

California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative

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To: MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group
From: MLPA Initiative Staff
Subject: Introductory Guidelines for the Use of MarineMap in Marine Protected Area Planning
Date: February 9, 2010

The purpose of this memorandum is to convey to the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG) some introductory guidelines for using MarineMap in marine protected area (MPA) planning, how MarineMap should be used by NCRSG members over the coming weeks, and how MPAs should be drawn and attributed within MarineMap.

Purpose of MarineMap

MarineMap is an Internet-based decision support tool that provides NCRSG members with the capability to view data layers, draw individual MPAs, assemble collections of individual MPAs into MPA arrays, receive basic feedback on how well individual MPAs and MPA arrays meet guidelines for MPA design, and submit complete MPA proposals. This tool will be the primary way in which MLPA Initiative staff and NCRSG members capture and store information regarding individual MPAs and MPA arrays. MarineMap can be accessed at <http://northcoast.marinemap.org/marinemap/>.

Technical Requirements for MarineMap

MarineMap is used through a web browser and does not require you to download a program to your computer. MarineMap works best with Firefox, Chrome and Safari. Currently the new version of MarineMap, being released this month, does not work with Internet Explorer. The new version of MarineMap will also require a small download to use the Google Earth functions in the program. All members of the public can view spatial information in MarineMap. With a MarineMap account, you can draw MPAs, assemble arrays and run reports on your arrays.

Use of MarineMap Prior to the March 24-25, 2010 NCRSG Meeting

On February 24 and 25, NCRSG members can participate in online training sessions for the new version of MarineMap (details to be provided via email). During these sessions, stakeholders will learn how to use basic functions within the tool, including displaying data layers and drawing individual MPAs. It is important that NCRSG members become comfortable using the MarineMap tool, as MarineMap will be a key, though not the only, way that stakeholders provide information regarding MPA proposals. Those individuals not comfortable using this technology will also be fully supported in their contributions to this process. NCRSG members will be notified of additional online and in-person training sessions via the NCRSG listserv.

A personal account within MarineMap has been created for each NCRSG member. This account allows stakeholders to create draft individual MPAs within MarineMap. Accounts are accessed using a "username" and "password," which will allow stakeholders to keep information confidential, if desired. NCRSG members will receive their username and password from MLPA Initiative staff shortly following this communication.

Once logged into an account, NCRSG members will have the capability to draw and save individual MPAs. Prior to the March NCRSG meeting, staff recommends that NCRSG members use this function for the following purposes:

- Become familiar with how to access and use MarineMap
- Learn how to create draft individual MPAs
- Learn about the kinds of information that must be submitted when an individual MPA is drawn (e.g. proposed regulations, site specific rationale, etc.)
- Become familiar with the kinds of data layers that can be displayed when thinking about where to draw individual MPAs. Think about how certain data layers might be informative when considering boundaries and regulations.
- Use available data layers to think about "areas of interest" that might be considered in MPA planning, either for inclusion within an MPA or for avoiding when creating MPAs.

Staff recommends that NCRSG members not use MarineMap to generate complete MPA proposals prior to the March NCRSG meeting. At the March NCRSG meeting, stakeholders will continue to participate in joint fact-finding, receiving background information on the study region, external MPA arrays and evaluations of external MPA arrays. The process of drafting complete MPA proposals will begin after the March meeting. Prior to the March meeting, NCRSG members should use MarineMap to accomplish the tasks listed above.

Use of MarineMap after the March 24-25, 2010 NCRSG Meeting

The March 24-25 NCRSG meeting marks the beginning of Round 2 of an iterative process to design, evaluate and revise MPA proposals that began with the submission of 8 external MPA arrays from community groups. After this meeting, stakeholders will collaborate during work sessions and meetings to generate complete MPA proposals, which will be submitted to the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT), MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF), California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks), and staff for review and evaluation. The NCRSG will receive feedback from these groups as well as input from the public, which will be used to revise MPA proposals. The NCRSG will participate in two rounds of MPA proposal generation and refinement in this manner.

