

# Memorandum

Date: August 23, 2005

To: Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group

From: **John Ugoretz, Nearshore Ecosystem Coordinator  
Department of Fish and Game**



Subject: Coordination of MLPA objectives and information from other management plans

Background: A question arose at the August Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (CCRSG) meeting regarding the potential inclusion of recommendations from other management plans in the central coast objectives. The CCRSG agreed to seek guidance from the Department of Fish and Game (Department) on this issue.

Two plans, in particular, were discussed - the Nearshore Fishery Management Plan (NFMP) and the draft Abalone Recovery and Management Plan (ARMP). Each plan includes recommendations for the planning of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and defers any immediate decision on MPAs to the Marine Life Protection Act process. These recommendations are included in the Master Plan Framework adopted by the Fish and Game Commission for consideration in the design of regional goals and objectives (see pages 54-55 of the Master Plan Framework).

Department Analysis: It is important to note that neither management plan includes specific, measurable, objectives for MPAs. Instead, they list features of MPAs that are necessary to meet the management plans' goals and objectives. The NFMP addresses this on pages 87 and 88 of Section 1, Chapter 3. It notes specifically that once the MLPA process is complete, "the Department and Commission will thoroughly review the plan and adjust the NFMP accordingly." Thus, if MPAs established or modified by the MLPA process do not include the features identified in the NFMP, the Department and Commission may adjust them through the NFMP process. Similarly, the ARMP lists "criteria for MPA development" in order to meet the plan's goals and objectives (Page 7-2). Each MPA designated or modified through the MLPA process can be compared to these criteria to see if the ARMP goals and objectives are met.

Recommendation: With this in mind, the Department concludes that the features and criteria listed in the NFMP and ARMP are appropriately addressed by the Master Plan Framework and as design considerations. They should not be added as objectives for the central coast region. When selecting indicator species to monitor the effectiveness of MPAs, abalone and the 19 nearshore species should be included so that determinations can be made as to whether the management plans' goals are also being met.