



## California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative

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**To: South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (SCRSG)**  
**From: MLPA Initiative Team**  
**Subject: Summary of SCRSG Identified Areas of Importance by Gem Groups**  
**Date: January 27, 2009**

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During the second day of the January 13-14, 2009 meeting of the MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (SCRSG), both primary and alternate members were asked to identify general "areas of importance" as part of a breakout session activity. For this reason, the areas should be considered at a broad regional scale. These areas of importance do not represent suggested MPAs nor are these areas "off limits" to MPAs. Rather, these areas only represent areas that stakeholders have identified as being "important."

The I-Team organized members of the SCRSG into three cross-interest work groups: Lapis, Opal and Topaz. Within each work group, stakeholders were asked to identify a small number of areas of importance in the study region, along with a short description of what makes the area important. Participants were asked to identify their areas of importance according to the following categories:

1. Areas important for habitat representation, ecosystem protection, and sustaining marine life populations.
2. Areas important for consumptive recreational and commercial activities.
3. Areas important for non-consumptive recreational and commercial activities.
4. Areas important for educational and study opportunities.

Note that a new category, areas of important for cultural practices, was added to this summary of identified areas of importance based on the information shared by stakeholders. While not one of the original categories identified for this breakout session, it was added for summary purposes to capture cultural practices that were highlighted by SCRSG members during the breakout session.

This memorandum, along with the attached table, summarizes the information shared during this breakout session. The table lists the areas described by each stakeholder from the cross-interest work groups, along with the following information:

- General geography where the area is located;
- Category or categories of importance for which the area is listed;
- Comments on the area, including a brief description of why the area is important.

Stakeholders can use these ideas to begin initial discussions regarding geographies for MPA options in the first SCRSG workgroup session on January 29, 2009.

**California MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group**  
**Geographic Areas of Importance Identified by the Lapis Gem Group**  
*Revised January 22, 2009*

**KEY:** 1= Areas for habitat representation, 2= Areas for consumptive rec/commercial activities, 3= Areas for non-consumptive rec/commercial activities, 4= Areas for education/research/study, 5= Areas important for cultural practices\*

General Geography Description	Why Important (see key listed above)	Notes
Poor water quality areas (no MPAs)		Should avoid these areas when siting MPAs
Whole study area	2	Every inch is important to consumptive users, 10 to 12 miles radius from ports is vitally important (Dana Harbor, San Diego, Newport, Santa Barbara, Oxnard, etc.) very important for half day trips and twilight fishing, also very important for kids because they are starting on half day fishing trips
Whole study area	2	Fishing
Submarine canyons and pinnacles and estuaries as good places for MPAs	1	Habitats
Point Conception	1	Major upwelling spot
Point Conception, Goleta Point, Point Dume, Palos Verdes, Point La Jolla, Point Loma, and estuaries and lagoons	1	Important habitats
Point Conception, Goleta Point, Point Dume, Palos Verdes, Point La Jolla, Point Loma	1	Important rocky headlands/habitats
Point Conception to San Augustine	1	Habitat area that wouldn't be too big
Naples to Isla Vista	2	Important to fishers
Naples down to Sycamore	1	Important habitats
Coal Oil Point over to Campus Point	2	Kelp bed lease (needed for abalone food)
Tijuaguas to Carpinteria	2	Kelp harvest
Carpinteria down to Malibu	2	kelp harvest for years when no kelp closer
Big Sycamore Creek	2	Fishing
Point Mugu, Point Dume	1	Rocky headlands - important habitats
Point Mugu to Big Sycamore Canyon	2	Lower socioeconomic impacts if an MPA is placed here
Santa Monica Bay	1	Important ecosystem
Santa Monica Bay	2	Keep for fishing but lower socioeconomic impacts if place MPA there
Palos Verdes	2,3	Easy access on west side of Palos Verdes for both consumptive and non-consumptive users
Palos Verdes to Newport Beach	2	Fishing
Newport Harbor south to Dana Point	1,4	Persistent kelp canopy, rockfish habitat, and a well studied area
Dana Point and north to Newport Bay	1	Areas high biodiversity