MarineMap will serve as the primary means for recording information during the iterative MPA design process. During this portion of the process, MarineMap will serve the following purposes:

- Display and overlay relevant data layers
- Draw and modify individual MPAs

- Record information relating to individual MPAs (e.g. proposed regulations, relevant goals and objectives, etc.)
- Save different options for individual MPAs
- Group individual MPAs into arrays, which may later be submitted as complete MPA proposals
- Share individual MPAs and arrays between stakeholders
- Receive feedback on the extent to which MPAs meet various guidelines

During future NCRSG meetings and work sessions, MLPA Initiative staff will use MarineMap to perform the functions summarized above. Between meetings, NCRSG members will have access to the same functions, in order to generate ideas to be discussed with the broader group. Note that the process for formally designing individual MPAs and arrays will occur after the March meeting, when NCRSG members have received further background information and guidance.

Guidelines for Creating Individual MPAs

In order to maximize the usefulness and efficiency of MarineMap, MLPA Initiative staff recommends that NCRSG members adhere to the following guidelines when drawing and attributing individual MPAs:

- Use the following format for naming individual MPAs: [geographical name] [designation type]. For example, if one wishes to propose a state marine conservation area (SMCA) near Pyramid Point, the name should be: "Pyramid Point SMCA"
- Enter supporting information for each individual MPA. Key kinds of information include:
 - **MPA Name** – Identifies the individual MPA, using the format described above.
 - **Site-Specific Rationale** – Provides the main reasons for creating the MPA. Describes why the MPA was placed in a particular location, the reasons for proposing associated regulations, and what the proposer is trying to accomplish with this particular MPA.
 - **Regional Goals and Objectives** – Identifies which key MLPA goals and regional objectives the MPA is intended to contribute toward attaining. MPAs need not contribute toward every goal and objective; different MPAs may be designed to meet different goals and objectives (note that further information regarding Regional Goals and Objectives will be presented to the NCRSG on March 24-25).
 - **Designation** – Describes the type of MPA proposed. This choice should reflect the kind of regulations that are proposed. State marine reserves (SMRs) should be used for proposed regulations that allow no commercial or recreational extraction, state marine parks (SMPs) should be used for proposed regulations that prohibit commercial extraction, and state marine conservation areas (SMCAs) should be used for proposed regulations that limit commercial and/or recreational extraction.
 - **Regulations** – Outlines the uses that are allowed within an MPA. In MarineMap, stakeholders may select from a list of allowed uses that have been assigned a "level of protection" by the SAT. If stakeholders wish to propose an allowed use that is not listed, they may indicate this in the 'Other proposed allowed uses' field.

Staff will review requests to propose additional allowed uses and forward to the SAT as appropriate.

- **Other Regulated Activities** – Provides a place to include recommendations for any non-fishing activities that you wish to allow or disallow within the proposed MPA.
 - **Boundaries** – Gives a written description of the MPA boundaries drawn in MarineMap. Please provide longitude and latitude, or major landmark, for north, south, east and west boundaries. Boundary may be the state waters line or mean high tide line for MPAs extending the full width of the study region.
 - **Other Design Considerations** – Provides a place to include any associated information that may be important to consider in relation to the MPA. Explanation of socioeconomic and/or feasibility considerations may be included here. Please also use this space for comments that do not easily fit in any of the categories above.
- When designing individual MPAs and MPA arrays, consider guidelines from the *Marine Life Protection Act, California Marine Life Protection Act Master Plan for Marine Protected Areas*, California Department of Fish and Game, California State Parks, and MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force, as complete MPA proposals will be evaluated against these guidelines. Note that MarineMap has the capacity to generate basic feedback on the design of individual MPAs and arrays, but that this feedback is not a substitute for formal evaluations that will follow submission of complete proposals.
 - Consider MPAs only within state waters. Individual MPAs may not be drawn outside of state waters or on land, and portions of individual MPAs that fall outside of the study region will be automatically "clipped" by MarineMap.
 - Separately consider MPAs that focus primarily on estuarine areas and MPAs that focus primarily on areas along the open coastline. If NCRSG members wish to have an MPA that includes an estuary and an adjacent area along the open coast, this idea should be submitted as two separate MPAs.

MLPA Initiative staff has worked to make MarineMap as user-friendly as possible. Any comments, questions, or technical issues should be sent to help@marinemap.org, so that staff can consider problems, concerns or suggestions for improvement.