Marine Life Protection Act

Update on California Department of Fish and Game Guidance for MPA Proposals

North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group Meeting
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Department Guidance Topics

• Updated Memo on Feasibility Criteria
• Memo on Private Lands and MPAs
• Guidance on Special Conditions

Feasibility Criteria for Evaluations

• MLPA MOU requires the Department to prepare a statement of the feasibility criteria used in its evaluation of MPA proposals.

• Department memo prepared June 11, 2007: “Statement of feasibility criteria for use in analyzing siting alternatives during the second phase of the Marine Life Protection Act Initiative”.

Updated Memo - Feasibility Criteria (Feb 11, 2008)

Issues Clarified:

Floating Corners
- Optimally - whole minutes of lat/long;
- half minutes are less desirable;
- 1/10th minutes least preferred.

Diagonal Lines
- May follow the angle of the coastline
- “Anchored” at whole minute lines of lat/long

Distance Offshore (Islands)
- Must extend from shoreline to state waters boundary.
Private Lands and MPAs

- Department Memo to NCCRSG prepared Jan 31, 2008: “Private Land Ownership and Marine Protected Areas.”
  - Ownership of land adjacent to MPAs
  - Access
  - Marine stewardship

Department Guidance - Special Conditions

- Existing aquaculture leases
  - If proposal includes an SMR where lease exists, change to SMCA designation
  - Document future recommendations

Department Guidance - Special Conditions

- Waterfowl hunting
  - If proposal includes an MPA where waterfowl hunting occurs, change proposed designation to SMRMA

Department Guidance - Special Conditions

- Including Existing MPAs within proposal
  - Boundary issues: Many existing shapes do not meet DFG feasibility criteria
  - Regulations: Complex regulations should be simplified (DFG can assist)