

**California Department of Fish and Game
Feasibility Analysis Summary for the
Blue Ribbon Task Force Integrated Preferred Alternative**

June 11, 2008

The Department of Fish and Game (Department) completed an evaluation of the Marine Life Protection Act Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) integrated preferred alternative (IPA) recommended for the north central coast study region (NCCSR). This evaluation provides details on the Department’s feasibility analysis of the IPA.

This evaluation builds on the feasibility guidelines outlined in a Department memo provided to the NCCSR Regional Stakeholder Group (NCCSRG)¹. A second memo² was also prepared to clarify feasibility issues that arose during the NCCSRG process, and was also used to evaluate the IPA.

The Department notes that members of the BRTF addressed many of the feasibility issues frequently observed in the final round of NCCSRG proposals. However, feasibility concerns do remain for two marine protected areas (MPAs) in the IPA. The design elements found in the IPA that would decrease MPA feasibility include:

- Unclear or difficult to enforce boundaries in some areas
- MPA designations that are inappropriate for existing and/or continuing uses of the area

Following is a table that summarizes feasibility concerns with the IPA (Table 1). This table includes only those MPAs where significant feasibility concerns exist. A more detailed analysis of concerns and, in some cases, recommendations for methods to alleviate or eliminate the stated concerns follows the table.

Table 1. Summary of Feasibility concerns by area in the BRTF Integrated Preferred Alternative (IPA). For more detailed explanations, see text below.

General Area	MPA with Feasibility Concern	Type of Feasibility Concern	
		Boundaries	MPA Type
Russian River	Russian River SMR	-	X
Duxbury Reef	Duxbury SMP	X	-

¹ Department memo. *Statement of feasibility criteria for use in analyzing siting alternatives during the second phase of the Marine Life Protection Act Initiative*. June 11, 2007.

² Department memo. *Department of Fish and Game update of feasibility criteria for use in analyzing siting alternatives during the second phase of the Marine Life Protection Act*. February 11, 2008.

DETAILED FEASIBILITY CONCERNS

Russian River SMR:

Feasibility Concerns:

Due to waterfowl hunting that sometimes occurs in the area, the MPA type should be changed from SMR to SMRMA (note: update based on new information following the Apr 22-23 BRTF meeting).

Options to Remedy:

- MPA Type
 - 1) Change designation from SMR to SMRMA

Duxbury SMP:

Feasibility Concerns:

The proposed SMP at Duxbury is designed as an intertidal MPA that *does not extend into deeper waters*, is defined by *distance offshore*, and does not meet the Department's feasibility guidelines. Intertidal MPAs are difficult to understand and enforce.

Options to Remedy:

- Intertidal MPA
 - 1) Eliminate the intertidal MPA; or
 - 2) Define the boundaries as lines of latitude and longitude, and move the boundaries offshore into deeper waters.