

California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative

1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311 Sacramento, CA 95814 916.653.5656

To: MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team
From: MLPA I-Team
Subject: Responsibilities of the SAT MPA Evaluation Work Group
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The Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT) is responsible for providing feedback regarding marine protected area (MPA) proposals included in the MLPA Initiative planning process. A subset of the SAT will be identified to be primarily responsible for conducting the evaluation of these MPA proposals. This memorandum outlines the basic responsibilities of the SAT MPA Evaluation Work Group as well as expectations for products and timelines.

Rounds of Proposal Development and Expected Timeframe

The MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (SCRSG) is charged with developing MPA proposals that meet the goals of the MLPA, according to guidelines identified in the MLPA itself, as well as in the *California Marine Life Protection Act Master Plan for Marine Protected Areas*, and in memoranda from the California Department of Fish and Game, California State Parks, MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force, and MLPA Initiative staff. The SCRSG will develop MPA proposals in an iterative fashion, where initial MPA arrays will be formally revised two times based on feedback from the SAT and other groups. This iterative process has been divided into three "rounds," each of which will result in MPA proposals requiring evaluation by the SAT. The timeframe for these three rounds is in Table 1.

Table 1: Timeframe for three rounds of developing marine protected area proposals

Round	Date Proposals Submitted	Evaluations Presented to SAT	Evaluations Presented to SCRSG
1	March 4	April 1	April 28
2	May 21	June 18	August 4
3	September 10	October 6	October 20-22

Following the submission of proposals in each round, the SAT MPA Evaluation Work Group will have several weeks to conduct evaluations, which will then be presented to the full SAT. Once approved by the SAT, these evaluations will be presented to the SCRSG to inform the revision of MPA proposals. Members of the SAT work group will be responsible for giving presentations to both the SAT and SCRSG. MLPA Initiative staff will support the evaluation work group by compiling MPA proposals in appropriate formats and providing necessary technical calculations.

Time requirements for conducting evaluations are somewhat contingent upon the number of MPA proposals submitted to the MLPA Initiative process. In the first round of MPA proposal development, MLPA Initiative staff anticipates six draft arrays from the SCRSG, as well as a number of proposals developed outside of the SCRSG (termed "external proposals"). SAT evaluations will also include analyses of existing MPAs in the MLPA South Coast Study

Region (termed "MPA Proposal 0"). In subsequent rounds of MPA proposal development, MLPA Initiative staff expects that a smaller number of MPA proposals will require evaluation.

Components of SAT Evaluations

Based on current SAT work groups, MLPA Initiative staff anticipates the following SAT evaluations of MPA proposals:

- Habitat Representation
- Habitat Replication
- MPA Size
- Spacing Between MPAs
- Benefits to Marine Birds and Mammals
- Bioeconomic Models
- Water and Sediment Quality *

Methodology for each of the above evaluations will be clearly documented and approved by the SAT. Many of the methods for the above evaluations are currently being developed by several different SAT work groups. Note that some components of evaluations, including SAT-defined bioregions and SAT-assigned levels of protection, apply to multiple evaluation methodologies.

Following each round of MPA proposal development, members of the evaluation work group will conduct the evaluations listed above, which will later be presented to the SAT and SCRSG. Evaluations will be conducted for proposals developed by the SCRSG, as well as for external proposals and existing MPAs.

The SAT MPA Evaluation Work Group should include SAT members that are familiar with the topics above, and those who have participated thus far in SAT discussions on those topics. Evaluation work group members should be prepared to conduct evaluations in the time frame outlined above, and have the ability to present results of the evaluation to the SAT as well as the SCRSG.

* Note that the evaluation of MPA proposals with regard to water and sediment quality will be conducted only for rounds 2 and 3 of MPA proposal development.