

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative



Introduction to the MLPA and the MLPA Initiative

**Presented at the North Coast Informational Workshop II
October 27, 28 & 29, 2009 • Fort Bragg, Eureka and Crescent City, CA**

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Overview

- Introduction to the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA)
- Introduction to the MLPA Initiative
- Process for the MLPA North Coast Study Region
- Opportunities for Involvement



Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA)

- **Signed into California law in 1999**
 - Improve design and management of marine protected areas (MPAs) in state waters
- **Requires, in part:**
 - Use of “best readily available science”
 - Involvement of stakeholders and other interested parties



Mean high tide to
3 nautical miles
offshore



Six Goals of MLPA

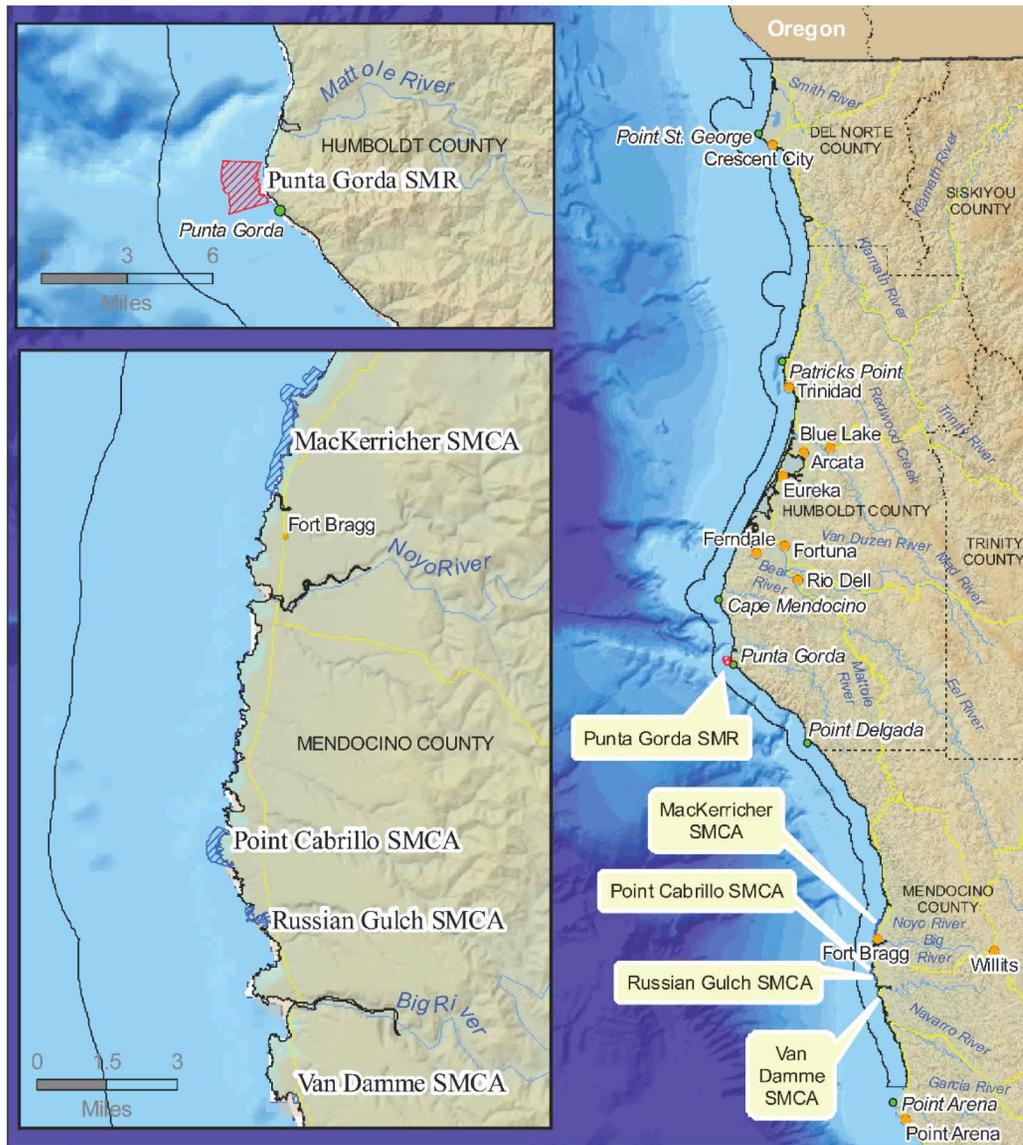
1. To protect the natural diversity and abundance of marine life, and the structure, function and integrity of marine ecosystems
2. To help sustain, conserve, and protect marine life populations, including those of economic value, and rebuild those that are depleted
3. To improve recreational, educational and study opportunities provided by marine ecosystems that are subject to minimal human disturbance, and to manage these uses in a manner consistent with protecting biodiversity
4. To protect marine natural heritage, including protection of representative and unique marine life habitats in California waters for their intrinsic value
5. To ensure that California's MPAs have clearly defined objectives, effective management measures, and adequate enforcement, and are based on sound scientific guidelines
6. To ensure that the state's MPAs are designed and managed, to the extent possible, as a network



