Marine Life Protection Act Initiative



MLPA Goal 3 Evaluation of North Coast Round 2 Draft MPA Proposals

Presentation to the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force July 22, 2010 • Fort Bragg, California

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Goal 3 of the MLPA

Goal 3 of the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA):

"To 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."

(Subsection 2853(b)(3), California Fish and Game Code)



Goal 3 Guidance: Background

- Staff reviewed Goal 3 evaluations from previous study regions and modified the approach
- MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF), MLPA North coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG), and members of the public reviewed the modified approach
- Modified approach confirmed in May by BRTF
- Staff conducted Goal 3 evaluation for Round 2 draft marine protected area (MPA) proposals



Goal 3 Guidance: Elements of Goal 3

- MPAs may address one or more elements of Goal 3:
 - Recreational opportunities (non-consumptive and consumptive)
 - -Educational opportunities (formal and informal)
 - Study opportunities (research within and outside of MPAs)



Goal 3 Guidance: Designing Goal 3 MPAs

- Stakeholders explicitly state how MPA design addresses Goal 3
 - -Explain location and allowed uses
 - A single MPA may address one or more elements of Goal 3
- All elements of Goal 3 must be met in at least one MPA in both bioregions



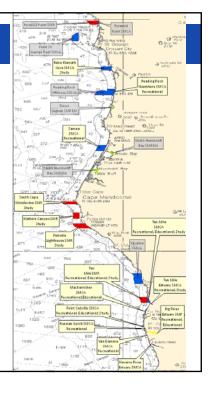
Key Evaluation Findings

- All proposals had numerous Goal 3 MPAs
- All proposals improved all three elements in the southern bioregion
- Only one proposal improved educational opportunities in the northern bioregion
- Stakeholders need to be explicit in rationales for identifying MPAs as meeting Goal 3; in some instances unclear
- All proposals had MPAs that were not identified as Goal 3 MPAs, but could be considered as contributing to Goal 3



Ruby 1

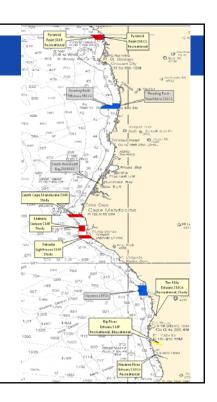
- Number of Goal 3 MPAs: 14
 - Northern bioregion: 5 MPAs; addresses all elements except educational opportunities
 - Southern bioregion: 9 MPAs; addresses all elements

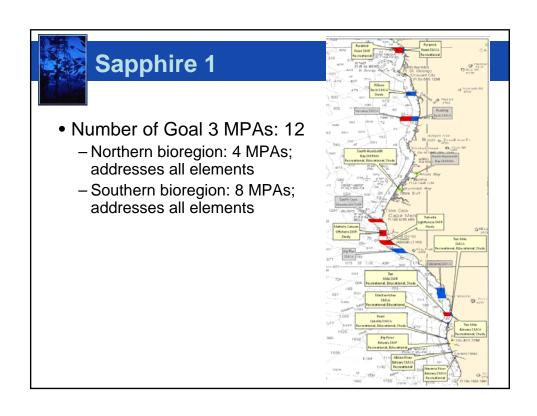


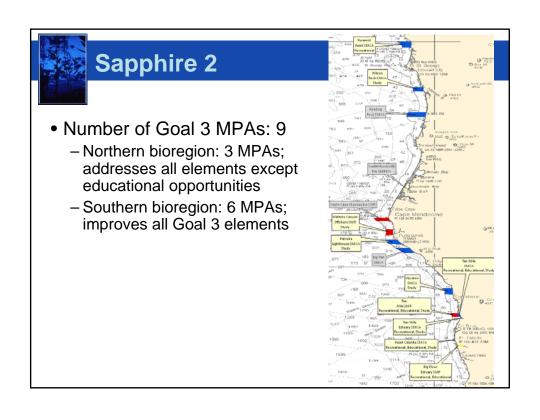


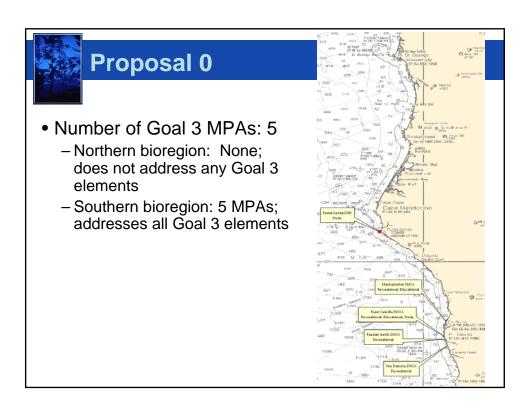
Ruby 2

- Number of Goal 3 MPAs: 7
 - Northern bioregion: 3 MPAs; addresses all elements except educational opportunities
 - Southern bioregion: 4 MPAs; addresses all elements











Summary

Proposal Name	Total Goal 3 MPAs	Northern Bioregion	Southern Bioregion	Comments
Proposal 0	5	0	5	Does not improve opportunities in the northern bioregion
Ruby 1	14	5	9	Needs to improve educational opportunities in the northern bioregion
Ruby 2	7	3	4	Needs to improve educational opportunities in the northern bioregion
Sapphire 1	12	4	8	Meets Goal 3 criteria
Sapphire 2	9	3	6	Needs to improve educational opportunities in the northern bioregion



Conclusions

- All proposals had numerous Goal 3 MPAs
- Three proposals still need to improve educational opportunities in northern bioregion
- All proposals had opportunities to include more MPAs as meeting Goal 3 (e.g. Humboldt Bay)
- Stakeholders need to provide clear rationale as to how each identified Goal 3 MPA improves one or more of Goal 3 elements