

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative



Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT) Activities

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

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Mary Gleason, Principal Planner, MLPA Initiative



North Central Coast SAT Meetings

Eleven Meetings in Total for NCCSR

- Ten Meetings (to date)
 - Two via conference call
- One pending

Final North Central Coast SAT Meeting

- To be scheduled about one month after California Fish and Game Commission recommended preferred alternative is selected
- Potential joint meeting with new SAT appointees and/or experts to develop recommendations and smooth transition to SAT for MLPA South Coast Study Region



Updates on Recent Activities

- 1. Finalized additional responses to science questions from stakeholders**
- 2. Updated list of species likely to benefit from MPAs**
 - Discussed two species of abalone and white sharks (not added to list)
 - Barred surfperch added to the species most likely to benefit list



Updates on Recent Activities

3. Updated evaluation methods document

- **Adopted methods for evaluating MPA proposals; may be additional minor edits and clarifications to document after final meeting**
- **Updates to level of protection (“LOP”) assignments based on allowed take in MPAs**
 - Salmon (trolling), pelagic finfish (hook and line), Coastal pelagic finfish (by seine); LOP assignment moderate-high or high based on depth
 - Croaker (by hook and line) and smelt (by hook and line or hand/dip nets); assigned moderate LOP
 - Mariculture text revised slightly following discussions with industry; low LOP retained



Level of Protection

	Level of Protection	MPA Types	Activities associated with this protection level
	Very high	SMR	No take
	High	SMCA	In water depth > 50m: pelagic finfish¹ by hook and line (salmon by troll only); coastal pelagic finfish² by seine
	Moderate-high	SMCA	In water depth < 50m: pelagic finfish¹ by hook and line (salmon by troll only); coastal pelagic finfish² by seine; Dungeness crab (traps/pots), squid (pelagic seine)
	Moderate	SMCA SMP	salmon (non-troll H&L); abalone (diving); halibut, white seabass, shore-based finfish, croaker , and flatfishes (H&L); smelt (H&L and hand/dip nets) ; clams (hand harvest); giant kelp (hand harvest)
	Moderate-low	SMCA SMP	Urchin (diving); lingcod, cabezon, greenling, rockfish, and other reef fish (H&L); surfperches (H&L)
	Low	SMCA SMP	bull kelp and mussels (any method); all trawling; giant kelp (mechanical harvest); mariculture (existing methods)

SMCA = state marine conservation area

SMP = state marine park

SMR = state marine reserve



Updates on Recent Activities

3. Updated evaluation methods document (cont'd)

- Water Quality
 - Acknowledgment that MPA proposals were not formally evaluated in terms of water quality in north central coast
 - Brief discussion on impacts to habitat quality from poor water or sediment quality



Update of SAT Activities

4) SAT evaluation of Round 3 MPA proposals and the Integrated Preferred Alternative

5) Modeling of MPA proposals for population sustainability

- Modeling efforts added a parallel assessment of MPA proposals to evaluate population sustainability of selected species
- Initially began with five models; merged to two models (EDOM and UCD model)
- New work group formed to merge results into more easily understood and comparable format



Next Steps to Support South Coast

- Modeling efforts continued (two models and may consider others)
- Water quality considerations for future study regions
- Further develop list of south coast science questions to provide initial guidance to regional stakeholders in planning process
- Created work groups to start addressing questions
- Hold initial discussion for how to handle external data brought to the SAT in the MLPA South Coast Study Region
- Smooth transition to SAT for south coast