Marine Protected Areas

- **State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA)**
 - Prohibits some recreational and/or commercial extractive activities
- **State Marine Park (SMP)**
 - Prohibits all commercial extractive activities and potentially some recreational activities.
- **State Marine Reserve (SMR)**
 - Prohibits all extractive activities

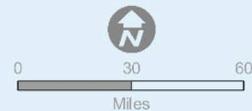




Marine Life Protection Act Initiative

**North Coast Study Region
Existing Marine Protected Areas**

-  Study Region Boundary
-  Existing State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA)
-  Existing State Marine Reserve (SMR)



Projection Information:
Name: NAD 1983 California Teale Albers
Projection: Albers
Datum: North American 1983

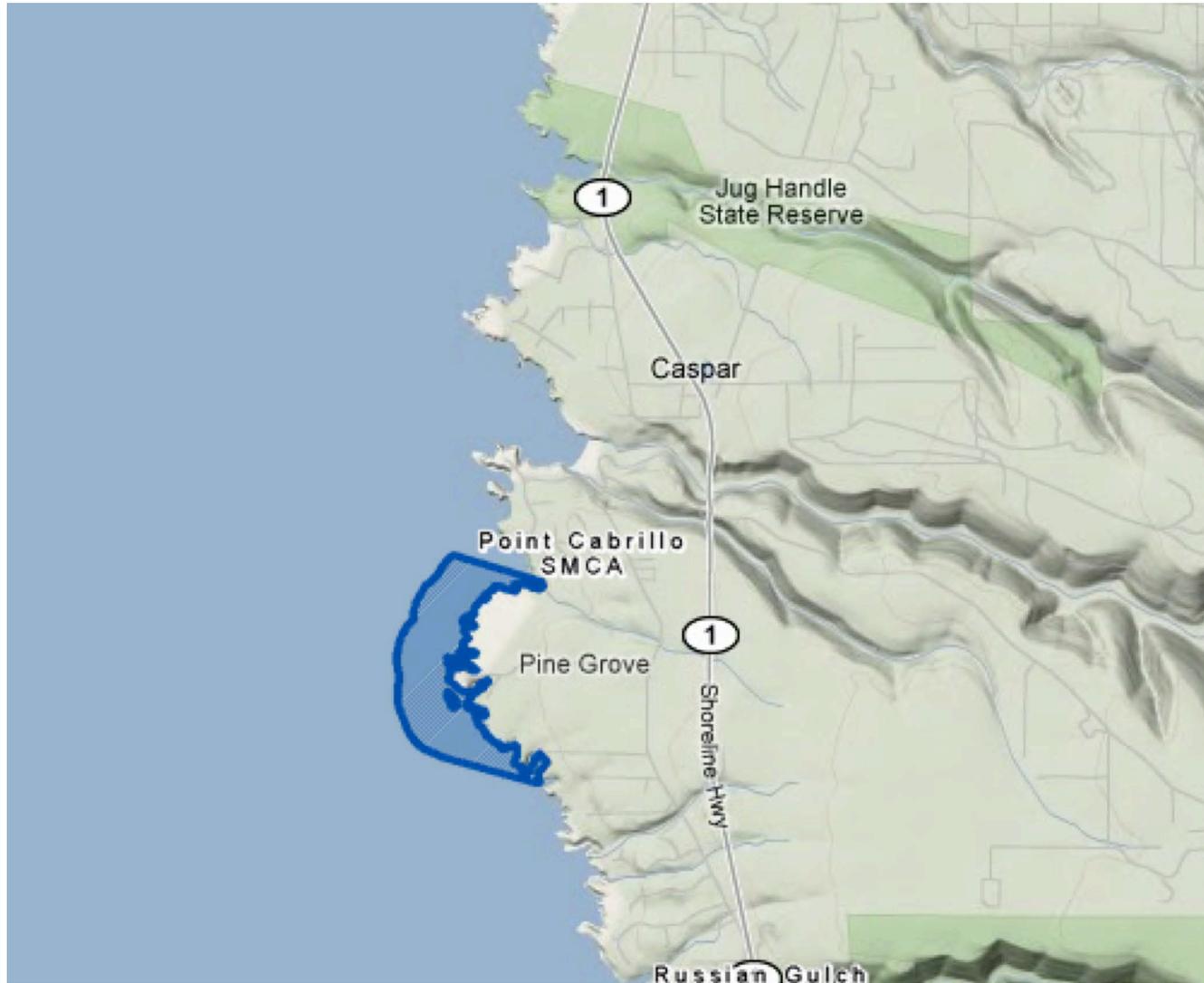
Created on July 8, 2009 By:
DFG Marine Region GIS Lab