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General Geography Description	Why Important (see key listed above)	Notes
Dana point and north to Newport Bay (jetty)	1,3,4	High biodiversity (rocky intertidal, scattered kelp beds), tidepooling and a lot of education going on in this area, many different educational programs. Currently 8 MPAs there; 1 is an SMR, and 3 ASBS and already has management enforcement and education in place.
Boat out of Dana Point: Huntington Beach to Oceanside	2	Live bait (sardine and anchovy)
Orange County (also islands)	2	Recreational fishing
Newport Harbor to San Onofre	2	Keep for fishing
Orange County (just north of San Juan Capistrano) and south of there to the Mexico border (and beyond)	5	Scattered submerged sites of cultural importance throughout the area (Kumeyaay)
Camp Pendleton	1	Colony of least tern and snowy plovers
Between San Luis Rey and San Dieguito rivers lagoons, and 12 estuaries of San Diego County, and surf locations along coast	1	Grassbeds present
Agua Hedionda	2	Mariculture
Torrey Pines up to Oceanside	2	Live bait (sardine and anchovy)
Torrey Pines to La Jolla Point (including canyon)	1	Areas high biodiversity
Northern point of Torrey pines to the Mexican border	2	Live bait (sardine and anchovy)
Del Mar up to north county kelp beds (south of San Onofre)	1	Kelp canopy, high species diversity
Mission Bay to Black Beach	2	Fishing, lobster and sea urchin diving
Mission Bay		Need to be aware that polluted water can be stuck there for 7 years
Mission Bay (and all other major estuaries)	1	Marsh site
500 yds north of Point Loma Nazarine College to Mexican border	2	Bait hauling
Point Loma to Oceanside	2	Keep for fishing
Point Loma up to the north end of the Scripps Reserve	1,4	Important habitats and a well studied area
Point Loma	1	Kelp beds
San Diego Bay	1	Key area for birds

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General Geography Description	Why Important (see key listed above)	Notes
Southern end of San Diego Bay	1	Green turtles live there
Silver Strand Training Area to the Mexican border	1	Water quality concern in that area
Imperial Beach	1	Kelp canopy
Tijuana River estuary	1	Key habitat and continuous habitat from river to ocean, bird habitat
Tijuana Estuary	1	Pollution problems - sewage from Tijuana only 2% treated, during storms estuary and coastline really becomes polluted
Three MPAs on north side of northern Channel Islands	1	Habitat, as part of network
Northern Channel Islands	1	Most pristine area left
Northern Channel Islands and all areas of special biological significance	1	Habitat and foraging grounds for birds
Northern Channel Islands and Santa Catalina Island	1,2	Biodiversity, habitat, resilience and fishing
All the Channel Islands including Santa Barbara	1	Areas high biodiversity
Santa Catalina Island, also 9-12 miles out of ports on mainland	2,3,4	Fishing, sportfishing, 3/4 day boats from the Los Angeles, Redondo, Marina Del Rey area fish the west end of Santa Catalina, that's as far as they can go. 1/2 day boats, depending on the boat because of speed need up to 9-12 mile radius. Also marine and natural heritage sites along the coast.
Santa Catalina Island	2	Fishing
Windward and leeward sides of San Clemente, San Nicolas and Santa Catalina islands	1	Unique habitats
San Clemente Island	2	Fishing and Navy, would not want MPAs here
San Nicolas Island	2	Navy, would not want MPAs here

**Note:** A fifth category was added, "areas important for cultural practices." While this category was not identified at the start of the breakout session, it became clear that a separate category was needed to highlight cultural practices shared by SCRSG members.

**California MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group**  
**Geographic Areas of Importance Identified by the Opal Gem Group**  
*Revised January 22, 2009*

**KEY:** 1 = Areas for habitat representation, 2 = Area for consumptive rec/commercial activities, 3 = Area for non-consumptive rec/commercial activities, 4 = Area for education/research/study, 5 = Areas important for cultural practices \*

