

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative



Concluding the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group MPA Planning Process

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Eric Poncelet, MLPA Initiative Lead Facilitator, Kearns & West

NCRSG Accomplishments



North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG) has accomplished all elements of its charge:

- Considered extent to which existing marine protected areas (MPAs) contributed to goals of MLPA
- Contributed local knowledge
- Reached out to and involved broader communities
- Closely considered guidance from MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team, MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF), California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and California Department of Parks and Recreation
- Developed a single “unified” Round 3 MPA proposal for consideration by the BRTF



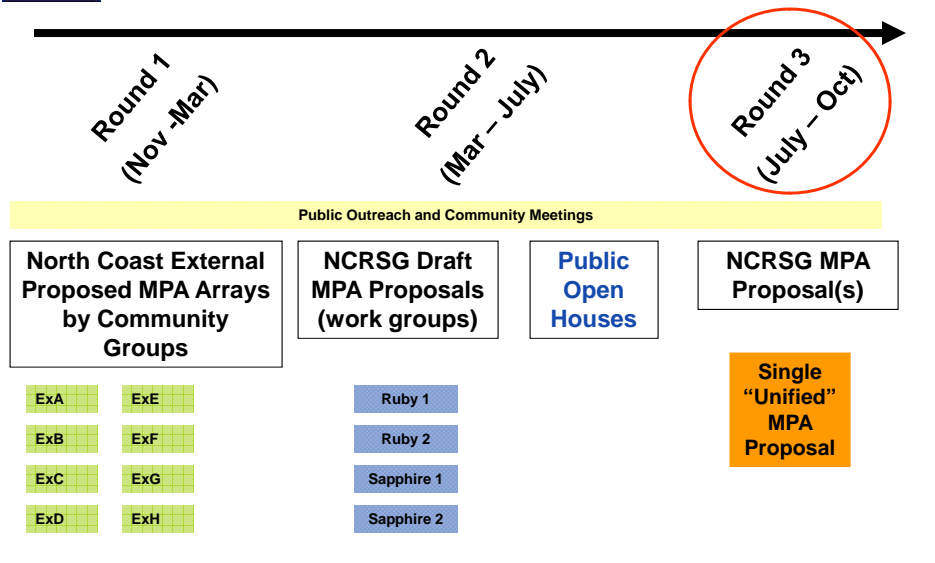
Additional NCRSG Accomplishments

- Recommended special closures for north coast
- Adopted tribal motion
 - Urge formal adoption of a special category of tribal uses within MPAs in order to protect traditional cultural practices
 - Include in “Other Design Considerations” statement that language should be included in MPA regulations: “All California Indian Tribal traditional, non-commercial fishing, gathering, and harvesting for subsistence, ceremonial or stewardship purposes shall be uses that are exercised by the members of California Indian tribes and tribal communities.”

Tremendous work ethic, personal commitment,
and good humor



Evolution of MPA Proposals





Key Direction from BRTF and I-Team

- Consider all necessary means to improve the proposal(s)' compliance with science guidelines
 - Specific focus on habitat replication and MPA spacing
- Continue to address DFG and California State Parks guidance
- Tribal guidance:
 - Avoid where possible
 - Consider nearshore SMCAs to accommodate tribal uses
 - Indicate intent on how traditional tribal uses should be acknowledged/accommodated within specific SMCAs
- Work in full group setting toward cross-interest proposal(s)



Round 3 Proposal Drafting Process

- Constructive full group deliberations
 - Important check-in discussion at July 29-30 NCRSG meeting
- Continued attention to socioeconomic and tribal considerations
- Careful attention to preparing clear MPA “rationales”
- Significant preparations in advance of meetings
- Many iterations of creative proposal-making, weighing tradeoffs
- Extensive communication with community members
- Listened carefully to public comments (open houses, comments presented at meetings, written comments)



NCRSG Charge Completed

- MLPA Initiative staff greatly appreciates the outstanding efforts of NCRSG members
- NCRSG members here to help brief BRTF by providing information regarding:
 - Specific geographies
 - Context and rationale for designs
 - Choices made to address various interests
 - Local expertise and knowledge