

California MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team
Summary of the July 28, 2010 Meeting of the
MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team
Revised August 15, 2010

Meeting Date, Time and Place

Wednesday, July 28, 2010
 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Via teleconference and webinar

Public onsite access was provided at the following locations:

C.V. Starr Community Center
 300 South Lincoln Street
 Fort Bragg, CA 95437

Flynn Center
 Multipurpose Room
 981 H Street
 Crescent City, CA 95531

Humboldt Bay Aquatic Center
 921 Waterfront Drive, Room 211
 Eureka, CA 95501

California Department of Fish and Game
 4665 Lampson Avenue, Suite C
 Los Alamitos, CA 90720

SAT members attending: Larry Allen, Eric Bjorkstedt, Mark Carr, Chris Costello, Kevin Fleming, Dominic Gregorio, David Hankin, John Largier, Ron LeValley, Phillip Levin, Steven Morgan, Karina Nielsen, Pete Raimondi, Steven Rumrill, Craig Strong, Steve Wertz, and Will White.

SAT members absent: Steve Gaines, Dawn Goley, Steven Murray, and Astrid Scholz.

Meeting Objectives

- Receive MLPA Initiative process updates
- Review and potentially adopt draft responses to science questions
- Review and potentially adopt the summary of SAT evaluation results for habitat representation, Habitat replication and marine protected area (MPA) size and MPA spacing

Both audio and video recordings of this meeting are available on the MLPA website at http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/meetings_n.asp.

Executive Summary

On July 28, 2010, the eighth meeting of the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT) for the MLPA North Coast Study Region (NCSR) was held via teleconference and webinar. Members of the public were invited to various locations throughout the study region and California to hear and view the meeting.

The SAT engaged in spirited conversations throughout the meeting on a wide variety of topics. SAT members voted to approve the following briefing documents:

- D.1: Draft Methods Used to Evaluate Marine Protected Area Proposals in the MLPA North Coast Study Region (Revised July 27, 2010)
- E.1: Summary of SAT Evaluation of North Coast Round 2 Draft MPA Proposals: Habitat Representation, Habitat Replication, and MPA Size and MPA Spacing Analyses (Revised July 14, 2010)
- G.1: Draft Responses to Science Questions Posed during the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team Meeting on June 29-30, 2010 (July 27, 2010)

Meeting Summary

Welcome, Introductions and Review of Agenda

On July 28, 2010, the eighth meeting of the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT) for the MLPA North Coast Study Region (NCSR) was held via teleconference and webinar. Members of the public were invited to locations throughout the study region and California to hear and view the meeting.

I. MLPA Initiative North Coast Process Updates

A. North Coast planning progress

Ken Wiseman gave an update on the north coast planning progress. The MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) held a successful meeting last week in Fort Bragg. Of particular note to the SAT, the BRTF requested that the North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG) provide them with a range of proposals, including at least one that meets the science guidelines. The BRTF emphasized that it was important for them to see a proposal that meets the science guidelines before they make any policy decisions concerning the inclusion of specific MPAs.

B. SAT tribal work group update

Satie Airamé presented an update on the SAT tribal work group. Staff members have met with 18 north coast tribes and tribal communities to discuss the Round 2 MPA proposals, identify

areas of tribal importance, and review proposed allowed uses. Numerous tribes have volunteered data using the worksheet provided by the tribal work group; for confidentiality, the data have been aggregated, though not all tribes are represented in the results.

C. Experimental MPAs

Seth Miller gave an update on the experimental MPAs document. The document was forwarded to the NCRSG in May as a draft that had not yet been approved by the full SAT. Only one Round 2 MPA was identified by the NCRSG as being specifically designated as a research MPA. NCRSG members are encouraged to review the draft document on experimental MPAs if they would like to design them during Round 3. If a substantial number of experimental MPAs are proposed during Round 3, the SAT will evaluate those MPAs for their utility as experimental MPAs.

