



Marine Life Protection Act




Update on California Department of Fish and Game Guidance for MPA Proposals

North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group Meeting
February 21, 2008 • San Rafael, CA
Susan Ashcraft
California Department of Fish and Game




Department Guidance Topics

- Updated Memo on Feasibility Criteria
- Memo on Private Lands and MPAs
- Guidance on Special Conditions



Feasibility Criteria for Evaluations

- MLPA MOU requires the Department to prepare a statement of the feasibility criteria used in its evaluation of MPA proposals.
- Department memo prepared June 11, 2007: *“Statement of feasibility criteria for use in analyzing siting alternatives during the second phase of the Marine Life Protection Act Initiative”*.



Updated Memo - Feasibility Criteria (Feb 11, 2008)

Issues Clarified:

Floating Corners


- Optimally - whole minutes of lat/long;
- half minutes are less desirable;
- 1/10th minutes least preferred.

Diagonal Lines

- May follow the angle of the coastline
- “Anchored” at whole minute lines of lat/long


Distance Offshore (Islands)

- Must extend from shoreline to state waters boundary.




Private Lands and MPAs

- Department Memo to NCCRSF prepared Jan 31, 2008: *“Private Land Ownership and Marine Protected Areas.”*
 - Ownership of land adjacent to MPAs
 - Access
 - Marine stewardship




Department Guidance - Special Conditions

- **Existing aquaculture leases**
 - If proposal includes an SMR where lease exists, change to SMCA designation
 - Document future recommendations



Department Guidance - Special Conditions

- **Waterfowl hunting**
 - If proposal includes an MPA where waterfowl hunting occurs, change proposed designation to SMRMA



Department Guidance - Special Conditions

- **Including Existing MPAs within proposal**
 - Boundary issues: Many existing shapes do not meet DFG feasibility criteria
 - Regulations: Complex regulations should be simplified (DFG can assist)