

**California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT)
January 23, 2008 Meeting Summary
(revised March 31, 2008)**

**Best Western Lighthouse Hotel
105 Rockaway Beach Avenue
Pacifica, CA
9:30 a.m.**

Note: Audio and video recordings of this meeting are available on the Internet at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/>. Please contact AGP Video Services at (805) 772-2715 to obtain DVD copies of these recordings.

SAT members attending: Sarah Allen, Eric Bjorkstedt, Mark Carr, Chris Costello, Steve Gaines, Dominic Gregorio, Gerry McChesney, Steven Morgan, Karina Nielsen, Ray Hilborn, John Ugoretz, Carl Walters

SAT members absent: Caroline Hermans, John Largier, Pete Raimondi, Astrid Scholz

Others attending: Dr. Loo Botsford

Meeting Objectives

- *Review and potentially approve evaluation methods for MPA proposals*
- *Review, discuss, and potentially approve evaluations of draft MPA proposals*
- *Receive report from modeling work group and potentially approve parallel approaches in the MLPA North Central Coast Study Region and/or future study regions*
- *Review, discuss, and potentially approve responses to science questions*

Meeting agenda may be found on the MLPA website at:
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/meetings.asp>

Meeting Summary

The meeting was brought to order at 9:30 a.m.

1. Welcome, introductions, and review of agenda

No changes were made to the agenda.

2. Updates

Couple of updates.

- Three upcoming public workshops (February 4- 6)
- Future meetings
- Track changes version of the Methods Used to Evaluate Proposals, as well as an addendum to that Methods document

3. Science questions

- A. Report on new questions and drafts of responses
- B. Review and potentially approve responses to outstanding science questions

Members of the SAT reviewed draft responses to science questions that had been generated by the NCCRSG. Members discussed the responses, heard public comment relating to the questions, and then unanimously voted to approve the draft responses.

4. Evaluation methods for north central coast draft MPA proposals (Attachments 2-4, Handout A)

- A. Review, discuss and **potentially approve** evaluation methods for MPA proposals in the north central coast

The SAT reviewed existing levels of protection for salmon trolling (changed to “high” in water deeper than 50m and “high/moderate-high” in water shallower than 50m), crab fishing, striped bass fishing, shorefishing, and halibut hook and line fishing (all remained at their previous level of protection). Members also established new levels of protection for mariculture activities (“low”), which had not been previously reviewed.

Salmon Trolling

During the January 8, 2008 SAT meeting, members agreed to postpone a vote on the level of protection assigned to areas permitting salmon trolling until the January 23, 2008 meeting. A four-part vote was established to afford this complex issue the attention it deserved. First, SAT members voted unanimously to reject the division of salmon trolling into areas deeper than 50 meters and shallower than 50 meters for the purposes of assigning levels of protection. Next, members voted on three alternative plans:

1. Designate areas with salmon trolling as “high” level of protection, regardless of depth and substrate.
2. Designate areas with salmon trolling as “high” level of protection over soft bottom habitats and “moderate-high” over rocky habitats.
3. Designate areas with salmon trolling as “high” level of protection deeper than 50 meters and “high/moderate-high” level of protection in areas shallower than 50 meters.

SAT members voted 4-8 for alternative 1 and 5-7 for alternative 2, so both failed. Alternative 3 received a 7-4 vote (with one member not present), so alternative 3 passed. Alternative 3 was created to indicate to the Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) that a level of uncertainty existed in the data for salmon trolling, and the SAT was divided as to how best to interpret the data.

Mariculture

SAT co-chair Mark Carr presented information about the potential and actual impacts of mariculture activities in the North Central Coast Study Region (NCCSR). After discussion among SAT members and after hearing public comment, the SAT unanimously voted to assign a “low” level of protection to areas allowing mariculture activities.

Shorefishing

Members of the SAT heard comments from the public on the impacts of shorefishing and did not make a motion to change the current level of protection, so it remained at “moderate.”

Crabs

SAT co-chair Steven Morgan presented information about the potential impacts of crab fishing in the NCCSR. After discussion among SAT members and after hearing public comment, no motion was made to change the current level of protection, so it remained at “moderate-high.”

Halibut hook and line

After discussion among SAT members and hearing public comment, no motion was made to change the current level of protection, so it remained at “moderate.”

Striped Bass

After discussion among SAT members and hearing public comment, SAT co-chair Mark Carr moved to give a “moderate-high” protection to areas allowing striped bass fishing. Members voted 2-7, so the motion failed and the level of protection remained at “moderate.”

