

**California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative  
Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT)  
September 17, 2007 Meeting Summary  
(Revised September 21, 2007)**

**Monday, September 17, 2007  
1:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.**

**Via teleconference and web conference  
Access at Resources Building  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814**

*Note: The meeting agenda may be found on the MLPA website at:  
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/meetings.asp#sat>*

### **Executive Summary**

The third North Central Coast Study Region Science Advisory Team meeting took place via teleconference and web conference on September 17, 2007. The summary of this meeting is as follows:

- The SAT voted to accept the revisions to the goals and objectives proposed by the work group and to create a document to evaluate the relative difficulty and cost of measuring each goal and objective.
- The SAT reviewed and approved draft responses to the first set of science questions submitted by the NCCRSR.
- Questions from the NCCRSR's August 22-23, 2007 meeting were reviewed and members of the SAT were identified to aid the science team assistants in crafting draft responses to those questions.
- The evaluation process utilized in the CCSR was presented and discussed and a work group was formed to evaluate MPA proposals for the NCCSR.
- Members of the parallel approaches work group presented their progress and gave a timeline for their next steps.

**SAT members attending:** Carl Walters, Pete Raimondi, Steven Morgan, Karina Nielsen, Ray Hilborn, Astrid Scholz, Sarah Allen, Mark Carr, John Largier, Eric Bjorkstedt, John Ugoretz, and Dominic Gregorio

**SAT members absent:** Chris Costello, Gerry McChesney, Caroline Hermans and Steve Gaines.

### **Meeting Objectives**

- Discuss and approve responses to NCCRSR science questions
- Receive a report from work group on parallel approaches to evaluating marine protected area (MPA) proposals
- Identify an MPA proposal evaluation work group
- Receive a report from work group developing a list of north central coast species likely to benefit from MPAs

## **Meeting Summary**

### **1. Welcome, introductions, and review of agenda, and teleconference protocol**

Meeting was convened at 9:40 a.m. No changes were made to the agenda; however, there was insufficient time during the meeting to discuss parallel processes, so an additional SAT meeting was scheduled to cover this topic.

### **2. Updates**

Updates included a review of the meeting attachments and handouts.

### **3. Summary of public comments**

Members of the NCCRSG posed additional questions to the SAT to assist them in developing MPA proposals. Comments focused on how the SAT will evaluate proposals, what level of protection it would assign to protected areas that allowed different fishing techniques (such as catch-and-release and trawling vs. trolling), and how species that were not the focus of MPA efforts in the central coast study region would be protected during this effort. The public also thanked the SAT for adhering to the Bagley-Keene Act.

### **4. North central coast regional goals and objectives (Attachment 1 and Handout 1)**

SAT members reviewed the responses to the NCCSR provisional goals and objectives that subgroups had provided to the NCCRSG at their August 22-23, 2007 meeting. Of particular concern was the measurability of some goals and objectives, such as “high scenic value” and “structure and integrity.” Members also discussed the differences between something being measurable and something actually being measured. Concern was raised about not having a plan in place for measuring the goals and objectives, and there was discussion surrounding the cost and difficulty of measuring some of the goals and objectives. SAT members voted to approve the changes to the NCCSR provisional goals and objectives since each one is fundamentally measurable, and also formed a work group to address the concerns surrounding the practical measurability of each of the objectives. Work group members included John Ugoretz, Karina Nielsen, Sarah Allen, and Mark Carr. The work group is tasked with evaluating the difficulty and cost of measuring each objective. This document will be prepared and approved by the SAT for the December NCCRSG meeting.

### **5. Science questions from the NCCRSG (Attachments 2-3)**

Mary Gleason presented the list of draft responses to questions from the NCCRSG’s July 10-11, 2007 meeting. One member of each question’s work group summarized their findings and explained their response. The SAT voted to approve all completed draft responses, which included questions 1, 2, 4, 6, and 8. Questions 5 and 7 required further research before a draft response could be completed, and question 3 (a list of species most likely to benefit from MPAs)

was a separate agenda item for this meeting. Also under this agenda item, Mary explained new protocol for responding to science questions from the NCCRSG. The science team assistants, Amy Brookes and Seth Miller, will create draft responses to questions with the help of identified SAT members and specialists. These responses will then be amended and approved by the entire SAT before being sent to the NCCRSG. SAT members reviewed new questions generated at the NCCRSG's August 22-23, 2007 meeting and identified information sources for the science team assistants.

## **6. Evaluating MPA proposals (Attachment 4)**

A. SAT co-chair Mark Carr presented guidelines used previously in the MPA evaluation process for the central coast region and described the work involved in the evaluation process, including the need for the formation of an evaluation work group. Dr. Carr and MLPA staff also discussed the time constraints that the evaluation work group would be working under and reminded SAT members that this is an iterative process.

B. The first MPA draft proposals are expected from the NCCRSG on October 1, 2007, and the evaluation work group will be expected to present their evaluations of these initial proposals to the full SAT at its November 13, 2007 meeting. The evaluation work group will develop a general approach on how they will evaluate proposals using the existing guidelines and report on what that approach is at the October 1, 2007 SAT meeting.

C. The evaluation work group was formed with the following SAT members: Mark Carr, Pete Raimondi, Steven Morgan, Sarah Allen, Steve Gaines, Ray Hilborn, John Largier, Chris Costello, and Astrid Scholz. Loo Botsford will provide guidance.

D. Dr. Ray Hilborn presented a summary of progress made by the parallel approaches work group. Members of the work group agreed to use datasets from the central coast to test the models. It was suggested that these models will be important for evaluating how various size and spacing guidelines impact the success of marine protected areas. A rough timeframe for model preparation has been suggested by Dr. Steve Gaines as follows: size and spacing guidelines ready in about a month, the full model package ready in a couple of months, and a revision of the guidelines based on this model before the next regional effort.

## **7. List of species likely to benefit from MPAs**

Due to limited time, a discussion of species likely to benefit from MPAs was deferred until the October 1, 2007 meeting of the SAT. Dr. Mark Carr requested that all comments from SAT members on the list of species be sent to him by September 21, 2007 so he can incorporate them before the next meeting.

## **8. Next Steps**

Next meeting: October 1, 2007 – Aviation Library and Museum, San Francisco International Airport

**Attachments**

1. Revised Provisional Draft Regional Goals and Objectives for Review and Adoption by the NCCRSG at its October 2007 Meeting (revised August 23, 2007)
2. Provisional work group responses to NCCRSG questions
3. NCCRSG August 22-23 meeting questions to the SAT
4. MPA proposal evaluation methods from the MLPA Initiative Central Coast Project
5. Draft work group list of some key species likely to benefit from MPAs in the north central coast
6. Meeting summary from SAT August 16, 2007 meeting

**Handouts**

1. Draft comments on the July 2007 Draft North Central Coast Regional Goals and Objectives as developed by SAT work groups