

**California MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team
Draft January 23 and 27, 2009 Meeting Summary
(revised February 9, 2009)**

**Friday, January 23, 2009
1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

Via teleconference and webinar

**Toll free phone number: 1 (800) 697.5978 Pass code: 7858702#
<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/573854808>**

On-site teleconference and webinar access was provided at two locations:

Resources Building *
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1206
Sacramento, CA 95814

California Department of Fish and Game *
4665 Lampson Avenue, Suite C
Los Alamitos, CA 90720

and

**Tuesday, January 27, 2009
9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.**

**Sheraton Gateway Los Angeles Hotel
6101 West Century Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90045**

Note: Audio and video recordings of this meeting are the formal record of actions taken by the MLPA Master Plan Advisory Team (SAT) and are available on the Internet at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/>. Please contact AGP Video Services at (805) 772-2715 to obtain DVD copies of these recordings.

This document is a draft summary generated by MLPA Initiative staff as a service to the public and has not yet been reviewed by the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT). The SAT will review this summary at its February 24, 2009 meeting. This meeting was a two day meeting with the first portion of the meeting held on January 23, 2009 as a webinar/teleconference and the second day held on January 27, 2009 in Los Angeles.

Meeting Objectives

- Review and potentially adopt marine protected area (MPA) evaluation methods for the MLPA South Coast Study Region
- Review preliminary responses to science questions from the MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (SCRSG)
- Review list of species likely to benefit from MPAs
- Designate SAT MPA Proposal Evaluation Work Group members

The meeting agenda may be found on the MLPA website at http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/meetings_sc.asp

Executive Summary

The fifth meeting of the SAT took place via teleconference and webinar on January 23 and at the Sheraton Gateway Los Angeles Hotel on January 27, 2009. SAT members approved:

- Briefing document A-1
- Briefing document A-3
- Briefing document B-2
- Briefing document D-1
- Briefing document F-1
- Briefing document G-1
- Briefing document H-1
- Briefing document I-1
- Briefing document L-1
- The approach to defining levels of protection

Briefing document descriptions are included at the end of this summary. Some documents were approved with minor edits or caveats noted in this summary, and all documents in the MLPA process are living documents that could be modified in the future.

Meeting Summary - January 23, 2009 via Teleconference and Webinar

SAT members attending on January 23: Larry Allen, Richard Ambrose, Mark Carr, Susan Chivers, Paul Dayton, Dominic Gregorio, John Largier, Steven Morgan, Steve Murray, Dan Pondella, Pete Raimondi, Dan Robinette, Astrid Scholz, Stephen Stohs, Stephen Weisberg and Steve Wertz.

SAT members absent on January 23: Eric Bjorkstedt, Chris Costello, Kevin Fleming, Steve Gaines and Ray Hilborn.

Welcome, Introductions and Review of Agenda

Co-chair Steve Murray welcomed everyone to the teleconference and webinar and then asked staff to provide participants with instructions for how to participate in this format that is relatively new for the SAT. The SAT then reviewed the agenda for the day; no changes were made.

Updates

The SAT was asked by the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) to provide information about the ecology and connectivity patterns of the military use areas in the MLPA South Coast Study Region (SCSR), including offshore San Nicholas Island, San Clemente Island and Camp Pendleton. A work group will be formed to address this request and work with members of the

BRTF and representatives from the U.S. Department of Defense to provide a report at the BRTF's February 26, 2009 meeting.

The SAT was also provided with a written summary of its December 17, 2008 meeting as well as a copy of written comments submitted by SAT members on documents discussed at the same meeting.

I. Briefing on the SAT MPA Proposal Evaluation Work Group

MLPA staff member Evan Fox presented a document detailing the requirements for the MPA proposal evaluations, and SAT members were asked to volunteer to serve on work groups for each evaluation method.

II. MPA Design Guidelines and Evaluation Methods for the MLPA South Coast Study Region

A. Habitat Representation

1. Review and potentially approve key and unique habitats document.
The SAT approved the key and unique habitats document, pending some minor edits.
2. Briefing on habitat data sets.
MLPA staff presented a spreadsheet listing the occurrence of habitats in the SCSR, and SAT members were requested to provide clarifying information about the distribution of those habitats.
3. Review and potentially approve habitat evaluation methods.
The SAT approved the habitat evaluation methods document presented by SAT member Mark Carr.

