Marine Life Protection Act Initiative

MLPA North Coast Goals and Regional Objectives

Presentation to the North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group
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Overview

- Define Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) goals, regional objectives, site-specific rationales, and stakeholder priorities
- Review draft goals and regional objectives document
- Outline next steps for MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG)
- Describe California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) evaluations of goals and regional objectives within marine protected area (MPA) proposals

What Are Goals?

- A **goal** is a broad statement of intent:
  - Desired long term condition that will result from effective management of MPAs
  - Simple to understand and communicate
- From the MLPA
  - Contains conservation-based goals and guidelines (six goals)
  - Stakeholder input and participation
  - Not every MPA needs to meet all the goals, but the network should meet all the goals of the MLPA

Six Goals of the MLPA

1. **Protect the natural diversity and abundance of marine life**, and the structure, function and integrity of marine ecosystems.
2. **Help sustain, conserve and protect marine life populations**, including those of economic value, and rebuild those that are depleted.
3. **Improve recreational, educational and study opportunities provided by marine ecosystems that are subject to minimal human disturbance**, and to manage these uses in a manner consistent with **protecting biodiversity**.
4. **Protect marine natural heritage**, including protection of representative and unique marine life habitats in CA waters for their intrinsic values
5. Ensure California's MPAs have **clearly defined objectives, effective mgmt. measures and adequate enforcement** and are based on **sound scientific guidelines**
6. Ensure the state's MPAs are **designed and managed**, to the extent possible, **as a network**.

What Are Objectives?

- **An objective** is a more specific statement of intent that works towards achieving a goal
- Need to be measurable, achievable, realistic
- Two types of objectives used in this process
  - Regional objectives
  - MPA-specific objective ("site-specific rationales" and "stakeholder priorities and objectives")

Regional Objectives

- **Regional objectives** are objectives to achieve MLPA goals within the study region
  - What will be accomplished, not how to go about it
  - Realistically achievable
  - Each MPA should contribute towards regional objectives for MLPA goals

Site-Specific Rationale

- Site-Specific Rationale
  - Your description for each MPA
  - Explain why/what in an area is important to protect
  - Should be short and concise
  - Great emphasis is placed on the site-specific rationale (included in master plan)
  - Is THE key input to inform development of the MPA monitoring plan
  - Should relate to individual regional objectives

Stakeholder Priorities and Objectives

- Set of key social and/or local values and priorities identified by the NCRSG
- For balance when designing MPAs to meet MLPA goals
- Do not supersede or justify meeting the goals
- Consider all stakeholder priorities and objectives
- Inform management and monitoring
- Specify in site-specific rationale or "other design considerations" if appropriate
- Not intended to be a comprehensive list

Example of Regional Objective

Regional Objective

"Include within MPAs key and unique habitats identified by the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team for the north coast study region." (Goal 4, Objective 1)

- Where might MPAs be placed to accomplish this regional objective?
- What kinds of MPAs (designation, regulations, size, etc.) are needed to accomplish this regional objective?

Example of Regional Objective

Regional Objective

"Sustain or increase reproduction by species likely to benefit from MPAs through protection of breeding, foraging, rearing or nursery areas or other areas where species congregate." (Goal 2, Objective 2)

- Where might MPAs be placed to accomplish this regional objective?
- What kinds of MPAs (designation, regulations, size, etc.) are needed to accomplish this regional objective?

Example of Site-Specific Rationale

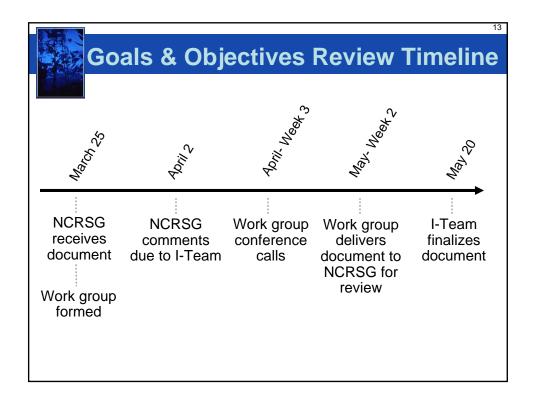**MPA-Specific Objective (Site-specific Rationale)**

"This MPA includes a major biogeographic boundary and is designed to protect key important habitats including an upwelling zone, oil seeps, pinnacles, rocky reefs, kelp forest, deep rock, and harbor seal haulouts. It also represents a site of cultural significance for the Chumash."

- Are the regional objectives selected for this MPA appropriate?
- Is this objective clear and have a purpose?
- What are the ecological parameters you are trying to protect?
- Does the design of the MPA reflect this objective?

Next Steps

- **Step 1:** NCRSG members review document and provide written comments to I-Team
  - Look for glaring omissions, not word-smithing
- **Step 2:** Convene NCRSG Goals and Objectives Work Group (5-8 members) to work with I-Team to revise document
- **Step 3:** Transmit revised document to full NCRSG for final review
- **Step 4:** I-Team finalizes document

Goals & Objectives Review Timeline

March 25	April 2	April- Week 3	May- Week 2	May 20
NCRSG receives document	NCRSG comments due to I-Team	Work group conference calls	Work group delivers document to NCRSG for review	I-Team finalizes document
Work group formed				

Round 2 Guidance

Work Sessions (April 20-21, May 19)
- NCRSG work groups draft site-specific rationale (includes stakeholder priority objectives)
- NCRSG work groups select appropriate MLPA goals for each MPA

After May 20 NCRSG meeting
- Subset of each NCRSG work group to work with DFG to review identified goals and select objectives for each MPA (1 week)
  - Based on site-specific rationale and MLPA goals
- Work groups will review product and approve (few days)

Evaluation of MPA Proposals

- The MLPA states that MPAs shall have "clearly defined objectives"
- DFG will provide real-time guidance to NCRSG during MPA design process
- DFG will evaluate proposals based on appropriateness of selected goals, objectives and site rationale
- DFG considers MPA goals and objectives within feasibility evaluation