

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative



MLPA Goal 3 Evaluation of the Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal

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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

- Goal 3 evaluation:
 - Reviewed by staff and looked at methods from previous study regions
 - Modified the approach to better align with California Department of Fish and Game and California Department of Parks and Recreation evaluations
- Modified approach:
 - Reviewed by MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force, MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group and members of the public
 - Finalized in May 2010 and the methods were used in Rounds 2 and 3 of the north coast MPA planning process



Goal 3 Guidance: Elements of Goal 3

- Key elements of Goal 3 are to improve:
 - Recreational opportunities
 - Educational opportunities
 - Study opportunities
- Marine protected areas (MPAs) and state marine recreational management areas (SMRMAs) may address one or more elements of Goal 3
- **Goal 3 Guidance:** All elements of Goal 3 must be met in at least one MPA or SMRMA in each bioregion



Goal 3 Evaluation from Round 2

- Round 2 draft MPA proposals had numerous Goal 3 MPAs
- Only one draft proposal fully met Goal 3
- Others lacked an MPA improving educational opportunities in the northern bioregion
- Many MPAs lacked sufficient information for how they contributed to Goal 3



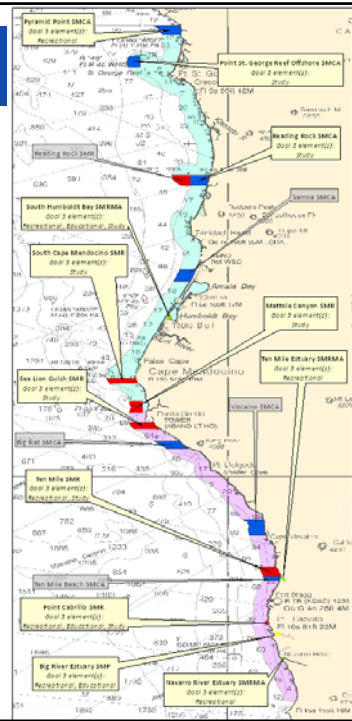
Goal 3 Evaluation for Round 3

- Goal 3 evaluation conducted for the Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal and Proposal 0
- Only considered MPAs identified by the stakeholders as contributing to Goal 3
- About half of the MPAs received a low level of protection (LOP); one MPA not considered to improve study opportunities due to LOP



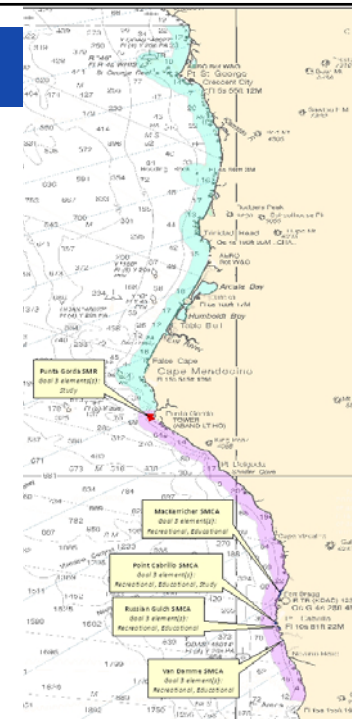
NCRSG MPA Proposal

- Meets Goal 3 guidelines
- Number of Goal 3 MPAs or SMRMAs: 12
 - Northern bioregion: 5 MPAs and 1 SMRMA; addresses all elements and provides the most study opportunities
 - Southern bioregion: 4 MPAs and 2 SMRMAs; addresses all elements and provides the most recreational opportunities



Proposal 0

- Does not meet Goal 3 guidelines
- Number of Goal 3 MPAs: 5
 - Northern bioregion: None; does not address any Goal 3 elements
 - Southern bioregion: 5 MPAs; addresses all Goal 3 elements and provides the most recreational and educational opportunities





Summary

Proposal	Total Goal 3 MPAs or SMRMAs	Northern Bioregion	Southern Bioregion	Comments
Proposal 0	5	0	5	Does not improve opportunities in the northern bioregion
NCRSG MPA Proposal	12	6	6	Meets Goal 3 criteria

The Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal:

- Meets the Goal 3 evaluation guidelines
- Improves Goal 3 relative to Proposal 0 and Round 2 draft MPA proposals