



Marine Life Protection Act



Overview of Department of Fish and Game Feasibility Criteria for MPA Proposals

North Coast Workshop I

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Overview of Department Role

The MLPA Initiative *Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)* explains the Department's role:

- The Department *will not*
 - Create it's own alternative;
 - Recommend a preferred alternative;
 - Support any individual stakeholder proposal



Overview of Department Role, cont.

- The Department *will*
 - Provide comments to Commission on MPA proposals;
 - Provide a Statement of Feasibility Criteria; and
 - Give advice on feasibility aspects of draft MPA proposals
- The Department provides its advice
 - During work group sessions; and
 - Through a formal evaluation of each submitted MPA proposal



Categories of Department Advice

- Department advice and feedback will cover:
 1. **Feasibility of MPAs:** enforceability, MPA design, boundaries, take regulations
 2. **Stated goals and objectives**
 3. **Likelihood of proposals to meet the MLPA goals**
- Department guidelines outlined in document: *“Feasibility Criteria and Evaluation Components for Marine Protected Area Proposals”*



Why Feasibility Criteria?

- Purpose of DFG Feasibility criteria & feedback:
 - Create MPAs easy for public to understand;
 - Create MPAs that are enforceable;
 - Help avoid design qualities that may pose a risk to MPA success;
 - Help avoid creating a management burden (enforcement, monitoring, public expectations)



Feasibility of MPAs

MPA design and regulations must be:
simple, easily understood & enforceable

- Categories of Feasibility Criteria:
 - MPA Names
 - Boundaries
 - Take Regulations
 - Design Considerations
 - Other Guidance



MPA Names

Names should:

- Be simple, reasonably short, & reflect the geographic area designated
- Include the MPA designation type (*e.g., Bodega Head State Marine Conservation Area*)
- Not be named after individuals or groups



Boundaries

Boundaries should not:

- Use depth contours or distance offshore
- Use curving or undulating lines

Boundaries should:

- Use straight due N/S, E/ W lines; and
- Be placed at **readily determinable lines** of lat. and long.; or
- Placed at **easily recognizable landmarks.**



Boundaries: Readily Determined Lines

Examples of Readily Determinable Lines of Lat. & Long.:

- Preferred: Whole minutes ($36^{\circ} 50' \text{ N}$; $121^{\circ} 46' \text{ W}$)
- Less Desirable: Half minutes ($36^{\circ} 50.5' \text{ N}$; $121^{\circ} 46.5' \text{ W}$)
- Least Preferred: 1/10th Minutes ($36^{\circ} 50.3' \text{ N}$; $121^{\circ} 46.7' \text{ W}$)



Boundaries: Corners and Diagonals

Corners should:

- Be at 90° angles; and
- Be at readily determinable lines of lat. and long.

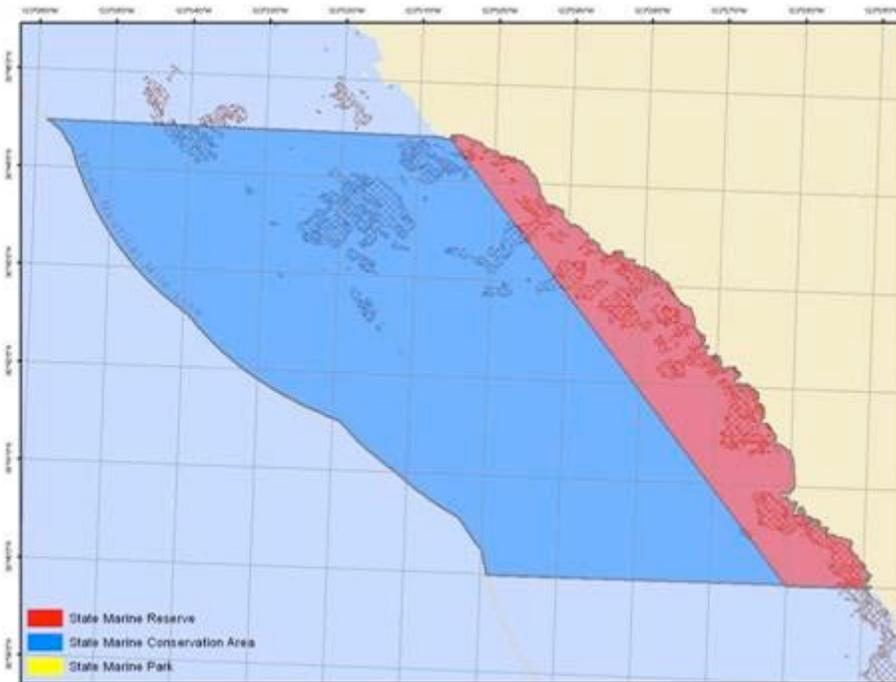
Diagonal Lines (IF used):