General Geography Description	Why Important (see key listed above)	Notes
Gaviota coast	1, 2, 3, 4	Links to the MLPA Central Coast Study Region, rural land use, existing refugio MPA
Refugio, gaviota coast	4	Educational opportunities in this area
West of Santa Barbara area	1, 2, 3, 4	This area would not be appropriate for an MPA
Near UC Santa Barbara	4	Educational opportunities in this area
Santa Barbara area	1, 2, 3, 4	Teaching, research (UC Santa Barbara), Chumash sites. Might be appropriate for MPA.
Santa Barbara area	1, 4	Habitat value and research and education (UC Santa Barbara).
Near Santa Barbara Harbor	2	Within 5-7 miles of Santa Barbara Harbor is important for consumptive users.
Goleta Point to Point Mugu	2	This area is used as a California halibut trawl zone. It is the only trawl ground in California state waters.
Carpenteria Reef	1, 2, 3, 4	Habitat value, chumash sites
Naples reef to kelp beds off carpenteria reef	2	Kelp harvest for abalone farms. There is a leased kelp bed at coal oil point.
Point Mugu to San Mateo point, including Santa Barbara, Catalina and San Clemente islands	2	This is the "Valhalla" of recreational fishing.
Point Mugu	1, 4	Estuary near the lagoon, underwater canyon
Point Dume	1, 2	Hard bottom, good kelp, safe for boating, important for commercial sea urchin harvest
Point Dume area	2, 4	Leo Carrillo State Beach to Malibu Pier important kayak fishermen, educational opportunities at state beach.
Palos Verdes Penninsula	1, 2, 3, 4	An existing MPA here has boundaries that are difficult to understand. Area has a productive environment and access to ports and harbors. Cabrillo Marine Aquarium (education) is here.
Palos Verdes Penninsula	1, 2	Important for recreational fishing. Should avoid an MPA here. Santa Monica Bay is closed to commercial fishing.
San Mateo Point to Newport	1, 2, 3, 4	
Newport Bay to Point Loma	2	Rocky habitat, kelp forest here are important for kayak fishing

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General Geography Description	Why Important (see key listed above)	Notes
Laguna Beach to Newport Harbor	1	Areas where "area of special biological significance" designations exist - should be considered.
Dana Point, Doheny State Beach	1, 2, 3, 4	Areas where "area of special biological significance" designations exist - should be considered.
San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station to Newport	2	Would not suggest an MPA here. Much boat traffic out of Dana Point and Newport. Recreational and commercial fishing occur here and there is close proximity to a harbor. Deepwater canyons in this area.
Camp Pendleton	2, 3	Military use area, would not suggest an MPA here.
North San Diego County	1, 4	South of Camp Pendleton, north of Oceanside, unique, series of five high quality estuaries not impacted by bad water quality in close proximity to kelp, eelgrass, surf grass, least tern nesting sites
La Jolla	1	Areas where "area of special biological significance" designations exist - should be considered.
La Jolla Kelp Beds	1	Kelp beds, marine life, and shark habitat
Soledad Creek to Point Loma	2	Bait fish are caught in this area and it is important for consumptive use. Kelp exists here.
Coast of Point Loma	1, 2, 3, 4	Cabrillo National Monument (many visitors), kelp forests, large invertebrates, existing MPA
San Diego Back Bay	1, 4	Much sea marine life, including turtles. Study and educational opportunities, outreach in this area.
Tijuana River Estuary National Estuarine Research Reserve	1, 3, 4	Wetland of international importance. Good habitat. Eelgrass beds, restoration, collaborative management.
Tijuana River	1, 3, 4	Estuary areas are limited, here have education and research presence. Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve located here, research and education.
San Nicolas, San Clemente and Santa Catalina islands	1	Sea otter populations (on San Nicolas), hard bottom, kelp forest
Santa Catalina Island and San Clemente Island	2, 3	Consumptive and non-consumptive uses here. East end of Santa Catalina has an MPA
San Clemente Island	1, 2, 3, 4	Kelp here. Seals use area.
San Clemente Island	2, 3	Military use area. Would not suggest an MPA here.

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General Geography Description	Why Important (see key listed above)	Notes
Santa Catalina Island	2	Important for recreational fishing
Santa Catalina Island	4	Kelp beds on west end. Wrigley Marine Science Center Reserve should include shiprock, birdrock (reserve or closure), high diver use here.
Catalina Science Center State Marine Reserve and Santa Catalina Island west end	1, 4	Suggest expanding existing MPA. Farnsworth Bank also important. There are areas of special biological significance at Farnsworth Bank and marine science center
Avalon area of Santa Catalina Island	2, 3	Important human use area, tourism, fishing, etc. out to five miles on either side, would not suggest an MPA here.

