

Marine Life Protection Act Draft Master Plan Framework



Presentation to the California Fish and Game Commission

May 23, 2005

Draft Master Plan Framework

- Provides guidelines for implementing MLPA
- Details regional process for discussing MPAs
- First step towards full implementation
- Not the full Master Plan required by MLPA
- Full implementation by 2011

Master Plan Framework Outline

1. Introduction

- History
- Initiative - process, roles, framework

2. Regional Process Steps

3. Considerations for MPA Network Design

- Science Team guidelines
- Habitats, Species, and Regions
- Types of MPAs

4. Management Possibilities

5. Enforcement Needs

6. Monitoring Plan Establishment

Regional Process Steps

1. Regional planning
2. Individual MPA planning
3. Assembling proposals
4. Evaluating proposals
5. Commission submission, review, and adoption



Design Considerations

1. MLPA Goals
2. Network definitions
3. Science Team guidelines
4. Habitats
5. Species
6. Biogeographical regions
7. Types of MPAs
8. Enforceability

Science Team Guidance

- Not prescriptive
- Address specific objectives
- Not all guidelines met for each MPA

Science Team Guidance

1. No single optimum network design
2. Represent habitats in all regions
3. Extend from intertidal to offshore
4. Alongshore span of at least 5-10 km and preferably 10-20 km
5. Placed within 50-100 km of each other
6. Three to five replicates for each habitat type within a biogeographical region
7. Take into account local resource use and stakeholder activities
8. Account for the need to evaluate and monitor biological changes

Habitats

1. Add 100 m depth break to MLPA zones
2. Add estuaries as a specific habitat
3. Ensure both giant and bull kelp included
4. Include oceanographic features:
 - Upwelling centers
 - Freshwater plumes
 - Retention centers

Biogeographical Regions

- 3 biogeographical regions defined in the MLPA;
- 2 biogeographic provinces - boundary at Point Conception;
- 4 marine regions identified by the former Master Plan Team - boundaries at Pt. Conception, Pt. Año Nuevo, and Pt. Arena; and
- Biogeographical regions with boundaries at Pt. Conception, Monterey Bay and/or San Francisco Bay, and Cape Mendocino.

Management, Enforcement, and Monitoring

- Government partnerships
- Monitoring program process
- Detailed enforcement section being finalized

Changes from BRTF Draft

- Table of contents
- Detail on extent of cowcod and rockfish conservation areas
- Feasibility analysis step added
- Detail from draft Abalone plan
- Flowchart of process to determine if goals are met
- Flowchart for developing monitoring plans
- Emphasis on need for additional enforcement support
- Details of life history characteristics of species likely to benefit

Commission Input Needed

- List of activities for regional processes
- Definition of biogeographical regions
- Additional habitats considered in network design
- Boundaries of future regional processes