**North Coast
Study Region**



Existing Marine Protected Areas

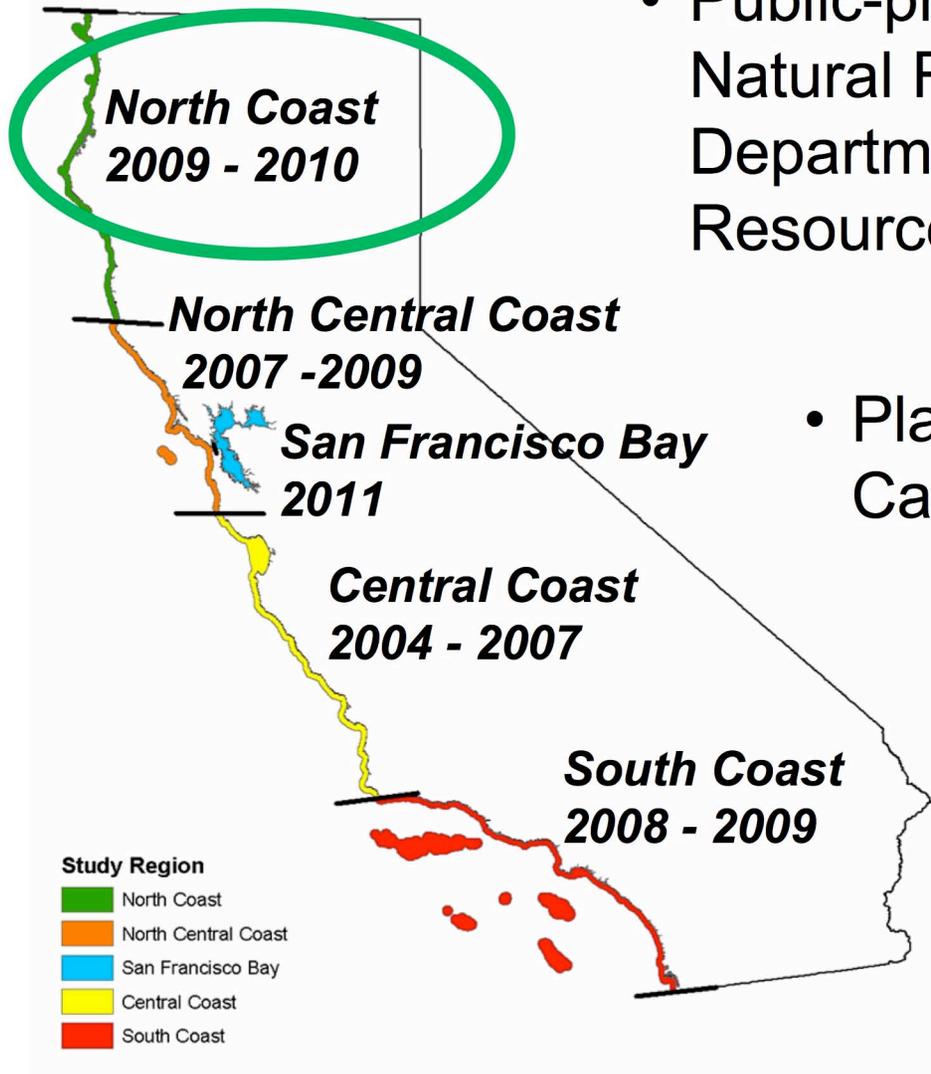




Existing Marine Protected Areas



California MLPA Initiative



- Public-private partnership among the CA Natural Resources Agency, California Department of Fish and Game, and Resources Legacy Fund Foundation
- Planning process designed to help California implement the MLPA
- Citizen-empowered, transparent process with public input at every stage

