




Staff Report

City of Manhattan Beach

TO: Honorable Mayor Cohen and Members of the City Council

THROUGH: Geoff Dolan, City Manager 

FROM: Lindy Coe-Juell, Assistant to the City Manager

DATE: October 20, 2009

SUBJECT: Consideration of a Resolution Supporting the Exclusion of the Rocky Point Area as a Marine Life Protection Area

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt Resolution No. 6224 in support of the exclusion of the Rocky Point area as a Marine Life Protection Area.

FISCAL IMPLICATION:

There are no fiscal implications for the City associated with the recommended action.

BACKGROUND:

The Marine Life Protection Act was signed into law in 1999 and directed the state to redesign California's system of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to increase its coherence and effectiveness in protecting the state's marine life and habitats as well as to improve recreational and educational opportunities along the California coast.

Redesigning the system of MPAs along California's 1,100 mile coastline was a large task and therefore divided into study phases. In the first phase, a master plan framework was created to help guide the planning process within geographic areas. After the framework was created, the first redesign effort took place along the central coast. In April 2007 the California Fish and Game Commission adopted a final package of MPAs for this area.

Our coastline area for this initiative runs from Point Conception to the Mexico border and has been studied by the South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group. This group met over the last year and developed three MPA proposals. These proposals will be considered by the Marine Life Protection Act Blue Ribbon Task Force during their October 20-22 meeting for the selection of a preferred alternative to recommend to the California Fish and Game Commission for final adoption.

DISCUSSION:

One of the MPA proposals being considered by the Task Force (Proposal #2) excludes the Rocky Point area of the Palos Verdes Peninsula. Proposal #2 is preferred by local commercial and recreational fishing interest groups for the preservation fishing access in the Rocky Point area and

its associated economic activity. According to the Recreation Marine Research Center at Michigan State University, fishing at Rocky Point is responsible for \$17,317,000 in economic activity within a 30 mile radius of King Harbor in Redondo Beach and 87 jobs. Proposal #2 is also supported by local environmental groups such as Heal the Bay, Santa Monica Bay Keeper and the Surfrider Foundation as a strategically placed MPA that safeguards critical habitats while minimizing economic impact to local fisheries.

The Redondo Beach and Hermosa Beach City Councils have both passed resolutions in support of Proposal #2, which excludes the Rocky Point area. Assemblymember Ted Lieu has also publicly supported the exclusion of the Rocky Point area in the MPA in a letter to the Marine Life Protection Act Blue Ribbon Task Force (see attachment B).

CONCLUSION:

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt Resolution No. 6224 in support of the exclusion of the Rocky Point area as a Marine Life Protection Area and direct staff to forward the resolution to the Marine Life Protection Act Blue Ribbon Task Force.

- Attachments:
- A. Resolution NO. 6224
 - B. Assemblymember Ted Lieu's support letter
 - C. Environmental support letter
 - D. South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group MPA Proposals #1-3

RESOLUTION NO. 6224

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH, CALIFORNIA, SUPPORTING THE EXCLUSION OF THE ROCKY POINT AREA AS A MARINE LIFE PROTECTION AREA

WHEREAS, according to the Recreation Marine Research Center at Michigan State University, fishing at Rocky Point is responsible for \$17,317,000 in economic activity within a 30 mile radius of King Harbor in Redondo Beach and 87 jobs;

WHEREAS, according to the 2008 Status of U.S. Fisheries report published by the National Marine Fisheries Service, there are no 'overfished' species in the Southwest Region and;

WHEREAS, Santa Monica Bay from Rocky Point to Malibu is already closed to commercial net and trap fishing and;

WHEREAS, 14 fish species are already regulated as to size, catch limits and seasonal taking in the Rocky Point area and;

WHEREAS, there is no scientific evidence suggesting a deteriorating ecological environment in the Rocky Point area, but significant anecdotal evidence that this area continues to rebound since the commercial fishing ban took effect and;

WHEREAS, there will also be significant cultural impacts to the South Bay community if the Rocky Point area is closed to fishing.

NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH, CALIFORNIA, DOES HEREBY RESOLVE, DECLARE, FIND, DETERMINE AND ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The City supports Proposal 2 of the South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group and more specifically, the exclusion of the Rocky Point area as a Marine Life Protection Area.

SECTION 2. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

SECTION 3. The City Clerk shall certify to the passage and adoption of this resolution; shall cause the same to be entered among the original resolutions of said City; and shall make a minute of the passage and adoption thereof in the records of the proceedings of the City Council of said City in the minutes of the meeting at which the same is passed and adopted.

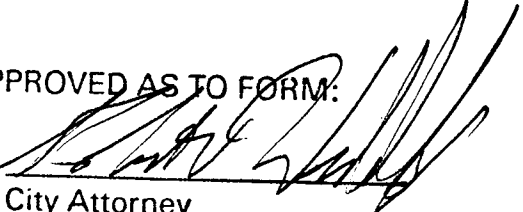
PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this 20th day of October, 2009.

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

Mayor, City of Manhattan Beach, California

ATTEST:

City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
By 
City Attorney

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0053
(916) 319-2053
FAX (916) 319-2153

Attachment B
Assembly
California Legislature



TED W. LIEU

ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FIFTY THIRD DISTRICT

October 9, 2009

Blue Ribbon Task Force
Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
c/o California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Blue Ribbon Task Force Members:

I fully support the Marine Life Protection Act and the goals of improving our marine ecosystems statewide. I am writing to support Proposal 2 presented to you by the South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group in September, 2009. I am very concerned that Proposals 1 and 3 will have immediate and devastating impacts to our community.

More specifically, I request that the Blue Ribbon Task Force exclude the Rocky Point area of the Palos Verdes Peninsula from consideration for a Marine Life Protection Area for socioeconomic reasons.

According to the Recreation Marine Research Center at Michigan State University, the King Harbor Marina generates \$46,755,000 in economic activity and many jobs within a 30 mile radius of King Harbor in Redondo Beach. It has been determined that fishing at Rocky Point is responsible for \$17,317,000 of this economic activity.

In addition to economic loss, there will also be significant social and cultural impacts such as ending the at-risk youth fishing programs conducted at Rocky Point, which serves thousands of youth annually.

Also, according to the 2008 States of U.S. Fisheries report published by the National Marine Fisheries Service, there are no "overfished" species in the Southwest Region. Furthermore, Santa Monica Bay from Rocky Point to Malibu is already closed to commercial net and trap fishing with 14 species regulated as to size, catch limits and seasonal taking in the Rocky Point area.

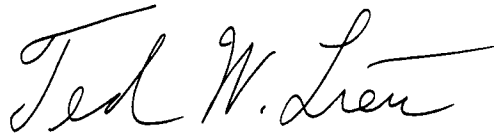
There is no scientific evidence suggesting a deteriorating ecological environment in the Rocky Point area, but significant anecdotal evidence that this area continues to rebound since the commercial fishing ban took effect.

There are adjacent areas that offer similar opportunities to enhance the marine environments without bringing devastating economic and cultural impacts to the local communities of the South Bay.

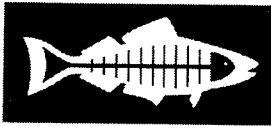
Please consider the socioeconomic impacts to our community, especially during this devastating recession, when choosing the array and recommendations the Task Force forwards to the Department of Fish and Game. This area is adjacent to the most densely populated area on the California coast and the most populous county in the country. Proposal 2 allows continued recreational consumptive uses while creating a Marine Life Protection Area in the Point Vicente area.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact me at (310) 615-3515.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ted W. Lieu". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

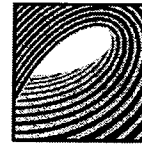
TED W. LIEU
Assemblymember, 53rd District



Heal the Bay



SANTA MONICA
BAYKEEPER



Surfrider
Foundation.

Attachment C

RE: The California Marine Life Protection Act and Palos Verdes Peninsula

Dear City Council Members:

Heal the Bay, Santa Monica Baykeeper, and Surfrider Foundation representing over 35,000 members, invite you to join us in supporting the California Marine Life Protection Act and the public's participation in this historic process.

