



Marine Life Protection Act



Guidelines for Developing Alternative MPA Proposals

**Presentation to the North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group
July 11, 2007 • Pacifica, CA**

John Ugoretz - Habitat Conservation Program Manager
Marine Region
California Department of Fish and Game

Primary Guiding Documents

- Marine Life Protection Act
 - Provides goals and elements
 - Describes Master Plan
 - Provides required elements of preferred network
- Department Feasibility Criteria
 - Describes how Department will review
 - Provides examples of appropriate design
- Master Plan Scientific Guidance
 - Relates MLPA Goals to network design
 - Provides ranges of appropriate size and spacing
 - Provides details on key habitats

MLPA Guidance

- Section 2853
 - 6 Goals
 - 5 Elements: Includes “improved (no-take) component”
- Subsection 2856(a)(2)
 - Describes Master Plan components
 - Need to review Master Plan guidance
- Subsections 2857(b)-(d)
 - Describes desired and mandatory features of preferred alternative
 - Notes the need to account for commercial kelp beds (none in north central region)

Department Statement of Feasibility Criteria

- Criteria to consider when designing MPAs
 - Based on specific goals and objectives
 - Identify existing boundaries and jurisdictions and incorporate as appropriate
 - Science guidelines should be considered
 - MPA classification (SMR, SMP, or SMCA) should be consistent with the desired regulations
 - Consider existing fishery management and incorporate as appropriate
 - Accessibility, enforceability, and regulatory simplicity should be addressed

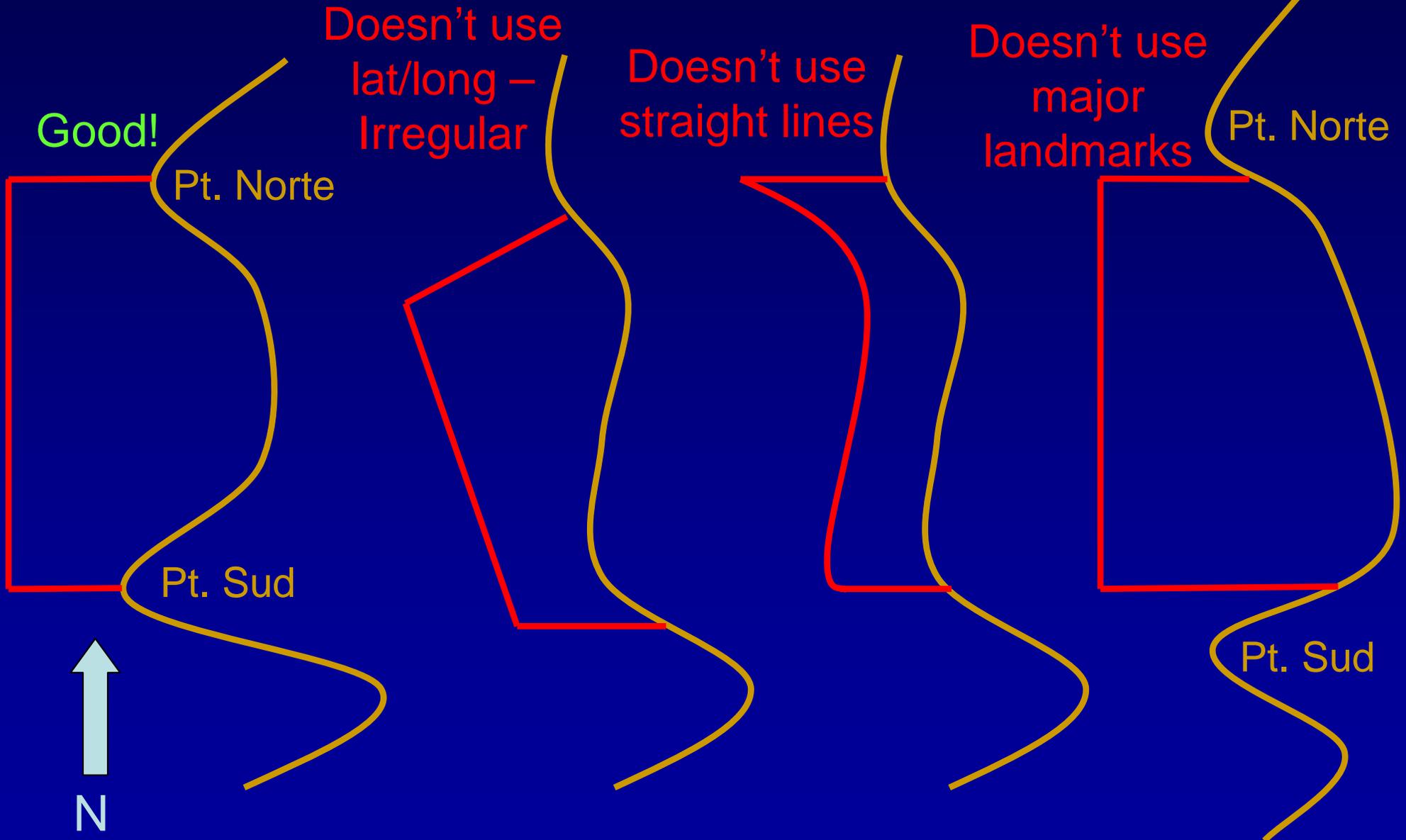
Department Statement of Feasibility Criteria

