

## Marine Life Protection Act Initiative



### Species Likely to Benefit from MPAs in the North Coast Study Region

Presentation to the MLPAs Master Plan Science Advisory  
Team

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## Making the List

- Each potential species is scored for ten criteria
- First five count towards a species' score
- Last five provide additional information
- A species must score for certain filtering criteria
- The criteria document fully describes this scoring system

## Species Likely to Benefit List

- List of species likely to benefit from marine protected areas (MPAs)
- Developed by the MLPAs Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT) statewide as well as in each study region
- Based on life history and human interaction criteria
- Used by external array proponents and stakeholders to design MPAs
- Could be used in monitoring

## Filtering Criteria

- Species must occur in the study region
- Must score under the Human Impacts section for either Removal and Discards or Disturbance
- If species is not impacted by human activities, it will not make the species likely to benefit list
- Species must also score under the Biological/Life History section for either Feature Association or Limited Adult Home Range
- If a species ranges widely or does not return to predictable locations, it will not make the species likely to benefit list

## Scoring Criteria

- Removal and Discards
  - Disturbance
  - Feature Association
  - Limited Adult Home Range
  - Depressed Population
- } Human Impacts Filter
- } Biological Filter
- Since a species must pass both filtering criteria, the minimum score is “2,” the maximum is “5”

## Next Steps

- Discuss the “scoring criteria” approach
- Determine if the work group should continue using this approach
- Look to approve the criteria document and draft list at the January 2010 SAT meeting

## Additional Criteria

- These criteria do not affect a species' score, but provide more information about how it might react to protection in an MPA
  - Habitat Degradation
  - Limited Larval Dispersal
  - Other Life History Traits
  - Limited Distribution
  - Ecological Importance