

OVERALL RATIONALE FOR UNITED ANGLERS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PROPOSAL

Thank you for the opportunity to offer an external proposal to the MLPA process. The attached proposal is not a finished product because of the delay in the finishing of the fine scale benthic structure data that will be the core of the science evaluation process.

We would like to introduce two concepts for marine protected areas that have not yet been utilized in California's MLPA implementation. However, these approaches are core to the peer reviewed science for the design of networks of MPAs referred to by the California Master Plan for Marine Protected Areas. The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) report: "Marine Protected Areas, Tools for Sustaining Ecosystems" provides guidance in the design of networks of MPAs that includes the inclusion of catch and release fishing, gear restrictions, and the implementation of larger background management areas in effectively designing a network of protections. This proposal introduces all these concepts for utilization within the South Coast region where recreational fishermen support is strong for such approaches.

MPAs are a subset of Marine Managed Areas. Marine Managed Areas provide additional tools beyond National Marine Sanctuaries for either background areas for marine protected areas as mapped by the NAS. The approach of doing this has been established on a federal basis in the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary and the use of Marine Managed Areas has been utilized on a small scale in the first two phases of the MLPA.

The Charles F. Holder, Catalina State Marine Recreational Management Area.

The Charles F. Holder Catalina State Marine Recreational Management Area (SMRMA) is offered for consideration of the Marine Life Protection Act process to serve a large number of objectives that are accorded by Marine Managed Areas and to recognize the value of these approaches in designing a network of MPAs for the South Coast Study Region (SCSR).

Catalina Island sits centrally in the SCSR and has a rich cultural fishing history combined with huge recreational fishing utilization.

The shape of the SMRMA includes all state waters surrounding the island. Implementation of the SMRMA would include at least two new management measures that have a successful record in addressing life history issues likely to contribute to achieving MLPA objectives. These management approaches have a robust history of success in filling out age classes that have been implicated as a concern about indirect fishery impacts on habitats. The SMRMA in conjunction with catch and release areas directly addresses both aspects of this concern of age structure changes and population density.

Other Rationale for a SMRMA:

Cultural Heritage: Catalina represents the most historical location within the worldwide culture of recreational fishing. It was the site of the first recreational catches of big game fishes. The first tuna caught by an angler to receive public acclaim was a 183 pound bluefin taken in 1898. In 1903, the first striped marlin caught with rod and reel was taken off Catalina Island. The first swordfish taken by an angler was caught in 1913, using a kite to present the bait and a

prototype disc clutch reel to land the fish. Avalon became the first town in the world founded upon and 100% dependent upon recreational fishing. Over the subsequent 5 decades starting from about 1880, Catalina became the most celebrated place for recreational fishermen to visit. No other place in the world has richer cultural marine recreational fishing history than Catalina. (PFMC HMS)

Recreational Interest: Catalina is centrally located off the coastline of densely populated Los Angeles County. As the County of Los Angeles has grown to one of the nation's most densely populated metropolis the protected waters of the island have unceasingly served as an attraction to recreational fishermen.

Conservation Interest: Conservation interest in Catalina started very early. Charles F. Holder first came to the island in 1886 and saw people using handlines to catch fish and stack them like cordwood on the beach. He was a writer and wrote articles and books that told of the rich ecosystem here that began the process of building the popularity of the island. He went on to found the Avalon Tuna Club in 1898. The club was one of the first saltwater angling clubs in the world and the first to for the purpose of targeting big game fishes. The club's motto is "Fair play to game fishes, and the lightest possible tackle" and was dedicated to the overall management of the resources surrounding the island. The tuna club established rules that required the use of rods and reels and put limits on the strength of line that could be used. The club was instantly successful and in the first two years had both a future and past President of the United States as members, Theodore Roosevelt (joined 1898) and Grover Cleveland (joined 1899). *"In his annual address the first president and founder of the club, Charles F. Holder, said: 'I congratulate you, gentlemen of the Tuna Club, on the results of a year's example. A year ago boats left Avalon Bay with from four to ten heavy handlines, and tunas and yellowtail and sea bass were slaughtered by the ton and thrown away. To-day by your example not a boatman of Santa Catalina will permit a hand-line in his boat. All use rods and reels and the lines specified by the Club, and the result is that few fish are wasted, the catch is reduced two-thirds, and the sport is enhanced by the use of rod and reel. Not only this, but the fame of the Tuna Club has gone around the civilized world, and its example, "fair play to game fishes," has been adopted in every land where the phrase, "He fishes like a gentleman," has any significance."* (The Channel Islands of California, A book for the Angler, Sportsman, and Tourist, Charles Frederick Holder, A.C. McClurg & Co., Chicago, 1910)

Why a SMRMA within the MLPA process?

Considering the effort at Catalina, the island in the view of some might support several highly restrictive MPAs. But such an approach to management at Catalina would have devastating economic effects both on the town of Avalon and to the many businesses that provide the means to enjoy the island. Additionally a lot of compression of recreational effort at Catalina could have far reaching negative consequences for the larger ecology of the island. Additionally, a SMRMA provides an opportunity to obtain funds for proper management and enforcement of the island. Finally, since kelp bass is 100% allocated to recreational fishermen as a game fish and sheephead is predominantly allocated to recreational fishermen through the Nearshore Management Plan, recreational measures address the bulk of fishery impacts on these key MLPA species in a manner palatable to the majority of recreational fishermen.