- Design elements that **increase** feasibility
 - Straight lines that run along cardinal coordinates and connecting easily identified latitude and longitude lines
 - Recognizable, permanent, landmarks
 - Delineate multiple zone boundaries preferably in an alongshore fashion or, secondarily in an inshore/offshore fashion
 - Consistency in regulations within MPA boundaries
 - Clear and concise boundary descriptions

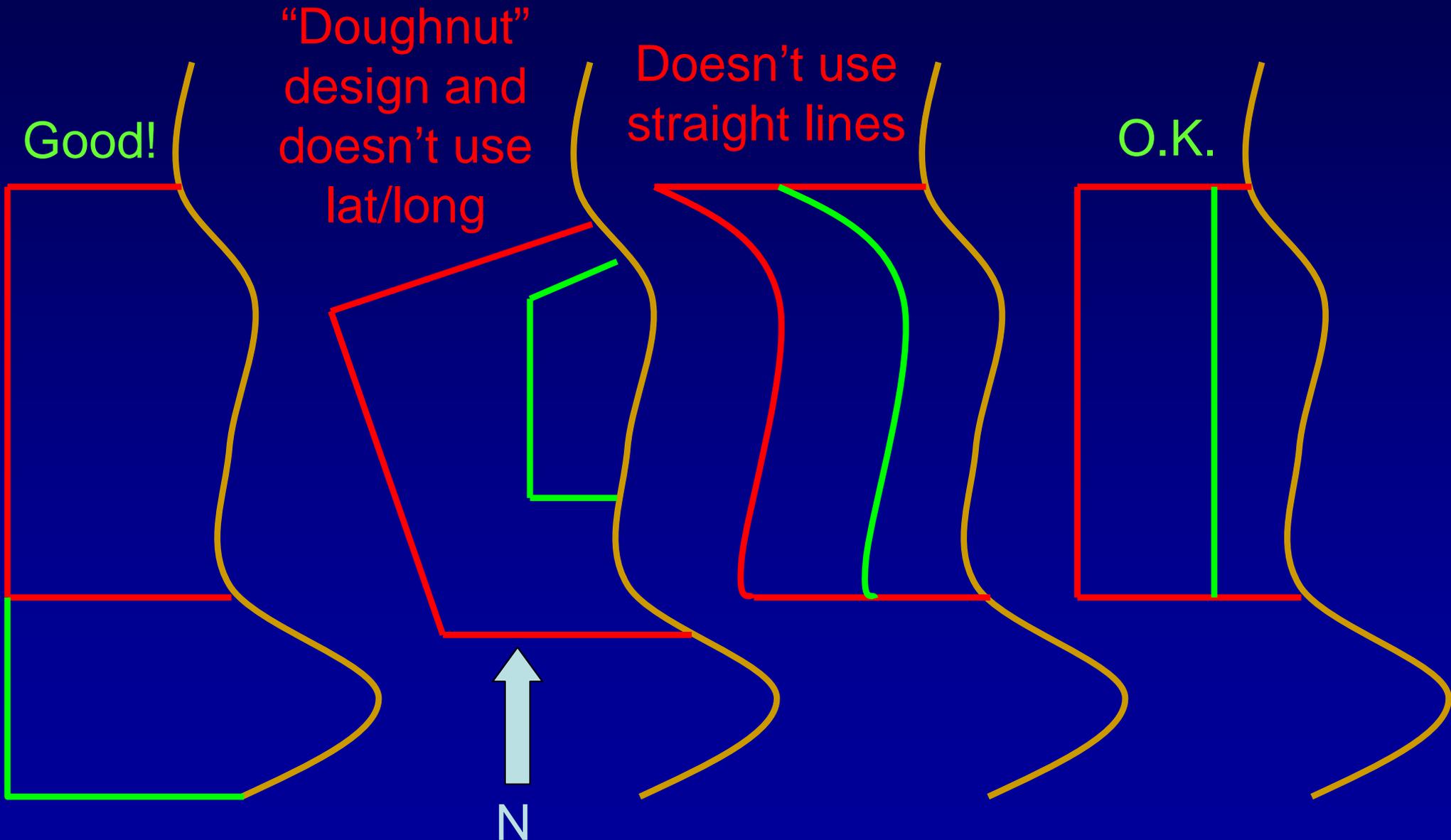
Department Statement of Feasibility Criteria

- Design elements that **decrease** feasibility
 - Undulating boundary lines or contours
 - “Doughnut zones” = areas completely surrounded by differing level of protection
 - Depth contours or distance from shore boundaries
 - Note that MPAs extending to state water line are okay
 - Boundary lines diagonal to lines of latitude and longitude
 - Intertidal MPAs that do not connect with subtidal areas

Boundary Examples



Zoning Examples



Scientific Guidance

No single optimum network design

Habitats/Replication

- Every 'key' marine habitat should be represented
- MPAs should extend from the intertidal zone to deep waters offshore
- "Key" marine habitats should be replicated in multiple MPAs
- At least three to five replicate MPAs should be designed for each habitat type within a biogeographical region

Scientific Guidance

Size

- Alongshore span of 5-10 km (3-6 m or 2.5-5.4 nm) of coastline and preferably 10-20 km (6-12.5 m or 5.4-11 nm)
- Larger MPAs would be required to fully protect marine birds, mammals, and migratory fish.

Spacing

- MPAs should be placed within 50-100 km (31-62 m or 27-54 nm) of each other.
- Placement of MPAs should take into account local resource use and stakeholder activities.