

MEMORANDUM

To: MLPA North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCCRSG)
From: MLPA I-Team
Subject: Revision to staff response to question 3 received at the October 16-17, 2007 NCCRSG meeting
Date: March 14, 2008

This memo revises the staff response to question 3 received at the October 16-17, 2007 NCCRSG meeting. The initial response provided to the NCCRSG indicated that the California Department of Fish and Game would provide a policy memo to address this question. However, upon further review of the issue, the following response is provided to guide the NCCRSG in its final deliberations when considering marine protected areas (MPAs) that may intersect undersea cables in the MLPA North Central Coast Study Region.

How should the NCCRSG consider or deal with international telecommunication cables that are being installed and may cross MPAs or future wave farms that may not allow access?

Staff response: The NCCRSG may wish to consider known existing telecommunication cables when siting MPAs and in determining the goals and objectives of specific MPAs. Existing and charted cables extend offshore of Point Arena and the Point Montara to Pillar Point areas; these cables and their locations are not expected to impact MPA design or MPA function. However, the NCCRSG may wish to consider the presence of undersea cables in determining the objectives of proposed MPAs. Changes to the existing cables and any future proposals for new cables crossing MPAs would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis for their potential impacts to the environment.

Currently no wave farms are proposed in the MLPA North Central Coast Study Region (see question 4 from *Draft Responses to Questions Received at the October 16-17, 2007 NCCRSG Meeting*); therefore, wave energy proposals should not impact the NCCRSG's design and siting of MPAs. If future wave farm proposals come forward within MPAs, they would be considered on a case-by-case basis for their potential impacts to the environment.