Implementing the Marine Life Protection Act: Science and the Science Advisory Team

Steve Murray California State University Fullerton

Marine Protected Areas





Population Structures Differ In and Outside of MPAs



Reproductive Output is Strongly Affected by Body Size



Export of Young





Marine Life Protection Act The Process

- <u>Blue RibbonTask Force (8 members)</u>
 - Oversee implementation
 - Make policy decisions
- <u>Science Team (ca. 16 members)</u>
 - Natural Sciences and Social Sciences
 - Provide Scientific Knowledge and Advice; Assist Stakeholders
 - Develop Scientific Framework for MPA Designs
- <u>Stakeholder-Based Process</u>
 - Working Groups of Stakeholders
 - Prepare Sites according to Science Team Guidelines





Science Guidelines

Identified Key Habitats:

- Bottom Type and Depth
- Biogenic Habitats (e.g., Kelp Beds)
- Oceanographic Features







Science Guidelines

- Habitats Mapped with GIS
- Habitat Distributions Calculated
- Habitat Used as a Proxy for Species Distributions
- Habitat Information Provided to Stakeholders for MPA Designs





Science Guidelines

Published and Unpublished Models Describing Sustainability Effects (Size and Spacing)

Adult Movement Estimates from Scientific Literature (Size)



Larval Dispersal Estimates from Scientific Literature (Spacing)



How Far Do Adult Animals Move?

0 – 1 km	1 – 10 km	10 – 100 km	100 – 1000 km	> 1000 km
Invertebrates Abalone Mussel Octopus Sea Star Snail Urchin Rockfishes Blk. & Yellow China Gopher Grass, Kelp Other Fishes Sheephead Greenling Surf perches	Rockfishes Black Brown Copper Greenspotted Olive Vermilion Other Fishes Cabezon Ca. Halibut Lingcod	Invertebrates Dung. Crab* Rockfishes Bobaccio Canary 10 - 2 Yelow to Co Widow Other F Anchorof M Other ring Spe Sardin Birds Guls Comorants Manimals Harbor Seal	Fishes Big Skate Pacific Halibut Seblefich* 20 km ds* 0 km ds* 0 ntain ments Aany cies Forporses Sea Lions*	Invertebrates Jumbo Squid* Fishes Sharks* Tunas* Turtles* Birds Albatross* Pelican* Shearwater* Shorebirds* Terns* Mammals Dolphins Sea Lions* Whales*
Eels			* Seasonal	Migration Source: Mark Carr



Stakeholder MPA Packages: Evaluations



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SAT Size Guidelines

Example: Moderate to High Protection MPAs

Pkg	# of MPA Clusters	Below Minimum	At Minimum	Preferable Size
J	13	54%	31%	15%
2R	14	36%	14%	50%
3R	14	28%	22%	50%
Р	11	36%	18%	46%

Source: Mark Carr







After CINMS



Challenges for Implementing the MLPA in Southern California

 Heterogeneous and Complex Ocean Conditions (How Many Biogeographic Areas?) (How Will Connectivity Be Obtained?)

Rocky Habitat is Scarce
(Headlands are Prime Candidates for MPAs)
(Scarcity Creates Conflicts for Users)

Challenges for Implementing the MLPA in Southern California

3. Stakeholder Interest Groups are Fragmented Geographically

4. Many Fishers Recreational and Commercial

5. Will MPAs Work Given Intense Human Presence? (How Will Water Quality Affect MPA Performance?)