II. MPA Design Guidelines and Evaluation Methods for the MLPA North Coast Study Region

D. Review of the SAT MPA evaluation methods document

Seth Miller presented an update from the levels of protection (LOPs) work group. To date in the NCSR, the work group has assigned LOPs to 24 species or species groups, all of which are represented on the list of 69 species or species groups that may be of interest to north coast tribes and tribal communities. If stakeholders are considering new allowed uses in their Round 3 proposals to which the SAT has not assigned an LOP, they were encouraged to tell MLPA Initiative staff members so the work group would have ample time to develop the new LOPs.

Emily Saarman reviewed some changes to the LOP chapter of the SAT evaluation methods document. The changes mostly involved the supporting text for the redbelt surfperch LOP that was approved by the SAT during their June 29-30, 2010 meeting. Other chapters of the evaluation methods document had minor changes, including the marine birds and marine mammals chapter and the MPA spacing chapter. The SAT voted to approve the changes to the evaluation methods document.

E. Discuss the NCRSG Round 2 draft MPA proposal evaluation summary document for habitat representation, habitat replication, and MPA size and MPA spacing

Karina Nielsen presented the evaluation summary document for habitat representation, habitat replication, and MPA size and MPA spacing. Though the SAT approved the presentation of these results during their June 29-30, 2010 meeting, the summary document was accidentally not made available until shortly before that meeting, so the SAT postponed the vote. The SAT voted to approve the document.

F. Review and discuss BRTF guidance provided at its July 21-22, 2010 meeting

Melissa Miller-Henson and Satie Airamé provided a review of the guidance provided by the BRTF. The BRTF is working hard to take into account traditional tribal gathering uses in the marine environment. Based on the BRTF guidance, MLPA Initiative staff members developed two possible approaches for the Round 3 SAT evaluations of draft MPA proposals. In both approaches, stakeholders are advised to identify species and gear types so a proposal can be implemented by the state within the framework of the current California Fish and Game Code and the California Code of Regulations, Title 14. The SAT could then assign an LOP to each activity that was proposed in an MPA. The first potential evaluation approach is to conduct the evaluations as in Round 2 and only include MPA clusters with at least a moderate-high level of protection in some evaluations. The second potential evaluation approach is to include in those evaluations MPAs that have LOPs lower than moderate-high if those lower LOPs are assigned to activities that are intended to be for tribal use only. The SAT discussed the two approaches and is interested in providing the BRTF with as much information as possible to assist their deliberations.

III. Science Guidance Questions from the Public and North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group

G. Review and discuss SAT responses to science questions

Seth Miller presented the draft responses to science questions. SAT members discussed a number of the questions, suggested some minor edits, and developed several new sentences to include as a preface to one of the questions. The SAT voted to approve the responses pending those edits.

Wrap-up and Next Steps

H. Other items

Satie Airamé reviewed the process timeline, specifically the timeline of the Round 3 evaluations. The next SAT meeting will be October 13-14, 2010 in Eureka.

Public Comments

Members of the public commented during numerous public comment periods throughout the meeting. Comments included information about Humboldt squid, questions about evaluation results, and concern about the potential economic impacts of MPAs in the north coast.

Briefing Documents

- B.1: Data Sheet for Submitting Input from California Tribes and Tribal Communities Regarding Allowed Uses for North Coast Round 2 Draft Marine Protected Areas Proposals (June 26, 2010)
- D.1: Draft Methods Used to Evaluate Marine Protected Area Proposals in the MLPA North Coast Study Region (Revised July 27, 2010)
- D.2: PowerPoint Presentation: Levels of Protection in the North Coast Study Region (July 28, 2010)
- E.1: Summary of SAT Evaluation of North Coast Round 2 Draft MPA Proposals: Habitat Representation, Habitat Replication, and MPA Size and MPA Spacing Analyses (Revised July 14, 2010)
- F.1: BRTF Motion Regarding Round 3 of the Marine Protected Area Planning Process for the MLPA North Coast Study Region (Adopted July 22, 2010)
- F.2: Planned Process Design for Developing Round 3 Marine Protected Area Proposals (July 16, 2010)
- G.1: Draft Responses to Science Questions Posed during the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team Meeting on June 29-30, 2010 (July 27, 2010)