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**California MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group**  
**Geographic Areas of Importance Identified by the Topaz Gem Group**  
*Revised January 22, 2009*

**KEY:** 1= Areas for habitat representation, 2= Areas for consumptive rec/commercial activities, 3= Areas for non-consumptive rec/commercial activities, 4= Areas for education/research/study, 5= Areas important for cultural practices\*

General Geography Description	Why Important (see key listed above)	Notes
Point Conception and northern Channel Islands	5	For cultural uses
Point Conception	1	Habitat - key headlands
Point Conception	1	Habitat - key headlands
Point Conception south through Goleta	1	Two biogeographic regions meet - upwelling, lots of reef, kelp, estuaries, public access, undeveloped land here
Point Conception	1	Upwelling, nice kelp, oil seeps, beautiful place
El Capitan, Ellwood Beach	1, 2,4	Beach access and only reef similar to those in the Channel Islands. Only offshore pinnacle between Point Conception and Point Mugu that offers recreational opportunities. And it is the only reef that has been studied for years.
Santa Barbara - Canvas Point	2, 4	Kayak fishing and would benefit from educational program
Carpenteria Reef	1	Reef kelp
California halibut trawl - somewhere between Point Conception and Goleta Point down to Point Mugu	2	Fishing - 17 members of association - trawl - halibut and sea cucumber. Lost five other areas, serious economic impacts if they lose access to that area.
Point Mugu	1	Fenced, seals, lots of wildlife, big canyon, substantial deep water habitat
Three miles east of Zonkers Beach	4	Study opportunity
Malibu coast	2, 3	Sea urchin, recreational fishing very important. Also, surfing-furthest point west of Los Angeles County, two beaches that are south facing and one west facing beach
Escondido Beach west towards	1, 3	Area has rich kelp forest, beautiful inlets, grunion habitat, lots of biodiversity. It is also a surf hotspot.
Point Dume	1	Habitat - key headlands
Point Dume	1	Habitat - key headlands
Point Dume	1, 2	Kelp habitat. Sea urchins pretty important and also important for sport fishing.
Malibu coast	2	Birth place of kayak fishing
Santa Monica Bay	2	Fishing
Ormond Beach through Mugu	1	
Santa Monica Bay - Palos Verdes, Redondo Canyon	1	Important habitat
Palos Verdes Peninsula	2	Shorefishing, private boat fishing, commercial passenger vessels, easy access for all people of economic backgrounds

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General Geography Description	Why Important (see key listed above)	Notes
Palos Verdes Peninsula	1, 2	There is upwelling. Prefer north of Malaga Cove - northwestern Palos Verdes for consumptive diving
Palos Verdes Peninsula	1	Habitat - key headlands
Palos Verdes Peninsula	1	Habitat - key headlands
San Monica Bay - Palos Verdes	1, 4	Unique habitat and educational opportunities
Huntington Flats areas	2	Fishing
Newport to Palos Verdes	2	Very important because outside of harbor
Bolsa Chica wetland	1, 4	Estuarine habitat and educational component
Channel Islands - all 8	1	Each is unique
Channel Islands - all 8	1	Endemic species, key habitats
Upper Newport Bay	4	Educational activities
Dana Point	4	Educational activities
Newport Beach - from Corona del Mar	1, 3	Eight mile area, resources are depleted
Dana Point	2	Consumptive diving-urchins... Currently SMR that goes out 1200 feet, so can't dive there.
Dana Point	2	Kayak fishing
Ocean Institute	4	Educational activities
Santa Catalina Island	1, 2, 3	Tons of kelp habitat and a pinnacle. Both consumptive and nonconsumptive activities.
Santa Catalina Island	2	Backside - mackerel, squid
East end of Santa Catalina - Avalon	2	A lot of fishing activities, native abalone.
Upper San Diego County beaches	4	Educational activities
La Jolla	2	Kayak fishing
La Jolla	2	Consumptive diving-urchins
La Jolla kelp	2	Important diving, access is extremely important
La Jolla	2	Very important to consumptive recreational users, boats, vessels fishing this coast.
Point Loma and La Jolla	2	Fish move with current in lower end of kelp or rock area.
Point Loma	1	Habitat - key headlands
Point Loma	2	Harvest sea urchin, helps kelp
Point Loma	1	Habitat - key headlands

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