

Key Outcomes Memorandum

Date: December 20, 2007

To: Members, MLPA Statewide Interests Group (SIG)

From: Scott McCreary and Eric Poncelet, CONCUR, Inc.

Re: Key Outcomes Memorandum – December 7, 2007 SIG Meeting

cc: BRTF members, MLPA Initiative Staff, and California Department of Fish and Game MLPA Staff

Participation and Materials

The following Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Initiative Statewide Interests Group (SIG) members participated in the December 7, 2007 conference call: Kevin Cooper, Harold Davis, Henry Fastenau, Kaitilin Gaffney, Vern Goerhing, Joel Greenberg, Angela Haren, Bill James, Ken Kurtis, James Liu, Tom Raftican, Roger Thomas, Shelly Walther, and Kate Wing.

Chair Susan Golding and Don Benninghoven participated as members of the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF).

Ken Wiseman and Melissa Miller-Henson (MLPA Initiative) and John Ugoretz (California Department of Fish and Game, DFG) participated on behalf of MLPA Initiative staff (collectively known as “I-Team”). Scott McCreary and Eric Poncelet (CONCUR, Inc.) facilitated the conference call.

Meeting materials may be found on the MLPA website at:
http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/meeting_120707.asp

Key Outcomes

SIG members reviewed their charge. SIG members confirmed their charge, which is to consult with the chair and staff to the BRTF and provide a forum for enhanced communication between the BRTF and stakeholders. Key topics include the MLPA Initiative and statewide policy issues, and outreach to constituent groups regarding opportunities for involvement in the MLPA Initiative.

SIG members provided feedback on the November 13, 2007 MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT) meeting and November 19-20, 2007 BRTF meeting. Key comments included:

- The SAT meeting would have benefited from improved time management. Some key agenda items (e.g., parallel processes) were not discussed due to a shortage of time. I-Team staff confirmed that an additional SAT meeting has been scheduled for January 8, 2008 to focus predominantly on the topic of modeling. I-Team staff also indicated that a new MLPA Initiative schedule has been developed for 2008 to help address time

compression concerns. The revised schedule extends the previous schedule by about a month and was provided in the meeting materials packet.

- The stakeholder panels that took place at the SAT and BRTF meetings were helpful. Similar stakeholder panel discussions should be scheduled for future SAT and BRTF meetings.
- SIG members requested copies of SAT responses to science questions posed by members of the MLPA North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCCRSO).
- One SIG member expressed concern with the rigor and validity of the SAT's current methodology for evaluating MPA proposals. I-Team staff clarified that, while the SAT's methodology and information sources are considered to constitute the "best available science" and are largely consistent with what was used in the MLPA central coast process, the SAT is still open to discussing and refining its methodology in the context of SAT meetings. Staff noted that an adaptive management process is also in place to address needed changes.

SIG members discussed strategy for upcoming public workshops. I-Team staff announced its intent to convene three public workshops on February 4-6, 2008 to support the MPA planning process. SIG members noted that disinformation still exists regarding the MLPA initiative and strongly supported the idea of public workshops at this juncture. SIG members offered the following additional input:

- The public needs advanced notice about the purpose and timing of the workshops. I-Team staff also needs to clearly indicate how public input will be incorporated into the MLPA process.
- The workshops should include a concise primer on the MLPA and the SAT guidelines. I-Team staff should also provide guidance to help members of the public frame their comments so that this input to the NCCRSO is as relevant and useful as possible.
- It would be helpful to prepare a visual timeline of the MLPA process (using flow charts) so the public can better understand where the public workshops fit into the broader process. This timeline should be distributed with the announcements for the public workshops.

SIG members reviewed overall public involvement in the MLPA Initiative. Key comments and advice included:

- The document entitled "Strategy for Stakeholder and Interested Public Participations" should be made broadly available to interested stakeholders and the general public early on in the process.
- SIG members expressed some concern that public comments were not being posted on the MLPA Initiative website in a timely fashion. I-Team staff indicated that a new staff member is assisting.

Next SIG Meeting – January 17, 2008 (2:00 – 4:00 PM)

I-Team and SIG members acknowledged that, in general, the intent is to convene SIG meetings at an interval about two weeks after BRTF meetings. SIG members also requested that its next meeting be held shortly after the next SAT meeting.

As such, the next SIG conference call is now scheduled for Thursday, January 17, 2008. The call will run from 2:00 – 4:00 PM.

Suggested agenda items for the next SIG meeting include:

- Provide update on the next phase of the MLPA Initiative process (MLPA South Coast Study Region). Include information on anticipated timeline, approach to public outreach, and approach to data collection.
- Provide update on SAT discussions on parallel processes (i.e., modeling).
- Discuss upcoming February 4-6, 2008 public workshops and other future public involvement opportunities.

SIG members confirmed that future meetings will generally take place by conference call, although the option exists to hold in-person meetings, if needed. In general, SIG members expressed a preference to meet in the afternoons and on Thursdays, if possible, but to avoid California Fish and Game Commission meetings. SIG members also asked for the opportunity to provide input on future SIG meeting agendas.

Next Steps

1. Staff to provide SIG members with SAT responses to science questions. These will be distributed along with this key outcomes memorandum.
2. All SIG members are invited to attend the January 8, 2008 SAT meeting scheduled from approximately 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM at the San Francisco International Airport.
3. Staff to prepare for the next SIG meeting on January 17, 2008 (2:00-4:00 PM) and to provide SIG members with a draft agenda in advance of the meeting for review.
4. Staff to begin preparing for the February 4-6, 2008 public workshops and to develop a preliminary draft agenda to be available for brief review by the SIG at its January 17, 2008 meeting.