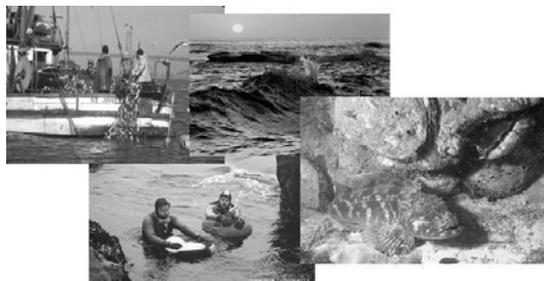


Marine Life Protection Act



Master Plan Science Advisory Team Update

NCCRSR • February 21, 2008 • San Rafael
Jason Vasques – Associate Marine Biologist
Marine Region
California Department of Fish and Game

SAT Update

Meetings since last North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group meeting

- January 8, 2008 at San Francisco International Airport
- January 23, 2008 in Pacifica

- Next SAT meeting **April 3, 2008 in Pacifica**

January 8, 2008 - Highlights

- Primary objective - support further discussion and development of the parallel processes (models)
- SAT discussed evaluation methods (**Attachment 11**)
 - New evaluation methods approved
 1. Use of linear versus area calculations for 0-30 meter hard and soft bottom habitats
 2. Seabird and marine mammals evaluation methods
 3. Size and spacing for estuaries (0.12 square miles for estuary size and 0.04 sq. mi. for any habitat)
 - After significant discussion deferred a vote on the level of protection for salmon trolling until January 23, 2008 meeting

January 23, 2008 – Highlights

- Evaluation methods (**Attachment 11**)
 - The SAT deliberated on the characterization of MPAs that allow salmon trolling
 - SAT voted to keep salmon trolling in waters deeper than 50 meters at “high” level of protection
 - SAT placed salmon trolling in waters shallower than 50 meters within a range from moderate-high to high and noted that this topic would likely require MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force policy direction
 - Mariculture activities were designated at a “low” level of protection
 - Other activities (shorefishing, crab, halibut, and striped bass fishing) voted to remain as previously designated



January 23, 2008 – Highlights

- Approved of the evaluations of *draft MPA proposals*
 - New evaluations included in this round:
 1. Seabirds and marine mammals (**Attachments 14 – 15**)
 2. DFG evaluation of potential impacts to abalone management and the abalone fishery (**Attachment 17**)



January 23, 2008 – Highlights

- Modeling group presented evaluations of draft MPA proposals
 - Document that synthesizes the results of two models (UCDavis and EDOM) and provides insights on how they can inform MPA evaluation beyond master plan guidance (**Attachment 19**)
 - “While different proposals may meet master plan guidelines model results can reveal subtle differences and tradeoffs”
 - Example – when proposals have different size or spacing, model results may reveal which configuration leads to higher sustainability or higher yield



Science questions from the NCCRSR

- **Handout B** – August 22-23, 2007 and October 16-17, 2007 NCCRSR meetings
- **Attachment 10** – November 28, 2007 and December 11-12, 2007 NCCRSR meetings