

## Marine Life Protection Act Initiative



## MLPA South Coast Project Overview

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## Topics to be Covered

- Why we are here (MLPA and MLPA Initiative)
- What are marine protected areas (MPAs)
- MLPA Initiative participants and their roles
- MLPA South Coast Project goals and how we'll achieve them in next 14 months
- Project work flow and timeline
- Communications and travel



## Why We're Here - MLPA

### **Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA)**

- Redesign California's system of marine protected areas (MPAs); increase coherence and effectiveness at protecting the state's marine life, habitat, and ecosystems
- Achieve six goals
- Best readily available science
- Input from stakeholders, public, experts, agencies
- Master plan for MPAs and adaptive management
- Marine Life Protection Program within the California Department of Fish and Game



## Why We're Here - MMAIA

### **Marine Managed Areas Improvement Act (MMAIA)**

- Complementary to MLPA
- Identifies six classifications of marine managed areas, subset of three are marine protected areas
  - State Marine Reserve
  - State Marine Park
  - State Marine Conservation Area
- Identifies allowed and disallowed uses in different classifications



## Why We're Here – MLPA Initiative

- Help California implement a statutory mandate (MLPA) in state waters
- Public-private partnership among California Resources Agency, California Department of Fish and Game and Resources Legacy Fund Foundation
- State divided into five study regions (north, north central coast, central coast, south coast and San Francisco Bay)
- Build on lessons of first two study regions



## MLPA Initiative - Key Groups

- Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF)*, members with experience in addressing complex public policies
- Statewide Interests Group*, members provide advice on process and public involvement
- Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT)* with expertise in marine ecology, fisheries, marine protected areas, water quality, oceanography, economics and social sciences
- South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (SCRSG)*, members representing diverse interests in the study region



## MLPA Initiative - Key Groups

### **Blue Ribbon Task Force**

- Chaired by Don Benninghoven, with six other public leaders selected by California Secretary for Resources Mike Chrisman
- Directs funding for the MLPA Initiative
- Prepares recommendations for coordinating the management of MPAs among state and federal agencies
- Oversees process with regional stakeholders and scientists to develop alternative marine protected area proposals



## MLPA Initiative - Key Groups

### **Statewide Interests Group**

- Members from key interests from throughout the state
- Advise task force and staff on overall MLPA Initiative process and public involvement
- Alert task force and staff to issues and opportunities that could hinder or improve public involvement in process
- No formal voting or positions



## MLPA Initiative - Key Groups

### **Master Plan Science Advisory Team**

- Provide scientific advice to MLPA groups and California Fish and Game Commission regarding size, spacing, habitat considerations, etc.
- Assists MLPA groups by reviewing draft documents and scientific papers
- Evaluates MPA proposals
- Assists California Department of Fish and Game with completing the master plan



## MLPA Initiative - Key Groups

### **South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group**

- Provide local knowledge and expertise
- Share information (including to help refine and revise regional profile)
- Conduct outreach to constituencies
- Develop regional objectives
- Evaluate existing MPAs
- Develop alternative MPA proposals



## MLPA Initiative - Key Groups

### MLPA Initiative Team (I-Team)

- Science advisors
- Facilitators
- Planners
- Marine biologists
- Environmental scientists
- GIS specialists
- Administrative support

*MLPA I-Team is here to support your work!*



## MLPA Initiative - Key Groups

### Public Involvement

- Attend public workshops and meetings
- Public comment on documents
- Public comment at meetings or via email
- Individual conversations with stakeholder group members, staff
- Review video/audio recordings on website
- Website at [www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa)



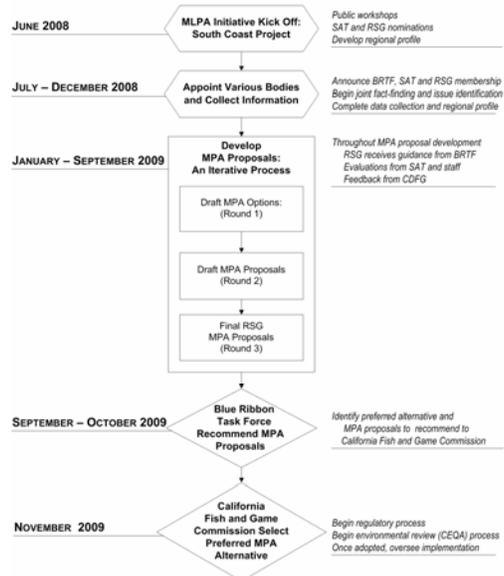
## South Coast Project Objectives

- Complete regional profile
- Identify regional objectives
- Develop alternative marine protected area proposals
- Enhance public understanding of MLPA



## Timeline and Work Flow

- To December 2009 (intro phase)
- January 2009 (draft arrays)
- May 2009 (draft proposals)
- August 2009 (final proposals)
- October 2009 (task force recommendation)





## Project Challenges

- Diverse interests
- Competing uses
- Different expectations
- Sophisticated scientific and policy framework
- Volumes of material



## Planning Process Goals

- Collaborative
- Co-inventive
- Transparent
- Iterative and interactive
- Accessible
- Responsive
- Encouraging mutual gains



## Not Why We're Here

- Not to debate merits of the MLPA
- Not to debate usefulness of MPAs
- Not to consider MPAs in federal waters
- Not to identify a specific percentage target of MPAs in the study region
- Not to focus on MPAs as a fishery management tool – MPAs are complementary tool
- Not to make a final, binding decision



## Communications and Logistics

- List server
  - Primary mechanism for regular communication
  - Note ground rules for use of list server
- Mailing of meeting materials
- Making hotel reservations
- Travel reimbursements
- Stipend for unpaid participants