To protect California's coastline and marine waters, California adopted the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) in 1999 and began to implement the act in 2006. The MLPA is the first state law in the nation requiring the formation of a network of science-based marine protected areas (MPAs).

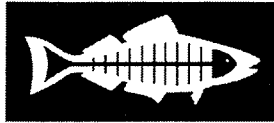
Similar to the movement over 100 years ago when the United States took steps to protect our most exceptional places on land by establishing national parks, such as Yellowstone and Yosemite, today California is doing the same for our oceans through the fulfillment of the MLPA and the creation of MPAs.

MPAs benefit the marine ecosystem, as well as the people who live in or visit our state's coastal areas and those who depend on the state's coastal waters for work. California's beaches and coastal waters draw millions of visitors to the ocean each year, and California's coastal economy, largely driven by tourism, is valued at \$43 billion. These visitors, both locals and tourists, enjoy swimming, kayaking, scuba diving, fishing, wildlife viewing and many other activities that will benefit from MPAs.

The State is taking a regional approach to implement MPAs along the coast and has already established **53 MPAs in the central and north central coast, leaving close to 90% of the coast in these regions open to fishing.** Now, the MLPA process is being implemented in southern California (from Point Conception to the U.S./Mexico border). During the past several months, a diverse group of local stakeholders—including fishermen, divers, conservationists, and business owners--has been working together to design a south coast MPA network. They have identified areas of ecological importance, and are now refining proposals that will be reviewed by science and policy experts.

The ultimate goal is to map out a system of MPAs that will protect sensitive marine life and critical habitat, while ensuring south coast residents can continue to use and enjoy the ocean. The final network will leave the vast majority of the ocean open to various forms of fishing, and the entire coastline open for non-consumptive activities like diving, swimming, boating and surfing. There has been some misinformation spread on this topic, **so we would like to emphasize the point that the MLPA does not limit public access in any way.**

The stakeholders will enter their third and final round of negotiations in August and September 2009 to develop three maps that will be scientifically evaluated. In late October, the Blue Ribbon Task Force – a team of policy experts - will select a preferred alternative to forward to the Fish and Game Commission for a final vote.



Heal the Bay



SANTA MONICA
BAYKEEPER



Surfrider
Foundation.

Specifically, in terms of the Palos Verdes peninsula, all draft maps (including those being drafted by fishing interests) have proposed MPAs on the peninsula. Some maps locate an MPA on the southern portion of the peninsula near Portuguese Bend, while other maps place an MPA just below or including Rocky Point on the western face. **Currently, there are no maps or interest groups proposing a closure of the entire Palos Verdes peninsula, nor are there any maps or groups proposing extending an MPA north of Palos Verdes towards Redondo Harbor.**

All draft maps from the last round of negotiations are available on the Department of Fish and Game website: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/scrsg-dprops-r2.asp>. Future maps will also be available on this website.

Santa Monica Baykeeper, Surfrider Foundation, and Heal the Bay believe that the placement of an MPA on Palos Verdes is critical for the health of Palos Verdes' marine ecosystem and the long term health of its fisheries. We support a strategically placed MPA on the northwestern face of the Palos Verdes peninsula to safeguard critical habitats necessary to protect and restore this ecosystem, while minimizing the economic impact to fisheries out of Marina Del Rey, King Harbor, San Pedro and Long Beach. We are working closely with commercial and recreational fishermen and all other stakeholders to figure out the best placement of this MPA.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mark Gold
President
Heal the Bay
mgold@healthebay.org
310-451-1500

Tom Ford
Executive Director
Santa Monica Baykeeper
tford@smbaykeeper.org
(310) 305-9645

Joe Geever
California Policy Coordinator
Surfrider Foundation
jgeever@surfrider.org
(310) 410-2890

**California MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group
Narrative Rationale for SCRSG Marine Protected Area Proposal 1
September 17, 2009**

MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (SCRSG) Work Group 1 (WG1) based its marine protected area (MPA) proposal on the Round 2 MPA Proposal Topaz, and included many of the original members of that group, along with some additional members from the Lapis and Opal groups who had shown an interest and ability to work in the context of competing interests and continuing compromise. WG1 was charged with achieving a high level of cross-interest support while developing an MPA proposal that improved the Topaz group's achievement of Science Advisory Team (SAT) guidelines.