- Should be used sparingly
- Must follow the angle of the coastline
- Should be placed sufficiently offshore to accommodate nearshore users w/o GPS
- Must be “anchored” at whole minutes of latitude and longitude with

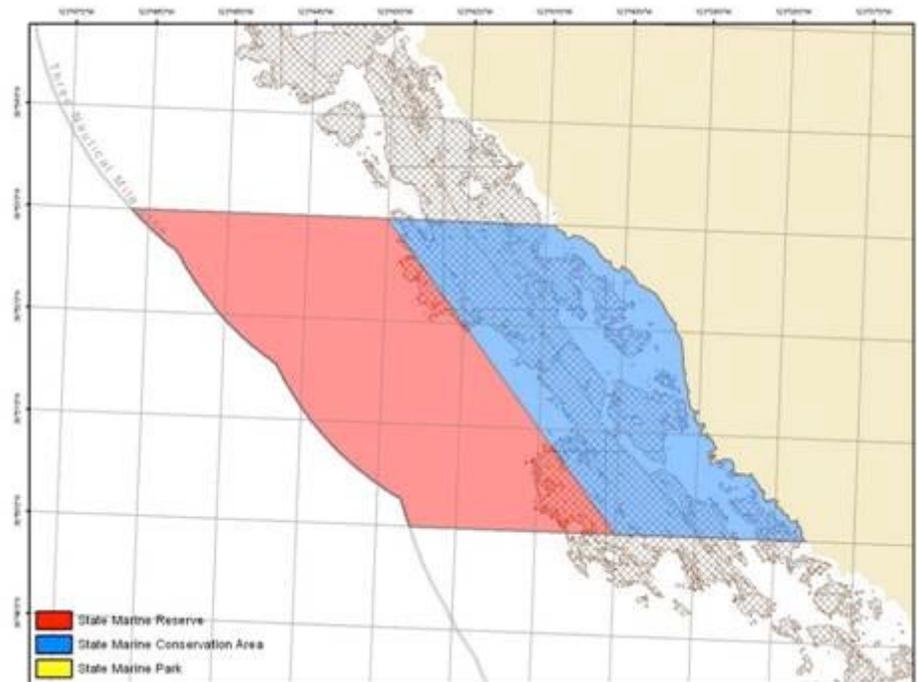


Example: Diagonals

Boundaries: Diagonal Lines



Incorrect



Correct



Example: Diagonals



Incorrect use of diagonal lines

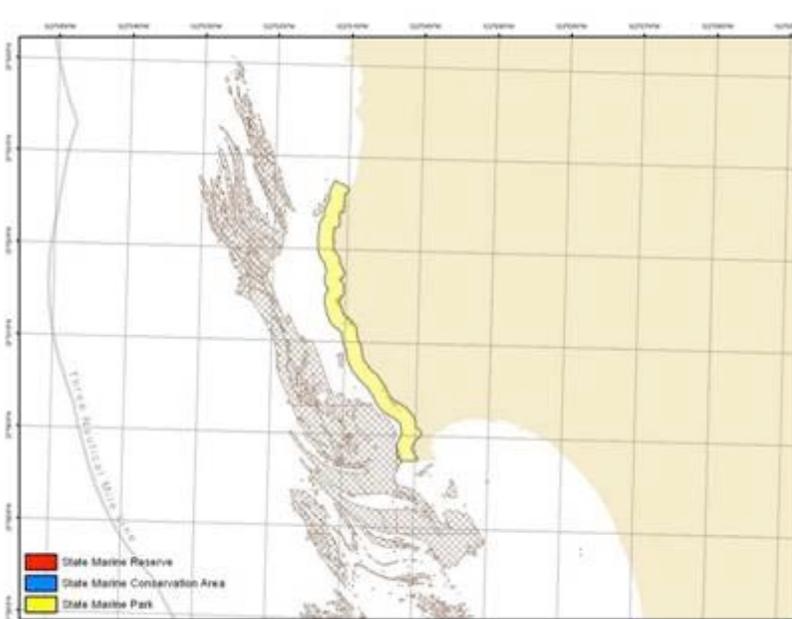
Incorrect



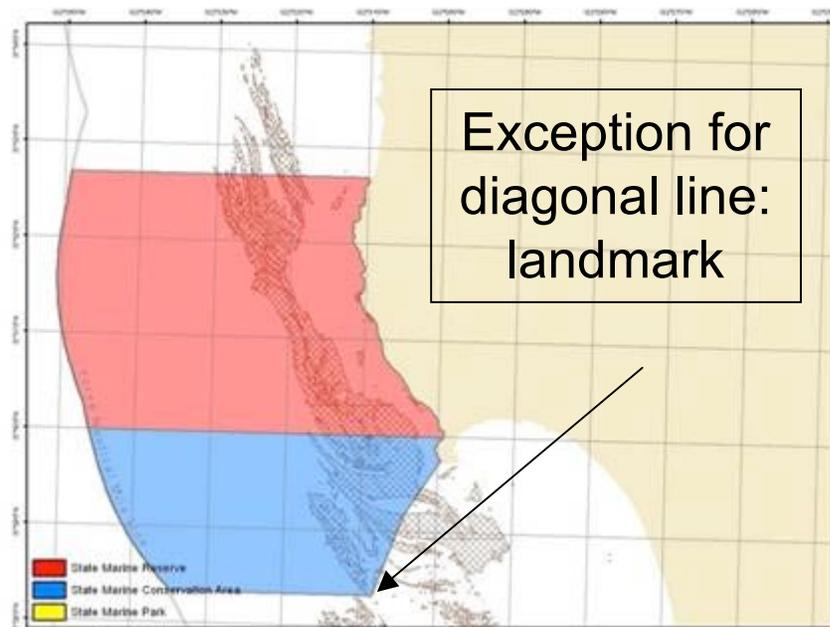
Feasibility Criteria: MPA Design

Intertidal MPAs:

- Not Recommended
- MPAs should extend to adjacent subtidal waters



