

California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative

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To: MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group
From: MLPA Initiative Staff
Subject: Introductory Guidelines for the Use of MarineMap in Marine Protected Area Planning
Date: December 15, 2008

The purpose of this memorandum is to convey to the MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (SCRSG) some introductory guidelines for using MarineMap in marine protected area (MPA) planning., how MarineMap should be used by stakeholders 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 SCRSG 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 SCRSG members capture and store information regarding individual MPAs and MPA arrays. MarineMap can be accessed at <http://www.marinemap.org/marinemap>.

Use of MarineMap Prior to the January 13-14, 2009 SCRSG Meeting

In mid-December, SCRSG members will be participating in online MarineMap training sessions. 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 SCRSG members become comfortable using the MarineMap tool during these sessions, 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.

A personal account within MarineMap will be created for each SCRSG member. This account will allow stakeholders to create draft individual MPAs within MarineMap. Accounts will be accessed using a "username" and "password," which will allow stakeholders to keep information confidential, if desired. SCRSG members will receive their username and password from MLPA Initiative staff a few days in advance of the MarineMap training.

Once accounts are created, SCRSG members will have the capability to draw and save individual MPAs. Prior to the January SCRSG meeting, staff recommends that SCRSG 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, relevant goals and objectives, 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. SCCRSB members should come to the January meeting prepared to discuss these areas of interest.

Staff recommends that SCRSB members not use MarineMap to generate complete MPA proposals prior to the January SCRSB meeting. At the January SCRSB meeting, stakeholders will continue to participate in joint fact-finding and learn about key features and characteristics within the MLPA South Coast Study Region. In addition, SCRSB members will continue to share interests, knowledge, and expertise with one another. Creating individual MPAs, as well as MPA arrays, will be conducted after this meeting, when stakeholders have received further background information on the study region and details for how complete MPA proposals will be evaluated. Prior to this meeting, SCRSB members should use MarineMap to accomplish the tasks listed above.

Use of MarineMap after the January 13-14, 2009 SCRSB Meeting

The January SCRSB meeting marks the beginning of an iterative process to design, evaluate and revise MPA proposals. 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, California Department of Parks and Recreation, and staff for review and evaluation. The SCRSB will then receive feedback from these groups as well as input from the public, which will be used to revise MPA proposals. The SCRSB will participate in three 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 SCRSG meetings and work sessions, MLPA Initiative staff will use MarineMap to perform the functions summarized above. Between meetings, SCRSG 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 January meeting, when SCRSG 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 SCRSG members adhere to the following guidelines when drawing and attributing individual MPAs:

- Use the following format for naming individual MPAs: [geographical name] [designation type] [your initials] [version number]. For example, if Jane Smith wanted to propose a state marine conservation area (SMCA) near Point Lobos, she would name her MPA "Point Lobos SMCA JS 1." Later, if Jane wished to create a different individual MPA in the same area, she would name her new MPA "Point Lobos SMCA JS 2."
- Enter supporting information for each individual MPA. Key kinds of information include:
 - **MPA Name** – Identifies the individual MPA, using the format described above.
 - **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 space provided. Staff will review requests to propose additional allowed uses and forward to the SAT as appropriate.
 - **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.
 - **Additional Notes** – Provides a place to include any associated information that may be important to consider in relation to the MPA. Please use this space for comments that do not easily fit in any of the categories above.
- Maintain a reasonable number of individual MPAs within your account. Edit and update MPA boundaries and associated information as your thinking evolves. Maintain MPAs that are being actively considered and delete MPAs that are no longer relevant to current

discussions. Prior to the January SCRSG meeting, stakeholders will be limited to creating no more than 15 individual MPAs. This limitation is designed to focus stakeholders on learning how to use MarineMap, as opposed to creating entire MPA proposals before the January SCRSG meeting. SCRSG members will have the ability to create MPA arrays in MarineMap after the January SCRSG meeting.

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