WG1 was comprised of 25 regional stakeholder group (RSG) members from a wide range of interests represented on the SCRSG, including commercial and recreational fishing, aquaculture, non-governmental conservation organizations, education, academic, tribal, and local, state and federal government interests.

WG1 began negotiations at the August 3-4 RSG meeting as an entire work group; at this meeting they discussed many alternatives for each geography along the South Coast. Throughout August, they met in small geography-based subgroups to narrow down individual MPA alternatives to bring back to the work group during the September RSG meeting. During the first day of the September meeting, they were split into three cross-interest subgroups (comprised of 5-6 people/group) and directed to develop a full MPA proposal for the South Coast as a small group. On the second day, they presented these 3 proposals to the entire work group, and selected 2 of the 3 proposals to use as platforms for the creation of a final WG1 proposal, which was developed on days 2 and 3 of the RSG meeting.

The group placed a strong emphasis on meeting the science guidelines and creating a backbone of preferred size State Marine Reserves (SMRs), as directed by the Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF), although in some areas the group chose to endorse MPAs below the preferred size due to economic concerns. WG1 also sought to minimize negative socioeconomic impacts, as demonstrated in the creation of State Marine Conservation Areas (SMCAs) in places with high fishing value, such as Malibu and Catalina. In some areas, the focus was also on the creation of efficient shapes that met science guidelines, while minimizing socioeconomic impacts, such as the MPAs at Helo, Palos Verdes and Laguna Beach.

In some areas, WG1 worked creatively to identify MPA boundaries that minimize socioeconomic impacts, yet adhere as closely as possible to the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) feasibility guidance. Some of the final MPAs may not be preferable by DFG, but the group felt these were important innovative solutions to meet SAT guidelines, while minimizing socioeconomic impacts (e.g. in Laguna Beach the work group created an SMR that took into consideration avoiding a wastewater outfall, leaving waters in South Laguna adjacent to public access open to fishing, and reducing the offshore extent of the MPA to minimize socioeconomic impacts to several offshore fisheries; and the Palos Verdes SMR leaves some inshore extent open to fishing while protecting waters offshore).

Some members of the group were also focused on research opportunities, so site-specific rationale was given for certain MPAs to highlight these opportunities. For example, the La Jolla SMCA/SMR cluster is divided between an SMR and SMCA, allowing some uses, and subsequent comparison. The existing invertebrate closure on the lee side of Catalina is

decreased in size to allow for a presence/absence study after the removal of an MPA; moreover the new MPA has distinct boundaries and creates a more enforceable shape.

For many of the geographies, compromises using tradeoffs were utilized to develop the proposal. In challenging areas where it was difficult for the work group to identify a tradeoff, votes were taken, but options were not seriously considered unless substantial cross-interest support was demonstrated. Key compromises achieved by work group 1 exist throughout the study region.

In the Santa Barbara area, there was a lot of discussion about whether or not the work group could support an MPA at Naples Reef. This area has been a long-stated area of importance for conservation value, as well as commercial and recreational fishing. At the August RSG meeting and during subgroup discussions, WG1 members had broad agreement that backbone SMRs should be placed at Point Conception and Isla Vista; they also generally agreed on the boundaries and size of these SMRs. Consumptive interests had concerns about placing a goal three MPA at Naples given the size and habitat represented in the two backbone SMRs. After much discussion, the group agreed to place a small SMCA at Naples Reef and draw the western boundary of the SMR at Point Conception back one minute to open up more of St. Augustine's reef, which is an area important to commercial and recreational fishing. The SMCA at Naples allows for kelp harvest and spearfishing. This is important because the proposed SMR at Isla Vista covers the current kelp lease, and Naples is an alternative site for kelp harvest.