Existing MPA



Improved MPA



Boundaries: Landmarks

Landmarks should:

- Be easily recognizable
- Be permanent & readily observable
 - E.g., rocks, points, headlands, navigational buoys, etc.
- Have coordinates assigned

*If landmarks are utilized, include both landmark and coordinates in the proposal.



Feasibility Criteria: MPA Design

Multiple Zoning:

- Occurs when an area is split to allow for different uses in multiple portions of the area.



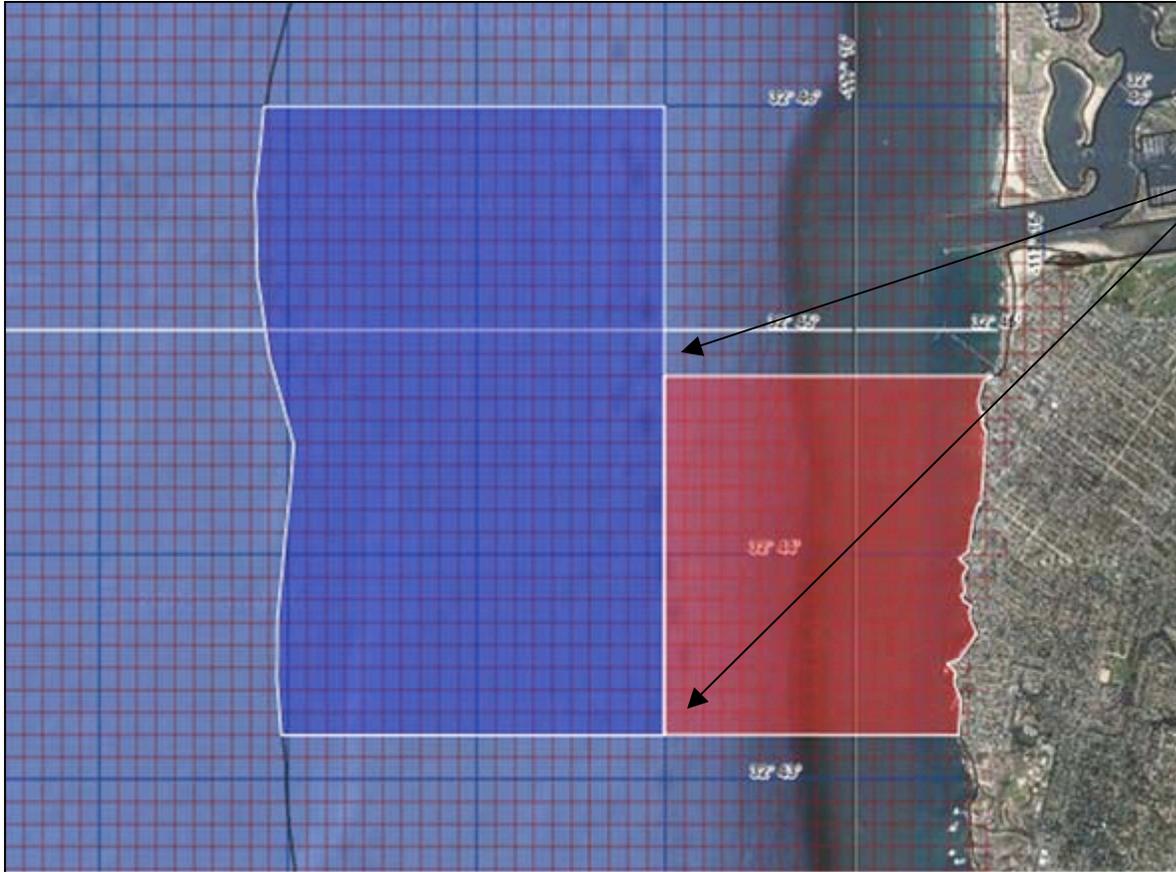
Not Consistent with Guidelines,
Doughnut and L-Shapes



