

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative



Developing and Refining Draft MPA Proposals for the North Central Coast

Presentation to the North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group

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Where we are in the process?

- Regional stakeholder group – initial feedback from the science advisory team, blue ribbon task force and California Department of Fish and Game on six draft options and four draft proposals
- Six work group draft options are not yet full proposals – need to evolve into *fewer formal draft proposals*
- Four draft proposals developed outside the work group process – *need to refine and/or winnow*
- Now starting the second of three iterations; task force is looking for ~ five or fewer proposals in next round



Work group arrays/external proposals

Staff and SAT evaluated 11 options or proposals

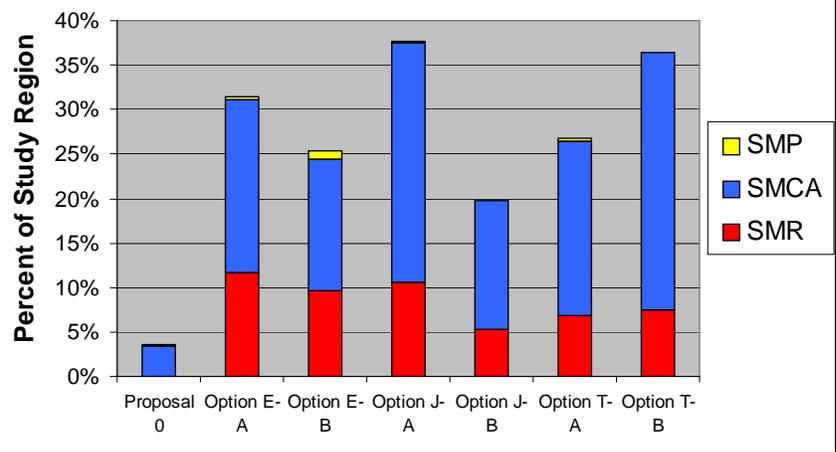
Work Group Draft Options for MPA Arrays	Draft "External" MPA Proposals
Emerald option "EA"	Proposal A
Emerald option "EB"	Proposal B
Jade option "JA"	Proposal C
Jade option "JB"	Proposal D
Turquoise option "TA"	
Turquoise option "TB"	

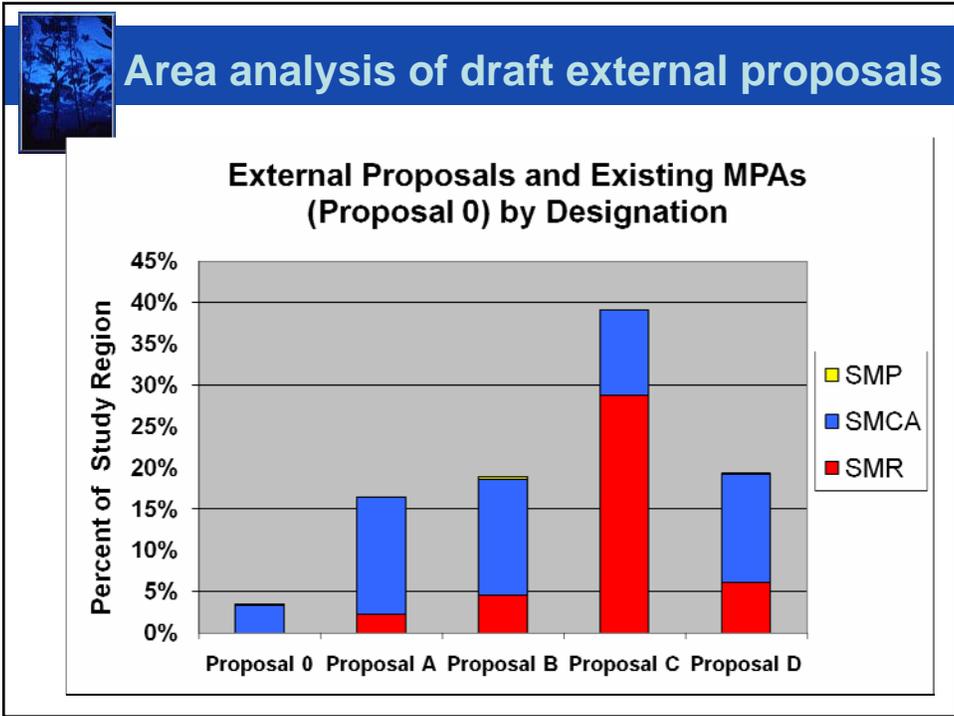
+ Proposal Zero (existing MPAs)



Area analysis of draft options

Workgroup Draft Options and Existing MPAs (Proposal 0) by Designation





- ### Some key considerations
- Science guidelines
 - Task force guidance
 - DFG feasibility analysis
 - Ecological factors (e.g., habitat, unique features, etc.)
 - Socioeconomic factors (e.g., fishing, coastal communities)
 - Access; weather and safety
 - Marine birds and mammals (e.g., special closures)
 - Mariculture (e.g., existing leases)
 - Tribal uses and areas of importance
 - Existing MPAs and fishery closures



Other new information coming...

1. **Native American tribal use** – Pomo, Miwok, Ohlone
 - Traditional collecting and gathering of marine resources for personal use (food, medicine, ceremonial). Entire shoreline of study region is of cultural importance to tribes
 - Gathering information on areas of highest importance through workshops and meetings with local tribal members
2. **Recreational fishing survey** – areas of importance



Other new information coming...

3. **SAT parallel processes (modeling) group outputs** – population sustainability, fisheries and economic models
4. **Marxan (reserve design software) exploratory analysis** – using habitat and commercial fisheries data (via University of California, Santa Barbara students)
5. **MLPA Goal 3 analysis** – proximity to access points, ports/harbors, research institutions, monitoring sites; potential impacts to recreational fishing areas of importance; potential impacts to abalone fishery



Moving toward convergence

- NCCRSG members have expressed desire to converge to the extent possible
- BRTF has asked for convergence around fewer proposals
- Many areas of geographic overlap among arrays - but regulations and specific boundaries differ
- Consider assigning work group members to tackle specific geographies
- Look *across draft arrays and draft proposals* – try to understand other options and ‘borrow’ best ideas



Some planning advice....

- No overlapping MPAs! Only one MPA can occupy any given space – for both evaluation and feasibility reasons
- Be specific in stated regulations (e.g., gear or type of fishing allowed)
- Need to identify GOALS and MPA-specific OBJECTIVES this iteration – make intent of each MPA clear



Some planning advice....

- Size and spacing guidelines are focused on ecological goals (MLPA goals 2 & 6) of population sustainability – for MPAs that form the ecological “backbone” of the network
- Other MPAs may have other goals and won't necessarily meet size or spacing guidelines
- *Seasonal* special closures can overlap an MPA but *year-round* special closures should not (they are essentially state marine reserves with additional regulations limiting access)
- Be specific in purpose, seasonality, and shape of proposed special closures



Remember you have support....

- Ecotrust data viewable at specified DFG offices
- All other non-confidential data layers on IMS or in Doris
- Planning/GIS staff available to provide data, maps, analyses....just ask and we will try to accommodate
- Other staff available for questions, logistical support, facilitation support, etc.