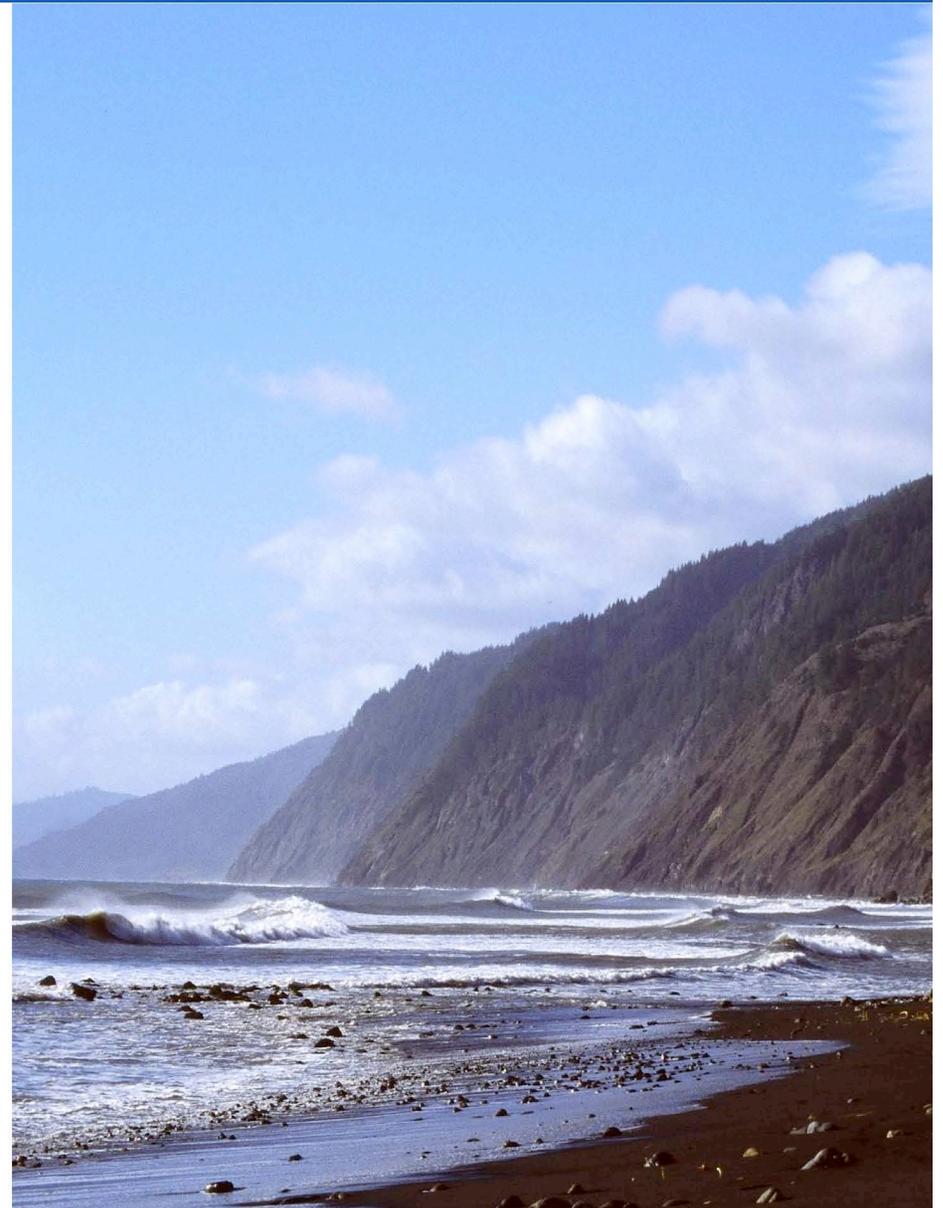


MLPA Initiative Participants

- Institutional partners

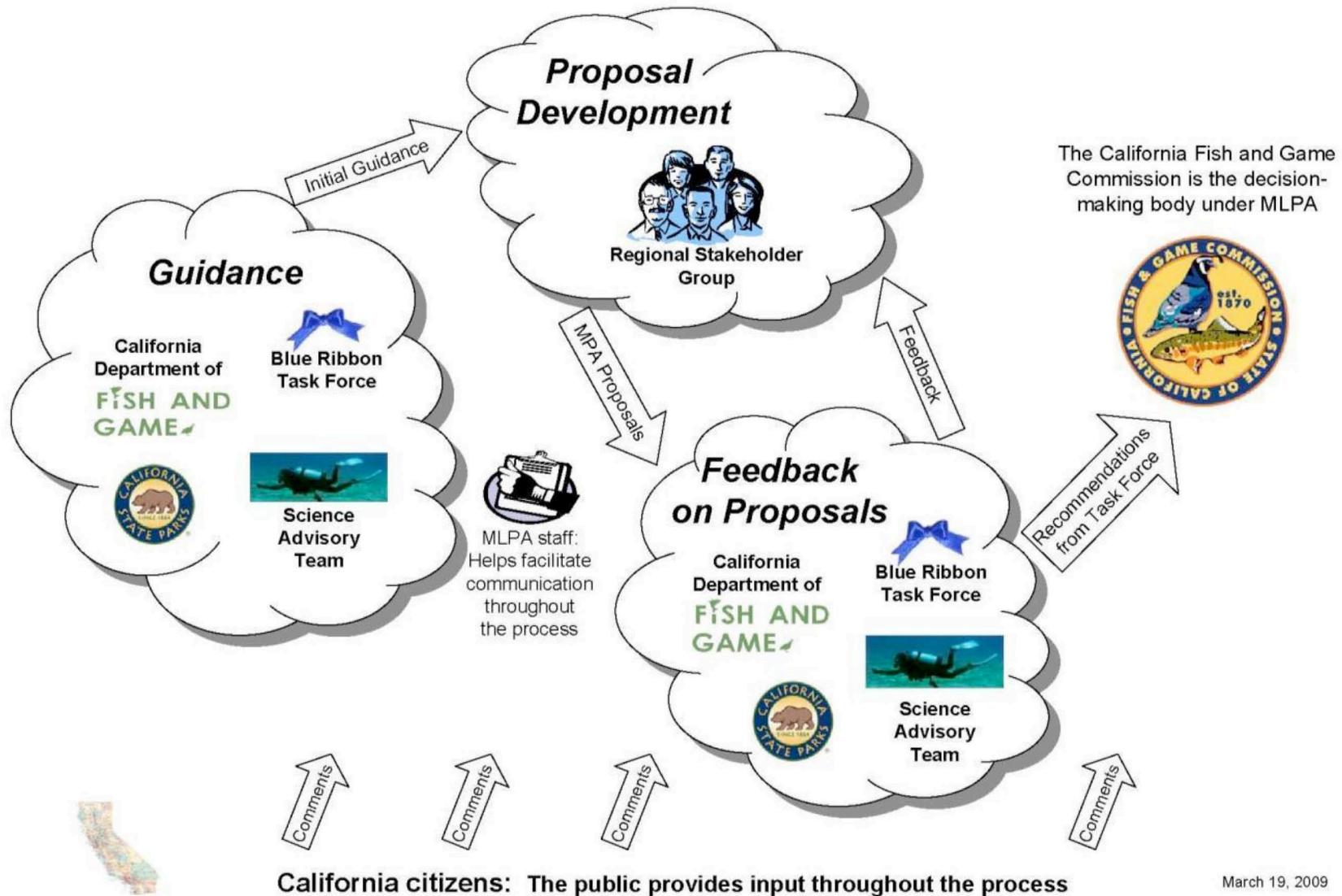


- MLPA Initiative Groups
 - Blue ribbon task force
 - Regional stakeholder group
 - Science advisory team
 - Staff and contractors
- General public and interested parties





