



Marine Life Protection Act Initiative



A Decision Context – Developing a Recommendation for the North Central Coast Study Region

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

- Assist the State of California in implementing the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA)
- MLPA requires “re-examine and redesign” California’s system of marine protected areas
- 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 California Fish and Game Commission



Steps to Recommendation

- MLPA North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCCRSG) appointed, including representatives of other state and federal agencies
- Fifteen days of formal meetings for NCCRSG and three days of work sessions
- Science advisory team appointed; north central coast science sub-team and work groups
- Nine days of formal meetings for SAT and approximately two dozen work group conference calls
- Extensive staff and contract support including regional profile, data layers, mapping tools, GIS analysis, facilitation



Steps to Recommendation (cont'd)

- MLPA Statewide Interests Group appointed; public involvement and process advice
- Four SIG meetings via conference call
- Fourteen public workshops, including five for data gathering, numerous small groups, and reviewing draft MPA proposals
- Evaluations and analyses conducted by SAT, MLPA Initiative staff, DFG staff and contractors
- Strong commitment from group members; public



North Central Coast Recommendation

- Here today to present recommendations from the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force and North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group
- Used best readily available data and information
- SAT and staff evaluations are consistent with MLPA and master plan for marine protected areas
- California Department of Fish and Game actively involved in advising stakeholders and providing analyses
- Significant stakeholder and public involvement in developing recommendation
- Balance of numerous interests, concerns, desires