B. Habitat Replication

1. Update on species-area relationships.
SAT member Pete Raimondi presented an update on species-area relationships being developed for various habitats and specifically discussed in detail soft bottom habitats in the SCSR. The conclusion for soft bottom habitats was that 90% of the available species would be included in an MPA with eight square miles of soft bottom habitat.
2. Review and potentially approve evaluation methods.
The SAT made minor changes to the language in the habitat replication evaluation methods document, and then approved the edited document.
3. Discussion on habitat patch size (sum of smaller patches versus minimum size criterion).
SAT member Pete Raimondi presented a species-area curve and SAT members discussed the issue of a "single large or several small" (SLOSS) MPAs relative to habitat replication. A key issue was that several small MPAs could capture the same number of species as a single large MPA, but those species might not persist and the interspecific interactions within MPAs could be different in smaller ones.

C. Spacing Guidelines and Evaluation Methods

MLPA staff member Satie Airame presented a PowerPoint about the spacing guidelines and evaluation methods, and requested that SAT members be ready to discuss the methods during the second part of the meeting on January 27.

D. Update on Model Outputs and Uses of Models in Evaluation of Proposed MPAs

MLPA staff member Satie Airame announced there would be a model update at the second part of the meeting on January 27, and asked that SAT members be prepared to discuss the bio-economic modeling document (Briefing Document D-1).

E. Levels of Protection

1. Update on assigned levels of protection using the approach approved on December 17, 2008

SAT member Larry Allen reviewed the levels of protection (LOP) flowchart and current issues that the LOP work group is discussing, such as whether to use the 30 meter isobath or the 50 meter isobath as a depth division for certain types of activities. He asked SAT members to be ready to discuss the new LOP designations on January 27.

F. Birds and Mammals Evaluation Methods

SAT member Susan Chivers presented an updated methods document that incorporated SAT feedback since the December 17, 2008 meeting. SAT members approved the birds and mammals evaluation methods document.

III. Questions from the South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (SCRSB)***G. Review Preliminary Responses to Questions from SCRSB Meeting #2***

MLPA staff member Jason Vasques asked that SAT members review preliminary responses to science questions and be prepared to discuss them on January 27.

Meeting Summary - January 27, 2009 at Sheraton Gateway Los Angeles Hotel

SAT members attending on January 27: Larry Allen, Richard Ambrose, Eric Bjorkstedt, Mark Carr, Susan Chivers, Chris Costello, Paul Dayton, Steve Gaines, Dominic Gregorio, Ray Hilborn, John Largier, Steven Morgan, Steve Murray, Dan Robinette, Astrid Scholz, Stephen Stohs, Stephen Weisberg and Steve Wertz.

SAT members absent on January 27: Kevin Fleming, Dan Pondella and Pete Raimondi.

Welcome, Introductions and Review of Agenda

On January 27, 2009, the second part of the fifth meeting of the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT) for the South Coast Study Region (SCSR) was held at the Sheraton Gateway Los Angeles Hotel. Co-chair Steve Murray welcomed everyone to the meeting. The SAT then reviewed the agenda for the day; no changes were made.

Updates

MLPA Initiative Executive Director Ken Wiseman and California Department of Fish and Game's Marine Region Habitat Conservation Program Manager Becky Ota spoke about the current California state budget issues. The bond freeze created only a minor delay in the MLPA mapping process, and the potential future statewide furloughs will not interrupt the MLPA process.

SAT member Steve Murray developed a set of questions to guide the SAT work group charged with describing the ecology of the U.S. Department of Defense areas of use in the SCSR. SAT members volunteering for the work group are Paul Dayton, Dominic Gregorio, John Largier, Steve Murray, Dan Pondella and Dan Robinette.

MLPA staff member Satie Airame was identified as the staff lead for policy implications; SAT members should contact her if they have a question about policy.

I. SAT MPA Proposal Evaluation Work Group (continued from Day 1)

SAT members who volunteered for the evaluation work group are Larry Allen, Susan Chivers, Paul Dayton, Steven Murray, Dan Pondella, Dan Robinette and Stephen Stohs.

SAT members were again asked to contact staff to volunteer for evaluation work groups. The list of work group members will be updated at the next SAT meeting.

II. MPA Design Guidelines and Evaluation Methods for the MLPA South Coast Study Region (continued from Day 1)***H. Review and Discuss Methods for Evaluating MPA Size***

SAT member Steve Gaines presented the reasoning behind having size guidelines and the background of how they were developed. He raised a technical issue about which some SCRSG members have been concerned: the guidelines refer to three statute miles along the coast and offshore, but the state waters boundary is three nautical miles offshore. If MPAs extend to the state boundary, they will be larger than the nine square statute mile minimum referred to in the guidelines.