Information Flow





Planning Process

Guidance

BRTF
SAT
DFG
State Parks
MLPA I-Team

Round 1

SCRSG develops its
draft MPA arrays

BRTF
SAT
DFG
State Parks
MLPA I-Team
Review & Feedback

Round 2

SCRSG develops its
draft MPA proposals

BRTF
SAT
DFG
State Parks
MLPA I-Team
Review & Feedback

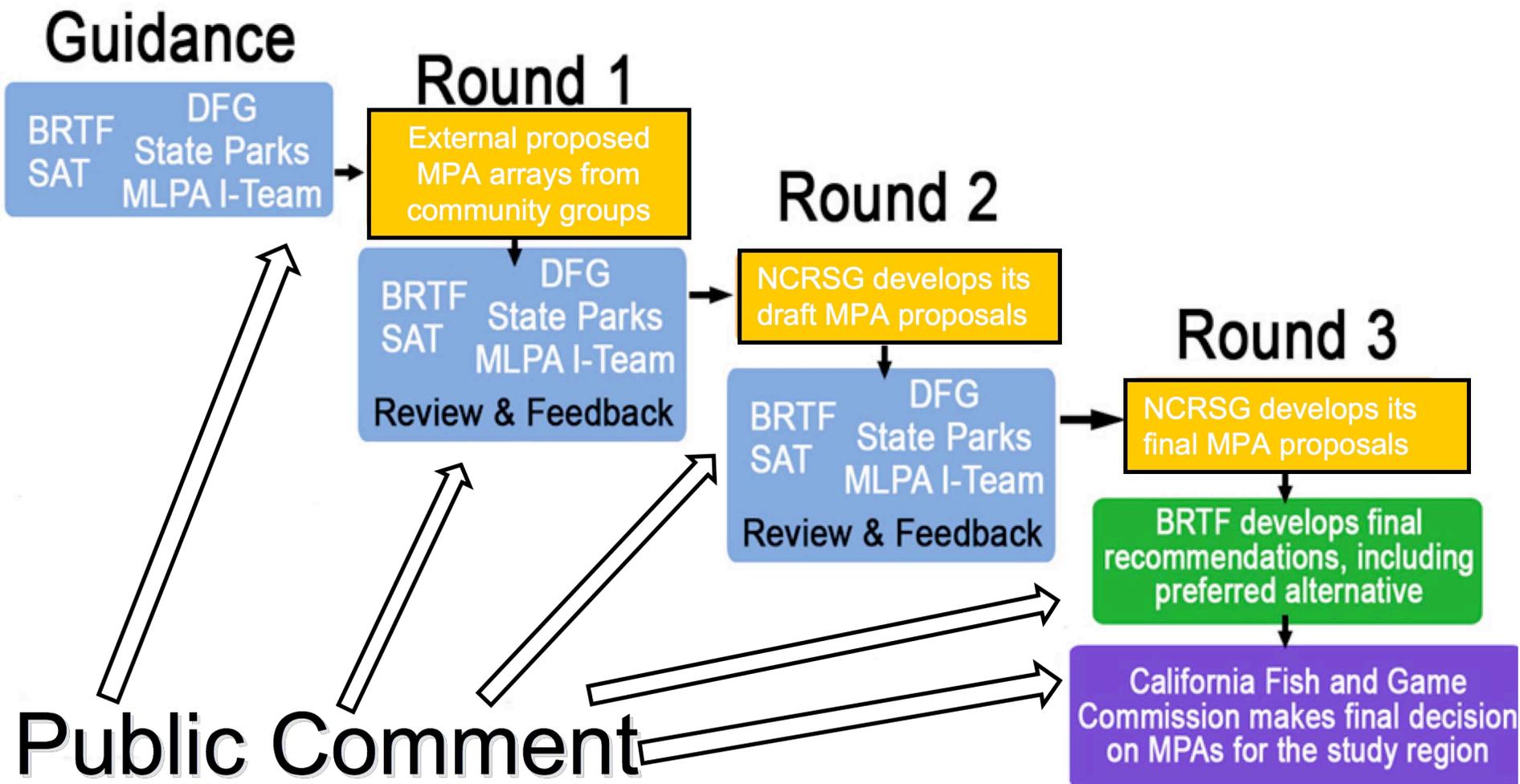
Round 3

SCRSG develops its
final MPA proposals

BRTF develops final
recommendations, including
preferred alternative

California Fish and Game
Commission makes final decision
on MPAs for the study region

Planning Process





Where We Are in the Process

Timeline: June 2009 - December 2010

Public involvement is encouraged throughout the process

Public planning process begins. Joint fact-finding and evaluation of existing marine protected areas begins. External proposed MPA arrays developed.

June - December 2009

Develop and review draft marine protected area proposals.

January - September 2010

Marine protected area proposals are recommended and a preferred alternative is selected.

September - October 2010

A marine protected area proposal is recommended and the regulatory and environmental review processes begin.

November - December 2010





External MPA Arrays

Role of External Proposed MPA Arrays in the North Coast Study Region

- “Round 1” of the north coast MPA planning process
- Regional component of a statewide network
- Focus is on complete external proposed MPA arrays for the entire study region
- Individual MPA concepts can be shared, but do not constitute a “complete” regional array for evaluation purposes



