

California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative

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To: MLPA North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCCRSG)
From: Marine Life Protection Act Initiative Staff (MLPA I-Team)
Subject: Update to potential special closures options menu to reflect California Department of Fish and Game feasibility guidance (dated March 13, 2008)
Date: March 17, 2008

The work group to address marine bird and mammal disturbance in the MLPA North Central Coast Study Region has now met three times; twice in person and once via teleconference. The group's last meeting occurred on Friday, March 14, 2008 subsequent to distribution of the characterized menu of special closure options to the NCCRSG on March 13, 2008.

California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) Feasibility guidance for special closure design

At the March 14 teleconference, DFG presented new guidance from enforcement personnel on the feasibility of special closure design. DFG enforcement recommends that the NCCRSG apply a consistent distance to special closure boundaries. A review of existing regulations from the inter-agency Seabird Protection Program suggests a boundary of 1000 feet from any nesting or breeding site that the NCCRSG recommends for special closure designation. Where this distance poses public access or transit problems, DFG enforcement recommends that 300 feet be used as an alternative.

Work group application of feasibility guidance

During the March 14 teleconference, the disturbance work group refined the menu of special closure options to reflect the new feasibility guidance from DFG. The work group revised the boundary distances for eight of the special closure options and eliminated one option (Option K2 at Double Point). The revised menu includes a total of nineteen special closure options (other than the status quo) at thirteen seabird and marine mammal hot spots.

Additional information from individual disturbance work group members

In addition to the refined special closures menu, which was vetted by the disturbance work group, some individual work group members (Ed Tavasieff, Irina Kogan, and Bob Wilson) have provided additional information on special closures for the NCCRSG (attached).

The attached revised menu of special closure options is a tool for NCCRSG members as they consider the inclusion of special closures in their MPA designs for the MLPA North Central Coast Study Region.

The I-Team appreciates the time and hard work that the disturbance work group has devoted to addressing marine bird and mammal disturbance in the study region.

Attachments