

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative



MLPA South Coast Project Overview

Melissa Miller-Henson, Program Manager, MLPA Initiative

Presentation to the MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group

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Topics to be Covered

- Why we are here (MLPA and MLPA Initiative)
- What are marine protected areas (MPAs)
- MLPA Initiative participants and their roles
- MLPA South Coast Project goals and how we'll achieve them in next 14 months
- Project work flow and timeline
- Communications and travel



Why We're Here - MLPA

Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA)

- Redesign California's system of marine protected areas (MPAs); increase coherence and effectiveness at protecting the state's marine life, habitat, and ecosystems
- Achieve six goals
- Best readily available science
- Input from stakeholders, public, experts, agencies
- Master plan for MPAs and adaptive management
- Marine Life Protection Program within the California Department of Fish and Game



Why We're Here - MMAIA

Marine Managed Areas Improvement Act (MMAIA)

- Complementary to MLPA
- Identifies six classifications of marine managed areas, subset of three are marine protected areas
 - State Marine Reserve
 - State Marine Park
 - State Marine Conservation Area
- Identifies allowed and disallowed uses in different classifications



Why We're Here – MLPA Initiative

- Help California implement a statutory mandate (MLPA) in state waters
- Public-private partnership among California Resources Agency, California Department of Fish and Game and Resources Legacy Fund Foundation
- State divided into five study regions (north, north central coast, central coast, south coast and San Francisco Bay)
- Build on lessons of first two study regions



MLPA Initiative - Key Groups

Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF), members with experience in addressing complex public policies

Statewide Interests Group, members provide advice on process and public involvement

Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT) with expertise in marine ecology, fisheries, marine protected areas, water quality, oceanography, economics and social sciences

South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (SCRSG), members representing diverse interests in the study region



MLPA Initiative - Key Groups

Blue Ribbon Task Force

- Chaired by Don Benninghoven, with six other public leaders selected by California Secretary for Resources Mike Chrisman
- Directs funding for the MLPA Initiative
- Prepares recommendations for coordinating the management of MPAs among state and federal agencies
- Oversees process with regional stakeholders and scientists to develop alternative marine protected area proposals



MLPA Initiative - Key Groups

Statewide Interests Group

- Members from key interests from throughout the state
- Advise task force and staff on overall MLPA Initiative process and public involvement
- Alert task force and staff to issues and opportunities that could hinder or improve public involvement in process
- No formal voting or positions



MLPA Initiative - Key Groups

Master Plan Science Advisory Team

- Provide scientific advice to MLPA groups and California Fish and Game Commission regarding size, spacing, habitat considerations, etc.
- Assists MLPA groups by reviewing draft documents and scientific papers
- Evaluates MPA proposals
- Assists California Department of Fish and Game with completing the master plan



MLPA Initiative - Key Groups

South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group

- Provide local knowledge and expertise
- Share information (including to help refine and revise regional profile)
- Conduct outreach to constituencies
- Develop regional objectives
- Evaluate existing MPAs
- Develop alternative MPA proposals



MLPA Initiative - Key Groups

MLPA Initiative Team (I-Team)

- Science advisors
- Facilitators
- Planners
- Marine biologists
- Environmental scientists
- GIS specialists
- Administrative support

MLPA I-Team is here to support your work!



MLPA Initiative - Key Groups

Public Involvement

- Attend public workshops and meetings
- Public comment on documents
- Public comment at meetings or via email
- Individual conversations with stakeholder group members, staff
- Review video/audio recordings on website
- Website at www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa



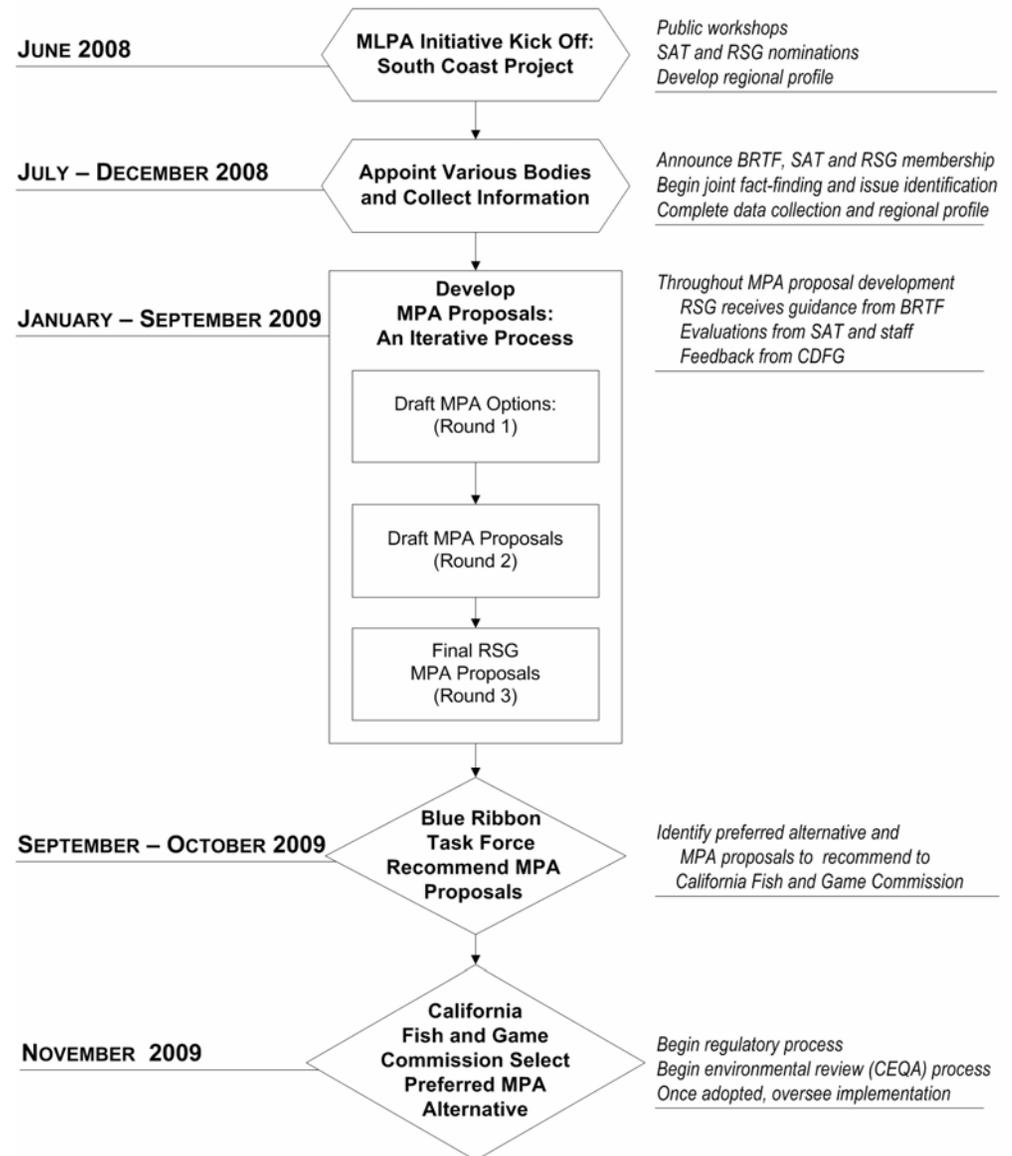
South Coast Project Objectives

- Complete regional profile
- Identify regional objectives
- Develop alternative marine protected area proposals
- Enhance public understanding of MLPA



Timeline and Work Flow

- To December 2009 (intro phase)
- January 2009 (draft arrays)
- May 2009 (draft proposals)
- August 2009 (final proposals)
- October 2009 (task force recommendation)





Project Challenges

- Diverse interests
- Competing uses
- Different expectations
- Sophisticated scientific and policy framework
- Volumes of material



Planning Process Goals

- Collaborative
- Co-inventive
- Transparent
- Iterative and interactive
- Accessible
- Responsive
- Encouraging mutual gains



Not Why We're Here

- Not to debate merits of the MLPA
- Not to debate usefulness of MPAs
- Not to consider MPAs in federal waters
- Not to identify a specific percentage target of MPAs in the study region
- Not to focus on MPAs as a fishery management tool – MPAs are complementary tool
- Not to make a final, binding decision



Communications and Logistics

- List server
 - Primary mechanism for regular communication
 - Note ground rules for use of list server
- Mailing of meeting materials
- Making hotel reservations
- Travel reimbursements
- Stipend for unpaid participants