

## Marine Life Protection Act Initiative



### Decision Context – MPA Proposals for the MLPA South Coast Study Region

Presentation to the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force  
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## Overview of Roles in MOU

1. Blue Ribbon Task Force: Provides policy guidance and recommendations to California Fish and Game Commission
2. Master Plan Science Advisory Team: Provides scientific guidance and evaluations, “best readily available science”
3. Stakeholders and interested public: Provide practical information on marine environment, ecological values, fishing and socioeconomics; regional stakeholder group develops proposed alternatives for network component
4. California Department of Fish and Game: Provide feasibility guidance and feedback/input throughout process
5. California Fish and Game Commission: Adopts regulations to redesign MPAs in study region

## Information Available

- Context, draft arrays and proposals, and evaluation information in binder
- Areas of overlap among work group arrays, draft external proposals, as well as all ten arrays/proposals
- SAT evaluation includes methods and general outcomes - SAT members available to answer questions
- Staff, California Department of Fish and Game, and State Parks’ evaluations/analyses
- Various details available as requested
- Array/proposal representatives on panel this afternoon to answer questions

## Charter Role of Task Force

- 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 Fish and Game Commission...”



## Steps to Task Force Decision

- South coast regional stakeholder group (SCRSG) appointed
- Science advisory team established; science sub-team and works groups to support task force and SCRSG
- To date, 8 days of meetings for SCRSG and 2 days of work sessions
- 17 public workshops, including 7 for data gathering, and numerous small groups
- Extensive staff support including regional profile, data layers, mapping tools, GIS analysis, facilitation
- Strong commitment and lots of hours



## Where are We in the Process?

- Review and analyses of Round 1 draft MPA arrays and proposals; first iteration in a three part process
- In two weeks the SCRSG will take the information gathered in Round 1 to begin developing Round 2 draft MPA proposals



## Addressing Concerns

- Timing relatively tight, but MLPA passed in 1999, MLPA south coast started April 2008, SCRSG started Oct 2008, task force decision not until Oct 2009, and then commission public process
- Readily available information shared equally, including with public
- SAT evaluations are consistent with MLPA and master plan
- Have attempted to apply MLPA, master plan and staff guidance consistently
- Some errors or oversights have been made and are corrected as quickly as possible



## Task Force Decisions

- Provide direction on policy issues
- Identify draft proposals that do not satisfy MLPA or master plan
- Statements on strengths and weaknesses of proposals and general concepts being discussed
- Recommendations for improving any or all draft proposals
- Recommendation(s) to commission regarding preferred alternative



## Task Force Guidance

### Guidance regarding:

- Response to SAT and staff evaluations
- Response to California Department of Fish and Game feasibility analysis and California State Parks evaluation
- Winnowing number of draft arrays and proposals
- How to incorporate pending military closures and military use areas in general
- How to address other concerns, such as water quality and beach nourishment

### Forms of guidance:

- Requests and suggestions to draft array and proposal representatives
- Questions to science advisory team
- Direction to staff



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