Changes to the Evaluation Methods document

SAT members unanimously voted to approve changes in the evaluation methods document to reflect the above votes and add information about the potential impacts of crab fishing in the appendix.

4. Evaluations of draft MPA proposals

- A. *Review, discuss and **potentially approve** evaluations of draft MPA proposals in the north central coast*
- B. *Evaluation timeline and presentations to the MLPA North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group and the BRTF*

Mary Gleason introduced the evaluations of draft MPA proposals for the NCCSR. SAT co-chair, Mark Carr, presented the evaluations of habitat types and replication. Steve Gaines presented the evaluations of the size and spacing guidelines. Gerry McChesney and Sarah Allen presented the evaluations for birds and mammals. Susan Ashcraft presented a summary of the potential socioeconomic impacts of the draft MPA proposals.

After discussion among SAT members and after hearing public comments on all aspects of the MLPA process, members unanimously voted to accept the evaluations of draft MPA proposals and present them at the next BRTF meeting.

5. Modeling work group

- A. *Equilibrium Delay-difference Optimization Model – Chris Costello*

- B. *Population Sustainability and Yield Model – Dr. Loo Botsford (University of California, Davis)*
- C. *Discuss and **potentially approve** recommendation regarding parallel approach(es) for use in the MLPA North Central Coast Study Region and/or future study regions, including modeling group synthesis document*

Members of the modeling work group presented their evaluations of the draft MPA proposals, which showed overall similar results. Chris Costello presented a sensitivity analysis that revealed model results are insensitive to adult home range and larval dispersal parameters, which indicated that exact measurements of these parameters was not required for successful model runs. Eric Bjorkstedt presented a document showing that the rankings among draft MPA proposals were the same between models and the size and spacing guidelines, and suggested that the models could be used to illuminate detailed differences among the proposals that were not evident using the other evaluation methods. A new modeling work group was formed to create model user's guides and to determine how to develop these models as complementary approaches to the draft MPA proposal evaluation process. SAT members voted unanimously to move forward with both models.

6. Public Comments

Throughout the day, members of the public commented on levels of protection, the progress of the modeling work group, and the MLPA process in general. Most public comments focused on presenting data and opinions in support of or against changing the levels of protection assigned to certain activities. Members of the public also commented on socioeconomic issues related to the draft MPA proposals, and reminded the SAT that most fishers fish multiple species and thus could be impacted multiple times by fishing closures. Members of the public also requested more clarity on how the models work and how to use them when outlining MPA arrays.

7. Next Steps

SAT members will present their evaluations at the next BRTF meeting. The new modeling work group will continue to work towards a goal of presenting easily-digestible data to the BRTF and the NCCRSB, and will continue the development of the models as complementary tools in the evaluation process.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Documents provided at the January 23, 2008 meeting

- A. *Addendum to Methods Used to Evaluate Draft MPA Proposals in the North Central Coast Study Region: Known important prey for the harbor seal in north central California (January 21, 2008)*
- B. *PowerPoint presentation: Evaluations of draft MPA proposals for the north central coast (Mary Gleason, MLPA Initiative)*

- C. PowerPoint presentation: *Draft MPA proposal evaluations north central coast study region* (Dr. Mark Carr, Master Plan Science Advisory Team) regarding habitat representation and replication
- D. PowerPoint presentation: *North Central Coast Size and Spacing Evaluations* (Dr. Steve Gaines, Master Plan Science Advisory Team)
- E. PowerPoint presentation regarding preliminary bird and mammal evaluation (Gerry McChesney and Dr. Sarah Allen)
- F. *A synthesis of insights and results from spatially explicit models to support evaluation and revision of MPA proposals* (Eric P. Bjorkstedt draft, January 22, 2008)
- G. *Summary of potential impacts of the December 2007 MPA proposals on commercial and recreational fisheries in the North Central Coast Study Region* (January 22, 2008 – Ecotrust)
- H. PowerPoint presentation: *Package Evaluation by the Delay-Difference Model* (Dr. Chris Costello, Master Plan Science Advisory Team)
- I. *Equilibrium Delay Difference Model: Summary of Results* (January 23, 2008 - Dr. Chris Costello, et al.)
- J. PowerPoint presentation: *A Model to Evaluate Sustainability and Yield of Proposed MPA Plans II* (Dr. Loo Botsford, et al.)