

California MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group
Narrative Rationale for SCRSG Marine Protected Area Proposal 3
September 16, 2009

MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (SCRSG) Work Group 3 (WG3) Methodology

- Create a proposal striving to achieve *preferred* SAT science guidelines as requested by the BRTF.
- Analyze each sub-bioregion's marine resources, choosing clusters of key and unique habitats to create efficient MPAs that protect a naturally functioning biodiverse food web for maximum productivity and ecosystem resilience – all in one preferred-science MPA.
- Consult and utilize 2nd round SAT bio-economic modeling analyses, as they balanced biological productivity and socio-economic effects simply, comparably and spatially.
- Carefully consider feasibility, State Parks, and stakeholder guidance as well as positive and negative socio-economic effects.
- Seek convergence where possible and adopt scientifically valid cross-interest shapes held common from previous rounds.
- Create several sub-preferred shapes in high use areas by refining MPAs to the tenth of a minute to maximize cost- benefit while ensuring scientific performance.
- Design small heritage MPAs to capture unique or high performance habitats—just big enough and with enough protection to capture the heart or essence of the resource and make a valid contribution to the MPA network.
- Absorb or eliminate non-performing Existing MPAs.

SCRSG WG3's MPA Proposal Summary

At **Point Conception**, we created an SMR that captured all available habitats in a remote, sparsely populated area, with just over the preferred six coastal miles. Conception is Group 3's largest MPA due to an offshore fan for rare rock. We based the coastal extent on a Round 2 convergence shape shown in SAT modeling to be the most efficiently productive.

At **Goleta, Celo in the Chumash language**, we used an early round MPA shape presented by local fishermen, enlarging 1/10th of a minute to the west to complete a soft proxy replicate. This minimum sized MPA contains all SAT key offshore habitats but three rare deep ones, and connects to Devereux Lagoon.

Nearby **Naples Reef** was deemed important for inclusion for intrinsic value and bio-economic performance (this tiny Naples MPA produced as much biomass conservation as mega Point Conception). Naples provides eco- dive, snorkel, kayak and wildlife viewing opportunities as well as 'Fishing the Line.'

The SMCA at **Rincon, Mishopsno** in Chumash, was created to fulfill SAT spacing habitat replication requirements to Point Dume. This MPA efficiently accomplishes all available spacing replicates, in a sparsely populated area with high quality near-shore habitat. There

was a typically delicate balance in play: avoid Carpinteria Reef and State Park while achieving science guidance.

Dume/Lachusa, with both preferred size and coastline, these MPAs encompass two eco-types, a submarine canyon and all available habitats. Lachusa SMCA extends west just far enough to include a full persistent kelp bed replicate, rather than combining small patches of kelp. This same Lapis Dume cluster scored highest in SAT modeling effect on biomass. Pt. Dume SMR will serve a large local and tourist non-consumptive diving, snorkeling, kayaking, paddling and wildlife viewing community.

Palos Verdes SMR is another bio-economic powerhouse that includes part of a submarine canyon and all but 1 key habitat. This was the only place to put this network-critical SMR to include key habitats and avoid feasibility issues, with northern boundary efficiently matching Fishing District 19A line."

At **Laguna SMR** we adhered to the Laguna City Council's request to protect all of Laguna for ease of enforcement. The tiny SMCA strips protect the high intrinsic-value intertidal habitats of Newport and Dana Point, while allowing most fishing. This design best leverages long-standing community implementation infrastructure, including local enforcement officers, citizen docent programs, and State Parks on-site facilities and personnel.

At the **offshore islands**, we included the offered **military options**, and at Catalina designed two minimum sized SMRs protecting unique habitats on both the front and back sides at **Farnsworth** and the **North End**. Farnsworth replicates all offshore habitats but one and adds rare deepwater eelgrass; North End includes all habitats but four. Two small heritage SMR's were placed at critically valuable front side marine resource habitats at **Blue Cavern** and **Long Point**.

In **San Diego County** major marine assets were widely spread, including a full suite of healthy estuaries, Swamis northern kelp, La Jolla's deep canyon, La Jolla Reefs, Point Loma kelp and the Tijuana River's border ecosystem.

We chose to protect the two best habitats in minimum-sized MPAs: **Swamis** persistent kelp with its multi-habitat ecosystem and San Elijo lagoon connection, and the incomparable **South La Jolla Reef**, with by far the highest San Diego area Round 2 SAT model effect on biomass. La Jolla Canyon's double heads, at **Matlahuayl** and **San Diego-Scripps, Cabrillo National Monument** and three **north county estuaries** were protected in MPAs sized minimally to accomplish their individual tasks with maximum protection for minimum socio-economic costs.

The southernmost **Tijuana River Mouth SMCA** respects SAT guidance that persistent south to north currents are likely to replenish populations by south to north larval migrations. This SMCA is an important link in cross-border larval transport from Mexico into the US and north along the coast, and provides biological connectivity to TJ River estuary.

SUMMARY: Our efficient science-based MPA proposal protects a total of 17.5% of the South Coast study region, with 12.4% in SMRs. These percentages include existing MPAs at the northern Channel Islands, and the military island MPAs pursuant to BRTF guidance. In comparison, the newly adopted MLPA proposal in the North Central Coast protects about 20%

of their study area. The Group 3 proposal was designed to function as an interconnected network of MPAs that meet preferred SAT guidelines and fulfill the goals of the MLPA, with the ultimate intent of making a substantial contribution to the State-wide network of MPAs. At 17.5% of the study region including the existing Channel Islands MPAs, this efficient, conservative array compares favorably to previously adopted arrays.