Consistent with Guidelines



Feasibility: MPA Design, Boundaries



Hanging Corners
and "L" Shapes



Feasibility Criteria: Take Regulations

Take regulations should:

- Be simple and easily understood
 - E.g., “using categories like pelagic finfish”
 - Avoid conflict with existing regulations
 - Not create new fishery management regulations (i.e., different bag limits, size limits, or seasons).
-
- The best regulations are those that can be simply stated in one or two sentences without clarifying language.



Feasibility: Regulations

Complex regulations

Allowed Take:

- Prohibits all recreational take except lobster; rockfish (family Scorpaenidae), greenling, lingcod, cabezon, yellowtail, mackerel, bluefin tuna, kelp bass, spotted sand bass, barred sand bass, sargo, croaker, queenfish, corbina, white seabass, opaleye, halfmoon, surfperch (family Embiotocidae), blacksmith, barracuda, California sheephead, bonito, California halibut, sole, turbot and sanddab. Finfish shall only be taken by hook and line or spear.
- Prohibits all commercial take.



Opal



Feasibility Criteria: Other Guidance

Example of Redesigning Existing MPAs

Existing MPA

- Boundaries do not meet guidelines
- Allow most existing take to continue

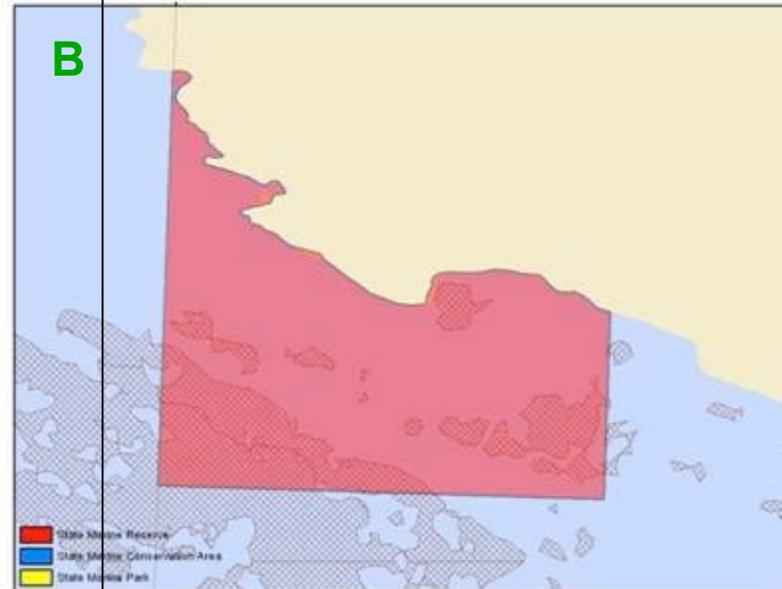


MPA Type: SMP

Take Regulations: prohibited, All marine aquatic plants; All invertebrates EXCEPT red abalone, chiones, clams, cockles, rock scallops, native oysters, crabs, lobsters, ghost shrimp, sea urchins, mussels and worms.

Improved MPA

- Boundaries meet guidelines
- Regulations simplified



MPA Type: SMR

Take Regulations: No take of living marine resources allowed.



Goals and Objectives

- For each MPA proposal, the Department will:
 - Review stated objectives and identified rationale for each MPA
 - Give feedback on alignment of objectives to MPA design
 - Provide options to improve MPA design to meet stated objectives



Prospects of MPAs to Meet MLPA Goals

- The Department will evaluate MPA proposals based on:
 - Guidelines from Master Plan for MPAs
 - SAT guidance, and
 - DFG feasibility criteria
- The Department will advise on improving MPA proposals to better meet MLPA goals



Purpose of DFG Guidelines

DFG Guidelines are intended to ensure that MPAs have:

- Simple regulations, easy to enforce & understand
- Reasonable goals and objectives for each proposed MPA
- Good prospects to meet MLPA goals



DFG Feasibility Evaluation Summary

- Every MPA will be compared to all feasibility categories
- Options to remedy will be provided
- Feedback given on what works well
 - “Elegant solutions” to design challenges;
 - Preferred orientation/design; etc.