After considerable discussion, the SAT voted to delete the parenthetical reference in the MPA size document that refers to three miles alongshore and three miles offshore. The SAT acknowledged that at certain locations in the south coast study region it may be possible to create an MPA (cluster) that is nine square (statute) miles in area but may not meet both the recommended three nautical mile offshore distance and three statute mile alongshore distance. The SAT determined that the more important consideration was the recommendation for a minimum area of nine square (statute) miles for a MPA (cluster).

SAT member Mark Carr then presented the "a single large or several small" (SLOSS) information showed by Pete Raimondi during the January 23 portion of the meeting, and SAT

members briefly discussed the methods used to calculate the species-area curves. The SAT did not come to a conclusion about whether or not the amount of habitat in several small MPAs would be viewed as equal to the same amount of habitat in one large MPA. This issue will be revisited at the February 24, 2009 meeting.

I. Review and Discuss Methods for Evaluating MPA Spacing

SAT member Eric Bjorkstedt presented information on the MPA spacing guidelines and recommended the SCRSG members continue to use the existing guidelines for the mainland portion of the SCSR, but suggested they defer to the guidelines on bioregions and size for placing MPAs at the Channel Islands. He also suggested that the models be used to help understand connectivity among island MPAs. SAT members approved the spacing evaluation methods document.

J. Review and Discuss Model Outputs for Evaluation of Proposed MPAs

SAT member Chris Costello and Dr. Will White presented an update on the modeling evaluation process. SAT members approved the general approach to the modeling evaluation methods, but asked that the models include a feedback mechanism that stakeholders could use to inform their MPA proposals and potentially obtain better evaluation results, and the ability to conduct MPA-specific analyses. SAT members also asked for a clarification of how the fishery management and fleet data are being used, and stated that the models should be used to provide additional information during the evaluation process, but not supplant any of the current evaluation methods. Modelers asked SAT members to provide information about species distributions in the SCSR.

K. Levels of Protection

1. Review and discuss levels of protection using the approach approved on December 17, 2008

SAT member Larry Allen presented the level of protection (LOP) table and asked for feedback from SAT members on the new proposed designations. SAT members requested a table of how each species ran through the LOP dichotomous key, and were requested to send comments to Mark Carr and Larry Allen if they had comments about each activity's ranking LOP. SAT members agreed with the general approach to assigning levels of protection, and looked forward to seeing more levels assigned by the next SAT meeting.

2. Discuss cumulative impacts of multiple levels of protection and benthic-pelagic coupling

SAT member Ray Hilborn presented an example of how cumulative impacts might be determined in MPAs. The system involved scoring the percent of biomass that would be lost due to a proposed activity for each species in an MPA. SAT members were agreeable to the general approach and were interested to see more work done on this topic.

L. Water Quality

1. Review and discuss revised water quality guidance document

SAT member Dominic Gregorio presented the revised water quality guidance document and associated maps. In response to SAT member comments, water quality work group members proposed a revised set of maps: one with water quality, one with sediment toxicity, and one highlighting three facilities of concern (stormwater outflow, power plant

intakes, and treatment plants). SAT members agreed that these maps would be useful and requested that the water quality work group create them. The SAT then approved the water quality guidance document pending the addition of a paragraph about hypoxia and a differentiation between major and intermediate wastewater treatment plants.

2. *Update on proposed evaluation methods*

The water quality work group has discussed potential evaluation methods, and the members are leaning towards an approach based on a binary presence/absence of areas of concern in proposed MPAs. The work group plans to have a more formalized update at the February 24 meeting.

IV. Habitat Quality in the South Coast Study Region

M. Update on Habitat Quality Topics

MLPA staff member Jason Vasques informed the SAT that the habitat quality work group has been working on the topics presented at the December 17, 2008 meeting, and it will present a more extensive report at the February 24 meeting.

V. Species Likely to Benefit from MPAs

N. Review and Discuss Populated List of Species Likely to Benefit from MPAs

SAT member Larry Allen presented the draft list of species likely to benefit from MPAs with scores based on a newly-devised scoring system. This system was based on criteria approved at the December 17, 2008 SAT meeting, but used fewer scores to rank the species. SAT members commented on the new scoring system and suggested potential new approaches. The species likely to benefit work group will revisit the list and address the issues voiced by the SAT. The list will be refined to exclude the species that do not pass the filtering criteria and the reasons behind some scores will be clarified. SAT members were asked to review the list and send comments to the SAT Species Likely to Benefit Work Group for review. A new draft list of species will be presented at the February 24 SAT meeting.

