

To: CCRSG Members
From: MLPA Initiative Staff
Re: Process for addressing outstanding CCRSG concerns – “TBD Bin”
Date: September 1, 2005

Background

Over the course of CCRSG deliberations on the suite of draft provisional regional objectives and in other discussion, stakeholders have raised a wide range of issues related to marine resource use. Not all of these concerns are clearly reflected in the present draft provisional regional objectives and design and implementation considerations. The question has arisen as to how best to treat these issues in the context of the CCRSG’s development of work products and its ongoing deliberations.

Key issues raised have included:

1. Addressing the effect of impaired water quality on MPAs.
2. Addressing the risks to public safety from MPA design proposals.
3. Addressing the impacts of top end predators on MPAs (including the effects on the size, abundance, and biodiversity of marine life caused by pinnipeds).
4. Restoring clam populations.
5. Considering the potential impact of desalination plants as related to the design of MPAs.

Discussion

In general, these issues are not clearly addressed in the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) or the Master Plan Framework (MPF). Not surprisingly, the various members of the CCRSG attach various levels of importance to these issues. And, they have different opinions about the degree to which they are covered by the MLPA.

MLPA I-Team Proposed Approach

Initiative staff recommends creating, both conceptually and operationally, a “TBD (to be decided) bin” as a tool to address these and other outstanding concerns. The TBD bin will be a temporary “home” for issues regarded as important but potentially secondary or external to the MLPA and MPA.

The proposed approach for dealing with such TBD bin issues is as follows:

1. During CCRSG meetings, Initiative staff will strive to capture and record concerns and issues appropriate inclusion in the TBD bin as they are raised during CCRSG deliberations.

2. Initiative staff will then determine those items that are appropriately addressed by MLPA Initiative staff and, as necessary, the SAT, and those that need to be forwarded to the BRTF for their consideration and guidance.¹
3. For those issues that can most appropriate by addressed by staff, Initiative staff will provide recommendations regarding how the CCRSG may most effectively address the TBD issues.
4. Initiative staff will agendize BRTF review and deliberation of the specific TBD issues at each BRTF meeting. BRTF will offer its guidance on these issues
5. Initiative staff will sum up the BRTF response and staff guidance and present these results to CCRSG members, likely in the form of memos included in each agenda packet.
6. Initiative staff and the CCRSG will take this guidance into account in completing the various tasks of CCRSG.

¹ In some cases, the BRTF may welcome a specific supplemental recommendation. In other cases, they may suggest that the issue in question be considered a design consideration or implementation consideration. In still other cases, they may counsel that the issue is truly external to the charge of the CCRSG, and suggest that stakeholders pursue their interests in other ways.