

California MLPA North Central Coast Project Narrative Rationale for NCCRSG Proposal (Round 3) Proposal 1-3 (March 19, 2008 version)

Proposal 1-3 is the product of a cross-interest work team drawn largely from groups 1 (Emerald) and 3 (Turquoise). Our goal was to fulfill the BRTF's mandate for a backbone of marine reserves and MPAs with a "high" level of protection, emphasis on MPAs that meet "preferred" size and spacing, and satisfaction of SAT and Department guidelines. As the only workgroup continuously developing and designing MPAs with participation from across the spectrum of interest groups, we are confident that this proposal meets the BRTF directive to garner cross-interest support.

Specifically, the key objectives were to:

- Address feasibility and SAT guideline issues with proposals 1 and 3
- Retain and attract cross-interest support by blending proposals 2XA and 4
- Draw on the best ideas of what the RSG has designed to date in all proposals

The "Lucky 13" work team was comprised of diverse interests, including a commercial fisherman, a pier and shore angling representative, a party boat operator, conservation representatives, non-consumptive and consumptive divers, marine mammal and bird docents, a former commercial abalone diver, a kayak fisherman, a high school marine biology teacher (former ranger/naturalist), CA State Parks and the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary representatives, among others. The team thoroughly addressed these diverse interests by discussing areas and often voting to decide specific shapes, regulations, and special closures. The final product is an MPA network that incorporates selections, tradeoffs and new design ideas of the group.

Proposal 1-3 has a strong network of very high and high protection sites. It succeeds in offering an array of seven MPA clusters that meet the minimum size at the high protection level. Proposal 1-3 also has five preferred size MPA clusters: 2 at the very high protection level, 1 at the high protection level, 1 at moderate high and 1 at the moderate protection level. Although some MPA clusters are moderate high or lower due to cross interest participation in the group, these decisions were discussed and considered carefully, and explanations are provided for the socioeconomic considerations and the reasons why the MPAs still help achieve MLPA goals.