In the Los Angeles area, WG1 negotiated a key tradeoff between Point Dume and Palos Verdes headlands that are the boundaries of Santa Monica Bay. Finding consensus for an MPA at Palos Verdes amongst work group members was difficult due to the rich ecosystem importance of the area, as well as its value and importance to commercial and recreational fishing. The Topaz Round 2 map focused on the western side of the peninsula, but missed some habitat replicates identified in the SAT guidelines. The WG1 shape was proposed by fishing interests in an effort to achieve the science guidelines, while minimizing negative economic impacts and splitting any economic impacts evenly between commercial and recreational fishing interests. Conservation representatives were concerned about the limited shoreline extent of this shape and possible edge effects, but ended up supporting this shape paired with the shape at Point Dume, as conservation values are also represented on the east side of Point Dume, which is partially included in the WG1 Point Dume SMR. The eastern boundary of Point Dume remains the same as that in the Round 2 Topaz map, which was a compromise between fishing and conservation interests during Round 2 because it splits a popular reef in that area, Big Kelp Reef.

At Catalina, WG1 created backbone MPAs of at least minimum size on the front and back sides of the island in areas that capture important habitats and key species. Catalina was a particular challenge because of high levels of commercial and recreational use, and the military constraints on San Clemente Island. WG1 worked to satisfy most SAT guidelines while minimizing socio-economic impacts. At Farnsworth Bank the goal was to protect rare purple hydrocorals on the underwater pinnacle without a no-anchorage designation (safety issue) and without a state-owned mooring (which the group recommends as a follow-up effort). Pelagic

surface activities were allowed as these would not negatively impact the key species of purple coral.

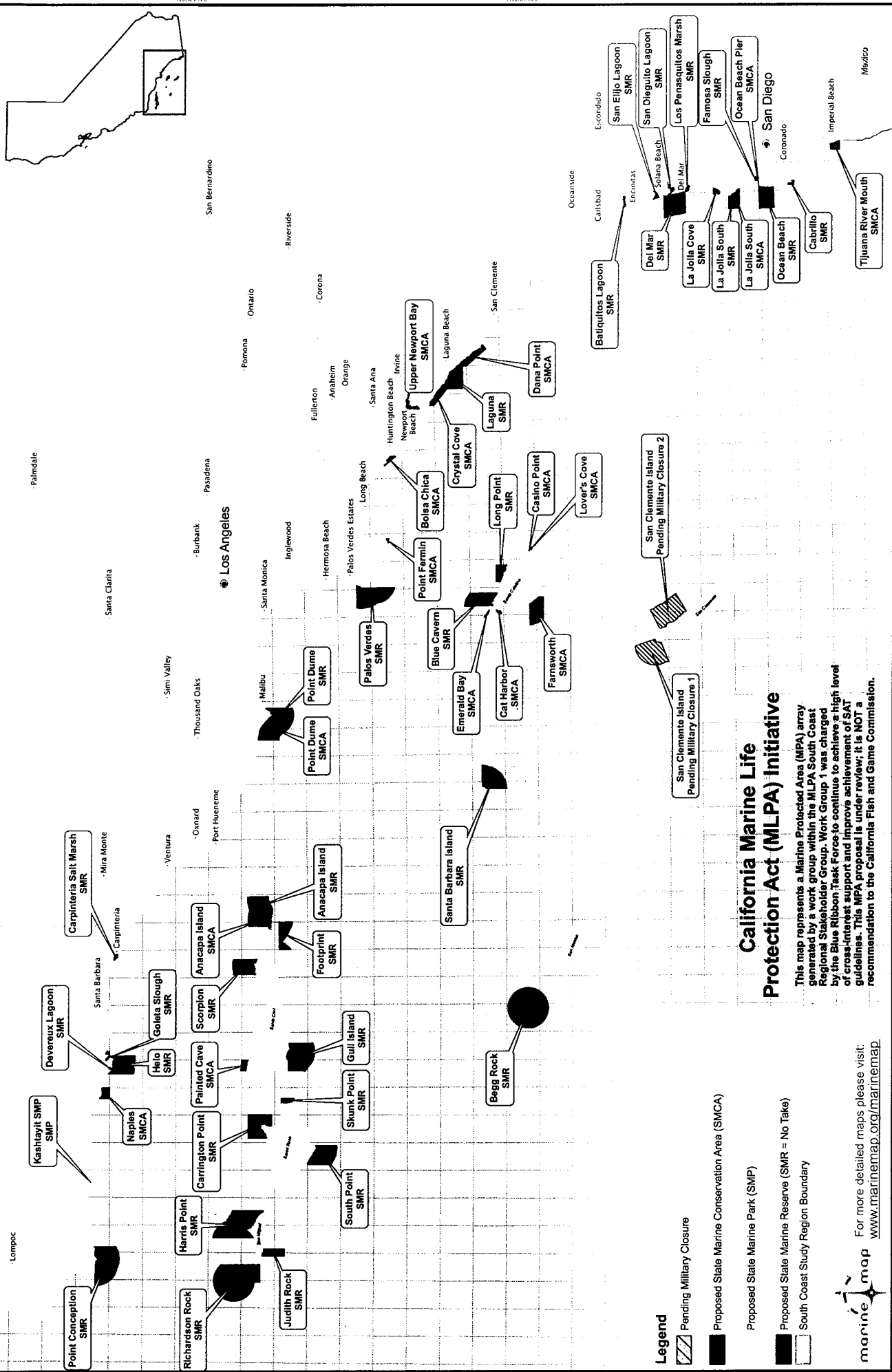
The Blue Cavern SMR on the front side of the island was chosen for its key and unique habitats. A smaller footprint MPA already exists; enlarging it into this MPA carries the advantage of its proximity to the USC Wrigley Marine Science Center, and it has been well studied and enforced by local staff. Ecologically important but economically significant Bird Rock was included to comply with feasibility guidelines, while Isthmus Reef, ecologically similar but entirely submerged, was not included in the MPA to provide a comparative research site. These two backbones are accompanied by a small SMR at Long Point to capture Black Sea bass spawning aggregations and more of the key and unique species and habitats also found in the Blue Caverns SMR. Other legacy MPAs were retained for their importance to islanders and tourists. WG1 discussed creating an MPA to capture deep rock habitat at the south end of the island, but ultimately did not move forward with this option due to concerns that the negative socioeconomic impacts of creating an MPA to capture an individual habitat were merited.

