



# Marine Life Protection Act Initiative



## Development of MPA Proposals

**Presentation to the North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group**

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# Expectations

Goal: create multiple alternative marine protected area (MPA) proposals that will go through an iterative process of development, evaluation, and refinement

- Use “areas of agreement” as a starting place
- Consider existing MPAs and other management measures
- Make use of readily available tools and data
- Collaborate across interest groups and work together toward solutions that all participants can live with



# Internal and External Proposals

- Internal proposals (from within the North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group)
  - From assigned cross-interest work groups
  - From groups formed organically by NCCRSG members
- External proposals (from outside NCCRSG)
  - From members of public and interest groups
  - From other agencies or organizations



# Guidelines for MPA proposals

- MLPA goals
- Master plan science guidelines
- California Department of Fish and Game feasibility guidelines
- Evaluation of existing north central coast MPAs
- Regional goals and objectives



# Data and Information Available

- North central coast regional profile – text and hardcopy maps
- Joint fact finding – presentations and group discussions
- Non-consumptive and consumptive recreational and commercial use data (coming soon)
- Spatial data layers (including updates to seafloor habitat and others)



# Refining Proposals with New Information

- Planning should begin now, regardless of the status of data collection efforts
- Proposals are expected to change and evolve through the process (possibly significant changes)
- New information will be brought to the NCCRSG as quickly as possible
- New information will be discussed with the entire NCCRSG to determine possible effect on proposals



# Tools and Support Available

- Hardcopy maps, charts
- Internet map service site (view all data layers at [www.marinemap.org/mlpa](http://www.marinemap.org/mlpa))
- Doris – MPA decision support tool (view data layers, draw candidate MPAs or candidate arrays of MPAs)
- MLPA Initiative team – planning support, GIS analysis, facilitation
- Science advisory team – scientific input and evaluation
- Blue ribbon task force – policy and guidance



# What Constitutes a Full Proposal?

Use MPA proposal template provided (handout):

- MPA Boundaries (hardcopy, GIS, or Doris tool)
  - Note that MPA boundaries will be defined by lat/long coordinates to facilitate the regulatory process
- Proposed designation for each MPA
- Narrative rationale, including overall approach and how the proposal meets the MLPA goals
- Proposed regulations for each MPA
  - Use format from Title 14, Section 632
- Goals and objectives to which each MPA contributes
- Description of how 13 existing MPAs are considered



# Basic Steps for First Drafts

1. Review data and learn tools
2. Initiate cross-interest discussions
3. Assign work groups for developing initial recommendations for MPAs (identifying areas of agreement and areas of divergence)
4. Convene work sessions between formal regional stakeholder group meetings with I-Team support
5. Work groups present initial recommendations at October 16-17 meeting; hear presentations on recommendations or proposals from other groups
6. Full “Round 1” proposals developed at October 16-17 meeting and forwarded to SAT for evaluation and discussion at November 13 meeting



# Timeline

- August 22-23 (NCCRSG Meeting #3): Begin identifying consensus areas, assign work groups, initiate cross-interest discussions
- August 24-September 30: Meet as work groups to create initial recommendations
  - September 7 (location TBD)
  - September 25 (location TBD)
- October 1: First draft MPA proposals due, both internal and external to the NCCRSG



## Timeline (continued)

- October 16-17 (NCCRSG Meeting #4): Review and revise initial recommendations into first draft proposals
- October 18-November 5: Science advisory team and staff review of first draft proposals
- November 13 – Science advisory team meeting – review and evaluation of first round proposals
- November 29-39 – Blue ribbon task force meeting – review and evaluation of first round proposals
- ...iterative process of revision and evaluation of proposals



# MPA Proposal Development

- First draft proposals are not expected to be complete, perfect or final
- Assigned groups work together through development of first round proposals at the October meeting
- Other groups may form to develop other proposals
- Additional proposal development and refinement will take place in both work group and plenary settings