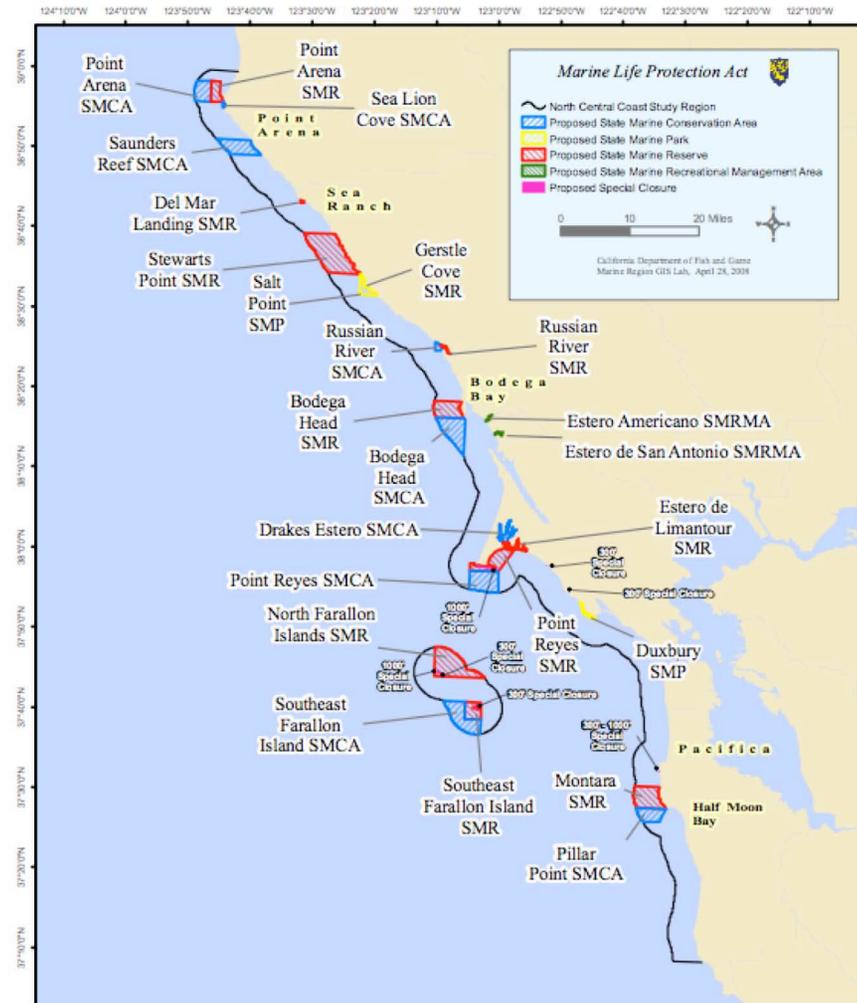
Iterative Steps to Process

- **Develop External Proposed MPA Arrays**
 - Community groups and/or individuals, using workshops, MLPA Initiative staff support, online mapping tool, and science and feasibility guidelines
- **Evaluations**
 - Conducted by science advisory team, California Department of Fish and Game, California Department of Parks and Recreation and MLPA Initiative staff
- **Policy Guidance**
 - Blue ribbon task force
- **Inform NCRSG**
 - Using public input, various evaluations, and task force guidance, NCRSG will use external proposed MPA arrays to inform development of draft and final MPA proposals



MPA Proposal Example

North Central Coast Study Region Integrated Preferred Alternative



North Central Coast Study Region *Integrated Preferred Alternative*

This marine protected area (MPA) proposal was unanimously selected on April 23, 2008 by the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) as its preferred alternative and is being submitted to the California Fish and Game Commission (CFG) for consideration. This proposal integrates elements from three proposals developed by the North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCCSRG) (proposals 1-3, 2-XA, and 4). These NCCSRG proposals will also be forwarded in their entirety to the CFG for consideration. Further information on each MPA proposal can be found in the associated text document with the same MPA proposal name.





North Coast Timeline

- September 2009: First educational workshop (Sept. 29) and begin process of developing external proposed MPA arrays
- October 2009: Second educational workshop (Oct. 27, 28 & 29) and request for nominations to the NCRSG (expected Oct. 30)
- November 2009: Intent to prepare an MPA proposal,, third workshop (Nov. 17), brief presentation to the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (Nov 18 & 19) and submit nominations for the NCRSG (Nov 30)



North Coast Timeline, Part 2

- February 2010: Submit external proposed MPA arrays, first meeting of the NCRSG
- March: Evaluations conducted for external proposed MPA arrays
- March-September 2010: MPA proposals developed by the NCRSG
- October 2010: Task force selects preferred alternative
- December 2010: Recommendations to the state



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