest work groups
- Round 3: Structure determined based on Round 2 progress

Specifics captured in MarineMap

- MLPA staff will record information during meetings
- NCRSG members may use MarineMap to develop and share ideas outside of meetings
- MarineMap is one way to share ideas, but not the only method

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Evaluating MPA Proposals

MLPA Staff

- Basic statistics on proposals
- Habitat statistics for individual MPAs and proposals

SAT Evaluations

- Habitat representation and habitat replication
- MPA size and MPA spacing
- Bioeconomic modeling
- Birds and mammals
- Water quality
- Potential impacts to commercial and recreational fisheries
- DFG Feasibility Analysis
- California State Parks Evaluation
- BRTF Review and Policy Guidance



Incorporating Public Input

 External proposed MPA arrays help provide initial north coast community input to the NCRSG

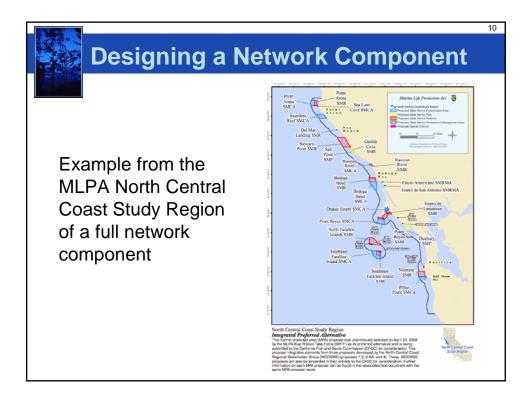
- Public continues to inform the iterative process through
 - Verbal public comment
 - Written public comment
 - Communication with NCRSG members
- Public has the opportunity to review and provide input on MPA proposals and arrays
 - Via public comment and NCRSG members
 - Public workshops in July



Designing a Network Component

Guidance from the MLPA

- Six goals to be met, including that "MPAs are designed and managed, to the extent possible, as a network"
- "Individual MPAs may serve varied primary purposes while collectively achieving the overall goals"





Key MPA Information

Site-Specific Rationale

- The first step in creating an MPA is determining its key purpose
- Concise description of the key reason for proposing this MPA
- -Help inform monitoring plan

Goals and Regional Objectives

- Developed to inform long-term management of the MPA and network component
- Each MPA should contribute toward at least one objective



Key MPA Information

Designation Types (Classifications)

- -State marine conservation area
- -State marine park
- -State marine reserve
- -State marine recreational management area*

Allowed Uses

 Specific species, gear type, and mode (commercial or recreational)

Boundaries

Specific latitude/longitude and any major landmarks

* A type of marine managed area



Key MPA Information

Design Considerations

- Socioeconomic considerations
- Feasibility considerations
- Other recommendations and factors informing MPA design

Other Regulated Activities

 Non-fishing activities you wish to recommend to specifically allow or disallow



First Steps in Developing Proposals

- Review available information
- Share additional information and expertise
- Understand guidance
- Consider regional goals and objectives
- Review existing MPAs
- Review external arrays



Initial Steps: Joint Fact-Finding

Scientific information for MPA planning comes from:

- MLPA Initiative staff
 - 1. Regional profile and atlases
 - 2. MarineMap
- Science Advisory Team
 - 1. Background presentations
 - 2. Responses to science questions
- NCRSG Members and the Public
 - 1. Local expertise and knowledge

* The MLPA requires the use of best readily available scientific information



Initial Steps: Sharing Knowledge

- Yesterday (Monday)
 - Sharing of interests and areas of expertise
 - Sources of knowledge of future discussions
- Today (Tuesday)
 - Sharing of areas of geographic importance
 - Consider ecological, socioeconomic, tribal, and other cultural components

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Initial Steps: Understand Guidance

Guidance is provided by:

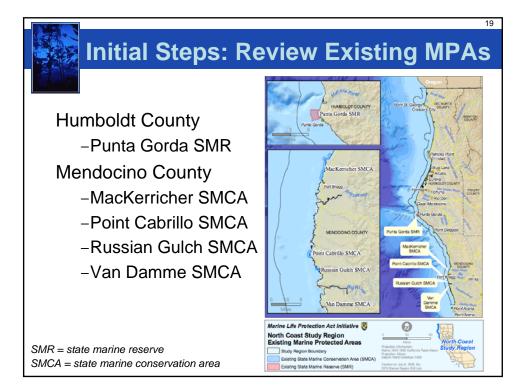
- Marine Life Protection Act Goals
- California Marine Life Protection Act Master Plan for Marine Protected Areas
- MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF)
- California Department of Fish and Game (DFG)
- California Department of Parks and Recreation (California State Parks)
- MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT)
- MLPA Initiative Staff (I-Team)

Detail at NCRSG meeting 2



Initial Steps: Regional Objectives

- Regional objectives help inform MPA design and guide long-term monitoring and management
- Initially developed by California Department of Fish and Game
- Reviewed by the NCRSG





Initial Steps: Consider Existing MPAs

Five Existing MPAs

- Retain the MPA without change (to boundaries or regulations)
- Modify the MPA (boundaries, regulations, or both)
- Remove the MPA



Initial Steps: Existing MPAs

Total Area within MPAs:

- 3.13 square miles
- 0.3% of the study region

Total Area within SMRs:

- 2.07 square miles
- 0.2% of the study region





Initial Steps: Review External Arrays

- External MPA arrays may serve as:
 - Platforms to build from
 - Sources of potential MPA designs
 - Ideas from a broad range of communities and interest groups, who may continue to provide input to the planning process
- External MPA arrays are not:
 - MPA proposals for consideration by the BRTF or California Fish and Game Commission



Some Planning Advice

- Successful MPA design depends on:
 - Working toward cross-interest support
 - Weighing all guidance
 - Providing a good explanation when guidelines cannot be met
 - Thinking collaboratively about creative solutions
 - Using evaluations as an opportunity to learn and refine MPA designs based on that feedback
 - Working with best-readily available data and local knowledge



Support for the NCRSG

- Professional facilitation of discussions
- Help in compiling and providing the best readily available information
- Policy support and guidance from MLPA staff, DFG, California State Parks, and BRTF
- Input from local communities and constituencies
- Planning and technical assistance from staff