In the San Diego area, there was a lot of discussion regarding La Jolla and northern San Diego County. The final shape in northern San Diego county represents a compromise between centering an MPA at Swami's (preferred by conservation interests), or centering it at Del Mar (preferred by fishing interests). Our final shape includes the deep rock habitats at Del Mar, and some of the kelp in the Solana Beach area near Swami's. This decision was paired with a compromise at La Jolla. Conservation interests felt strongly that the southern portion of the La Jolla reef needed to be included in an SMR; however consumptive interests stated the importance of the entire La Jolla peninsula to fishing. The final map features a below-minimum size SMR/SMCA cluster that includes some of the important habitat in the central part of the La Jolla peninsula within the SMR, while leaving the southernmost portion (closest to Mission Bay) open to lobster, urchin and hook and line fishing. This area was specifically designed to further cooperative fisheries research opportunities on kelp forest ecosystem interactions.

A third compromise was made across geographies. WG1 discussed many areas of tribal importance. Specifically, tribal interests recommended seven proposed heritage MPAs for tribal co-management or partnership: Kashtayit SMP (at Gaviota), Naples SMCA, Pt. Dume SMCA, Pt. Dume SMR, Bolsa Chica SMCA, Crystal Cove SMCA, and Batiquitos Lagoon SMR. These MPAs are located at Traditional Cultural Places and each plays a significant role in the maritime cultures of the participating coastal tribes: Chumash, Tongva, Juaneño/Acjachemem, and Luiseño. Based on Tribal interests, WG1 is recommending Tribal government and non-government entities explore the formulation of MOUs with appropriate State departments (e.g. Fish and Game and Parks and Recreation) to promote 1) education and outreach, 2) marine stewardship, and 3) indigenous maritime cultural preservation and revitalization. It is proposed that cultural practices would fall within permitted recreational uses of these MPAs. Some of the area of tribal interest overlap with MPAs that WG1 was considering independently (e.g. Naples and Batiquitos Lagoon), while others were new areas for consideration. The Round 2 Topaz map featured a cultural SMCA in Malibu at Nicholas Canyon that allowed for some commercial and recreational fishing uses. After much discussion, tribal interests indicated they prefer SMPs, which do not allow for commercial fishing uses. WG1 decided to add a new cultural SMP along the Gaviota coast, but remove the cultural SMCA along the Malibu coast to leave

important areas near Leo Carillo and Nicholas Canyon open to fishing. In the Malibu area, the Point Dume SMR/SMCA cluster that was already agreed on by the work group was recognized as an area of tribal importance.

