

California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative

Summary of Guidelines for Creating Marine Protected Areas

September 7, 2007

The following guidelines have been summarized from a June 25 memorandum from John Ugoretz regarding guidelines for marine protected area (MPA) proposals and should be referenced by MLPA North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group members in developing initial recommendations for MPAs in the MLPA North Central Coast Study Region.

Marine Life Protection Act

- Address MLPA goals (see handout)
- Have "specific identified objectives"
- Consider existing MPAs
- Replication of habitats in the biogeographic region, to the extent possible, in marine reserves

Science Guidance from the Master Plan for MPAs

- Should extend from intertidal to offshore areas
- Minimum alongshore span: 5-10 kilometers (3-6 miles or 2.5-5.4 nautical miles)
- Preferred alongshore span: 10-20 kilometers (6-12.5 miles or 5.4-11 nautical miles)
- Maximum spacing between habitats: 50-100 kilometers (31-62 mi or 27-54 nautical miles)
- Replicate key marine habitats in multiple MPAs
- 3-5 MPAs for each habitat type in the biogeographic region

California Department of Fish and Game Feasibility Guidelines

- Use straight lines
- Use easily recognizable landmarks
- Use major lines of latitude/longitude
- Use simple regulations
- Consider accessibility
- Avoid unnecessarily complex arrangements of adjacent marine reserves, marine conservation areas, and marine parks (e.g. no "doughnut zones")
- Avoid depth contour boundaries
- Avoid distance from shore boundaries
- Avoid intertidal MPAs that do not have an offshore component