

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative



Water Quality in the MLPA South Coast Study Region

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Water Quality Guidance

- SAT recommends avoiding, where possible, water quality concern areas
 - Cooling water intake sites for power plants
 - Municipal sewage or industrial outfalls
 - Pollutant discharges from large industrial or developed watersheds
- SAT recommends including, where possible, state water quality protection areas (SWQPAs), a type of marine managed area
 - Areas of special biological significance (ASBS) are a subset of SWQPAs



Water Quality Guidance

- Water quality concern areas were mapped and most sites received a buffer zone around them, depending on the site
 - Power plant – entrainment impact zones
 - Stormwater discharge – toxicity plume zones
 - Municipal and industrial wastewater
 - Major wastewater discharges – ½ mile impact zone around outfall and diffusers
 - Intermediate discharges



Scoring Methods

- Scores are allocated based on the presence or absence of any of the three water quality concern areas (intakes or discharges) in a proposed MPA
 - If an MPA includes any of these three, then the overall score is reduced
- For SWQPA/ASBS, scores are based on the percentage of shoreline coverage



Evaluation Scoring Methods

- Scoring hierarchy is used for the water quality concern areas based on potential effects to MPA success
- Effects from power plant intakes > stormwater discharges > industrial/municipal wastewater discharges
- Co-locating with an SWQPA improves the score