III. Questions from the SCRSG (continued from Day 1 of the meeting)

O. Review Responses to Questions from the November 18-19, 2008 SCRSG Meeting

MLPA staff member Mike Prall presented the answer to a SCRSG question about halibut movement. SAT members approved the response for dissemination to the SCRSG.

P. SAT Work Groups to Respond to Questions from the January 13-14, 2009 SCRSG Meeting

MLPA staff member Mike Prall presented a list of questions from the SCRSG meeting. Questions were then assigned to staff members and SAT work groups. Question 1 was assigned to the new work group on the ecology of SCSR military use areas. Questions 2 and 3 were assigned to MLPA staff member Satie Airame for coordination with the modeling and size and spacing work groups. Questions 4 and 5 were assigned to the SAT Water Quality Work Group.

Q. Protocol for Assigning SAT Members to Future SCRSG Questions

MLPA staff member Mike Prall presented a new protocol for assigning SCRSG questions. In the future, staff will assign SCRSG questions to SAT members or work groups, with concurrence from the SAT co-chairs, without waiting until an SAT meeting. The SAT approved this process.

Public Comment

Members of the public commented on a wide variety of issues during both parts of the SAT meeting. Comments included clarifying questions about the size and spacing guidelines and how they should be applied by members of the SCRSG. Members of the public also raised concerns about the harbor seal colony at Children's Beach in San Diego and provided feedback concerning the discussion about whether to use the 30 meter or 50 meter isobath for certain level of protection designations. At the January 27 meeting, many public comments focused on spearfishing; spearfishermen raised concerns about the spearfishing level of protection and gave personal accounts of their spearfishing experiences.

Next Steps

The next meeting will take place on February 24, 2009 via teleconference, and staff will identify places where SAT members can gather.

Members of the SAT Sub-Team to the MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group were asked to identify their availability for future SCRSG meetings.

Briefing Documents

Briefing documents distributed in advance and at the meeting:

Update 1: SAT Meeting Summary December 17, 2008

Update 2: SAT member comments on documents from the December 17, 2008 meeting

I-1: SAT MPA Proposal Evaluation Work Team

A-1: Key and Unique Habitats in the MLPA South Coast Study Region (revised January 20, 2009)

A-2: PowerPoint Presentation Slides: Habitat Representation Evaluations Methods

A-3: Habitat Representation Evaluation Methods

B-1: PowerPoint Presentation Slides: Habitat Replication Evaluation Methods

B-2: Habitat Replication Evaluation Methods

C-1: PowerPoint Slides: Spacing Guidelines and Evaluation Update

D-1: Methods Used to Evaluate Marine Protected Area Proposals in the MLPA South Coast Study Region (Draft), Section 10.0 – Bio-Economic Modeling (Draft revised January 15, 2009)

D-2: PowerPoint Slides: Modeling Evaluation Update

- E-1: Methods Used to Evaluate Marine Protected Area Proposals in the MLPA South Coast Study Region (Draft), Section 4.0 – Protection Levels (Draft revised January 16, 2009)
- F-1: Guidelines and Evaluation Methods for Marine Birds and Mammals in the MLPA South Coast Study Region
- F-2: PowerPoint Slides: Marine Bird and Mammals Evaluations
- G-1: Draft Responses to Questions Received at the November 18-19, 2008 South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group Meeting
- H-1: Methods Used to Evaluate Marine Protected Area Proposals in the MLPA South Coast Study Region (Draft), Section 7.0 – Size (Draft revised January 5, 2009)
- I-1: Methods Used to Evaluate Draft Marine Protected Area Proposals in the MLPA South Coast Study Region (Draft), Section 8.0 – Spacing (Draft revised January 15, 2009)
- J-1: Spatial Bioeconomic Models for Evaluating Marine Protected Area Proposals
PowerPoint Presentation
- L-1: Recommendations for Considering Water Quality and Marine Protected Areas in the South Coast Study Region
- N-1: Draft list of species likely to benefit from MPAs in the South Coast Study Region
- P-1: Questions Received at the January 13-14, 2009 South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group Meeting