

**California Master Plan Science Advisory Team**  
**Proposed Amendments to the List of Species Likely to Benefit for the**  
**MLPA North Central Coast Study Region**  
*Revised September 3, 2008*

- Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*) should be listed as “most likely to benefit”
- Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*) should be listed as “likely to benefit”
- Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*) should be removed from the list

*Rationale*

Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*) is the most abundant waterfowl species that overwinters in the coastal estuaries of the NCCSR (e.g. as many as 8000 in Tomales Bay). It was used as a model species for conducting waterfowl evaluations of proposed MPA arrays in the NCCSR, and should be listed as most likely to benefit.

Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*) was mistakenly listed as “most likely to benefit” instead of the similar Greater Scaup. However, Lesser Scaup abundance still warrants its inclusion on the species likely to benefit list, but it should not be listed as a species most likely to benefit.

Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*) overwinters in coastal estuaries of the NCCSR, but their numbers are too low to justify inclusion on the species likely to benefit list.

*References*

- Kelly, J.P., and S.L. Tappen. 1998. Distribution, abundance, and implications for conservation of winter waterbirds on Tomales bay, California. *Western Birds* 29: 102-120.
- Shuford, D.W., G.W. Page, J.J. Evens, and L.E. Stenzel. 1989. Seasonal abundance of waterbirds at Point Reyes: a coastal California perspective. *Western Birds* 20: 137-265.