

# Marine Life Protection Act Initiative



## Decision Context – MPA Proposals for the North Central Coast Study Region

Presentation to the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force

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# Overview of Roles in MOU

1. Blue Ribbon Task Force: Provides policy guidance and recommendations to California Fish and Game Commission
2. Master Plan Science Advisory Team: Provides scientific guidance and evaluations, “best readily available science”
3. Stakeholders and interested public: Provide practical information on marine environment, ecological values, fishing and socioeconomics; regional stakeholder group develops proposed alternatives
4. California Department of Fish and Game: Provides feasibility guidance and feedback/input throughout process
5. California Fish and Game Commission: Adopts regulations to redesign MPAs in study region



# Avoiding Information Overload

- Context, draft arrays and proposals, and SAT evaluation information in binder
- Areas of overlap among work group arrays, as well as all ten arrays/proposals
- SAT evaluation includes methods and general outcomes - SAT members available to answer questions
- Various details available as requested
- Array/proposal representatives on panel this afternoon to answer questions



# Charter Role of Task Force

- Secretary Chrisman's Charter for the Blue Ribbon Task Force
  - "...to guide the development of alternative MPA proposals and to recommend a preferred alternative to the Fish and Game Commission..."



# Steps to Task Force Decision

- North central coast regional stakeholder group (NCCRSG) appointed
- Science advisory team established; science sub-team and works groups to support task force and NCCRSG
- To date, four two-day meetings of NCCRSG and two days of work sessions
- Eleven public workshops, including five for data gathering, and numerous small groups
- Extensive staff support including regional profile, data layers, mapping tools, GIS analysis, facilitation
- Strong commitment and lots of hours



# Addressing Concerns

- Timing relatively tight, but MLPA passed in 1999, MLPA second phase started Jan 2007, NCCRSG started May 2007, task force decision not until April 2008, and then commission public process
- Readily available information shared equally
- SAT evaluations are consistent with MLPA and master plan
- Have attempted to apply MLPA, master plan and staff guidance consistently
- Some errors have been made and are corrected as quickly as possible



# Task Force Decisions

- Provide direction on policy issues
- Identify draft proposals that do not satisfy MLPA or master plan
- Statements on strengths and weaknesses of process and general concepts being discussed
- Recommendations on changing any or all draft proposals
- Recommendation(s) to commission regarding preferred alternative



# Task Force Guidance

Guidance regarding:

- Response to SAT and staff evaluations
- Response to California Department of Fish and Game feasibility analysis
- Winnowing number of draft arrays and proposals
- Levels of protection – which levels to inform decisions

Forms of guidance:

- Requests and suggestions to draft array and proposal representatives
- Questions to science advisory team
- Direction to staff



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