

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative



Status of the North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group Process

Presentation to the
California Fish and Game Commission and the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force

February 13, 2008 • Pacifica, California

Scott McCreary, CONCUR, Inc.



Where we are in the planning process?

North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCCRSG)

- May 22-23, 2007 meeting
- July 10-11, 2007 meeting
- August 22-23, 2007 meeting
- September 7, 2007 work session
- September 25, 2007 work session
- October 16-17, 2007 meeting
- November 28, 2007 meeting
- December 11-12, 2007 meeting



NCCRSG Meetings and Work Sessions

- May 22-23, 2007 meeting (San Rafael)
 - Project kick-off
 - Review NCCRSG charge and goals
 - Initial review of draft regional profile
- July 10-11, 2007 meeting (Pacifica)
 - Continued review of draft regional profile and joint fact-finding
 - Initial development of draft regional goals and objectives
 - Received presentations of MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT), California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), and staff guidelines for developing marine protected area (MPAs) proposals
 - Received informational briefings (continued throughout the NCCRSG process)



NCCRSG Meetings and Work Sessions

- August 22-23, 2007 meeting (San Rafael)
 - Continued development of regional goals and objectives
 - Continued joint fact-finding
 - Initiated **cross-interest** work group process: created “gem” groups (Emerald, Jade, Turquoise)
- September 7, 2007 work session (San Rafael)
 - Initial development of “draft options for MPA arrays”
- September 25, 2007 work session (San Rafael)
 - Continued development of draft options for MPA arrays

Note: On October 4, 2007 four “external draft MPA proposals” were submitted to the MLPA Initiative process



NCCRSG Meetings and Work Sessions

- October 15-16, 2007 meeting (Gualala)
 - Adopted provisional north central coast regional goals and objectives
 - Received presentations on 4 external draft MPA proposals
 - Completed development of 6 draft options for MPA arrays (Emerald A&B, Jade A&B, Turquoise A&B); first “round” of MPA development
- November 28, 2007 meeting (San Rafael)
 - Received presentation of SAT, DFG and staff evaluations, and MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force guidance on first round draft MPA arrays
 - Received presentation on socioeconomic analysis
 - Planned next steps to revise draft options for MPA arrays



NCCRSG Meetings and Work Sessions

- December 11-12, 2007 meeting (Pacifica)
 - Developed four “draft MPA proposals”; round 2 of MPA proposal development process
 - Draft MPA proposals reflect efforts to converge both within the work groups and between work groups and external draft MPA proposals; also reflect input from public comments
 - Supported additional time for revision of External Draft Proposal A
 - Established a work group process to address “special closures”



Evolution of MPA Proposals

Round 1 (10 arrays)

- Proposal 0 (existing MPAs)
- Draft Array Option, Emerald A
- Draft Array Option, Emerald B
- Draft Array Option, Jade A
- Draft Array Option, Jade B
- Draft Array Option, Turquoise A
- Draft Array Option, Turquoise B
- External Draft Proposal A
- External Draft Proposal B
- External Draft Proposal C
- External Draft Proposal D

Round 2 (5 draft proposals)

- Proposal 0 (existing MPAs)
- Draft Proposal 1 (EC)
- Draft Proposal 2 (JD)
- Draft Proposal 3 (TC)
- Draft Proposal 4 (JC)
- Revised Draft External Proposal A



Round 2 Convergence

Round 1 Arrays and Proposals	Resulting Converged Proposals
Emerald A Emerald B	Proposal 1 (EC)
Jade B External Draft Proposal B	Proposal 2 (JD)
Turquoise A Turquoise B	Proposal 3 (TC)
Jade A External Draft Proposal C	Proposal 4 (JC)
External Draft Proposal A	Draft External Proposal A

Note: External Draft Proposal D was used as a source of ideas; it was not advanced to Round 2.



How Was Convergence Achieved?

- Active deliberation on tradeoffs
- Incentives to reach convergence: proceed to next round
- Refinement based on public comments
- "Transfer" of good ideas and solutions across arrays
- Expressions of preference and selective straw voting
- Some contingent agreements, as in "I will support X solution in location A if you support Y solution in location B"
- Lots of goodwill, support, and encouragement



Current Status of MPA Planning Process

- Second round of proposals have been reviewed and evaluated by SAT, DFG, I-Team
- Public workshops convened on Feb. 4 (Petaluma), 5 (Gualala) and 6 (Pacifica)
 - Robust participation
 - Public invited to provide written comments on draft MPA proposals
 - Comments will be synthesized for presentation to NCCRSG



Next Steps

February 14	BRTF meeting to review draft proposals and provide additional guidance for NCCRSG
February 21	NCCRSG meeting to receive SAT, BRTF, DFG, staff evaluation findings and guidance; plan next steps to revise proposals
March 4	NCCRSG work session to begin to revise draft proposals
March 18-19	NCCRSG meeting to complete Round 3 MPA proposals; express relative preferences
April 3	SAT meeting to review Round 3 proposals
April 22-23	BRTF meeting to select preferred alternative to forward to California Fish and Game Commission