MLPA South Coast Study Region: Round 3 - South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group MPA Proposal 1



Scale: 0 0.5 9 18 Miles
Graphic Scale: 1:1,400,000
Grid: 5min Interval

San Bernardino
Riverside
Corona
Pomona
Ontario
Fullerton
Anaheim
Orange
Santa Ana
Irvine
San Clemente
San Diego
Imperial Beach

Santa Barbara
Santa Monica
Malibu
Hermosa Beach
Palos Verdes Estates
Long Beach
Huntington Beach
Newport Beach
Upper Newport Bay
Laguna Beach
Laguna
Dana Point
San Clemente
San Juan Capistrano
San Diego
Imperial Beach

Point Conception SMR
Richardson Rock SMR
Harris Point SMR
Carrington Point SMR
Painted Cave SMCA
South Point SMR
Judith Rock SMR
Kashiyait SMP
Naples SMCA
Carrington Point SMR
Helo SMR
Goleta Slough SMR
Doveraux Lagoon SMR
Carpinteria Salt Marsh SMR
Mira Monte
Carpinteria
Santa Barbara
Anacapa Island SMCA
Scorpion SMR
Footprint SMR
Anacapa Island SMR
Oxnard
Port Hueneme
Ventura
Santa Barbara Island SMR
Santa Barbara Island SMR
Emerald Bay SMCA
Cat Harbor SMCA
Farnsworth SMCA
Point Fermin SMCA
Bois Chica SMCA
Crystal Cove SMCA
Long Point SMR
Casino Point SMCA
Lover's Cove SMCA
San Clemente Island Pending Military Closure 1
San Clemente Island Pending Military Closure 2
Begg Rock SMR
Gull Island SMR
Skunk Point SMR
South Point SMR
Del Mar SMR
Solana Beach
La Jolla Cove SMR
La Jolla South SMR
La Jolla South SMCA
Ocean Beach Pier SMCA
Ocean Beach SMR
Cabrillo
Tijuana River Mouth SMCA
Batiquitos Lagoon SMR
San Elijo Lagoon SMR
San Diego Lagoon SMR
Los Penasquitos Marsh SMR
Famosa Slough SMR
Del Mar
San Diego
Imperial Beach

California MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group
Narrative Rationale for SCRSG Marine Protected Area Proposal 2
September 17, 2009

Designed to meet the intent and spirit of the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) and garner a broad range of cross-interest support, the MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (SCRSG) Work Group 2 marine protected area (MPA) proposal includes some of the most biologically productive, rich and diverse marine habitats in the state.

Among many key habitats captured are lush kelp forests, rugged reef systems, submarine canyons, intertidal coastal stretches, surf grass beds, pinniped rookeries, avian roosting sites, estuaries and tidal flats. There are places where boat traffic is incessant, others where it is nearly non-existent. There are near-port areas that will no-doubt accommodate vigilant enforcement from many sources, and others so remote that compliance will depend, in part, on an honorable sense of "doing what's right."

The Group 2 proposal also retains many beloved heritage MPAs. Many were perhaps established "without a clearly defined purpose" (MLPA language), but have evolved to provide educational opportunities and the opportunity for the public to observe coastal ecosystems that have larger and more abundant organisms than they would if harvest of them were allowed. Retained Heritage MPAs also enjoy complementary local support and infrastructure, and support for educational and recreational opportunities.

The Group 2 proposal is also rooted in the notion of cross-interest support, efforts toward which were vigorously pursued throughout the step-wise, iterative MLPA process. As a result, it can be supported by public agencies, coastal water, wastewater and power agencies, professional and recreational fishing families, ports and harbors, trade and private NGOs, conservation groups, fish processors and markets, restaurateurs, educational organizations, ocean oriented businesses and recreational enthusiasts.

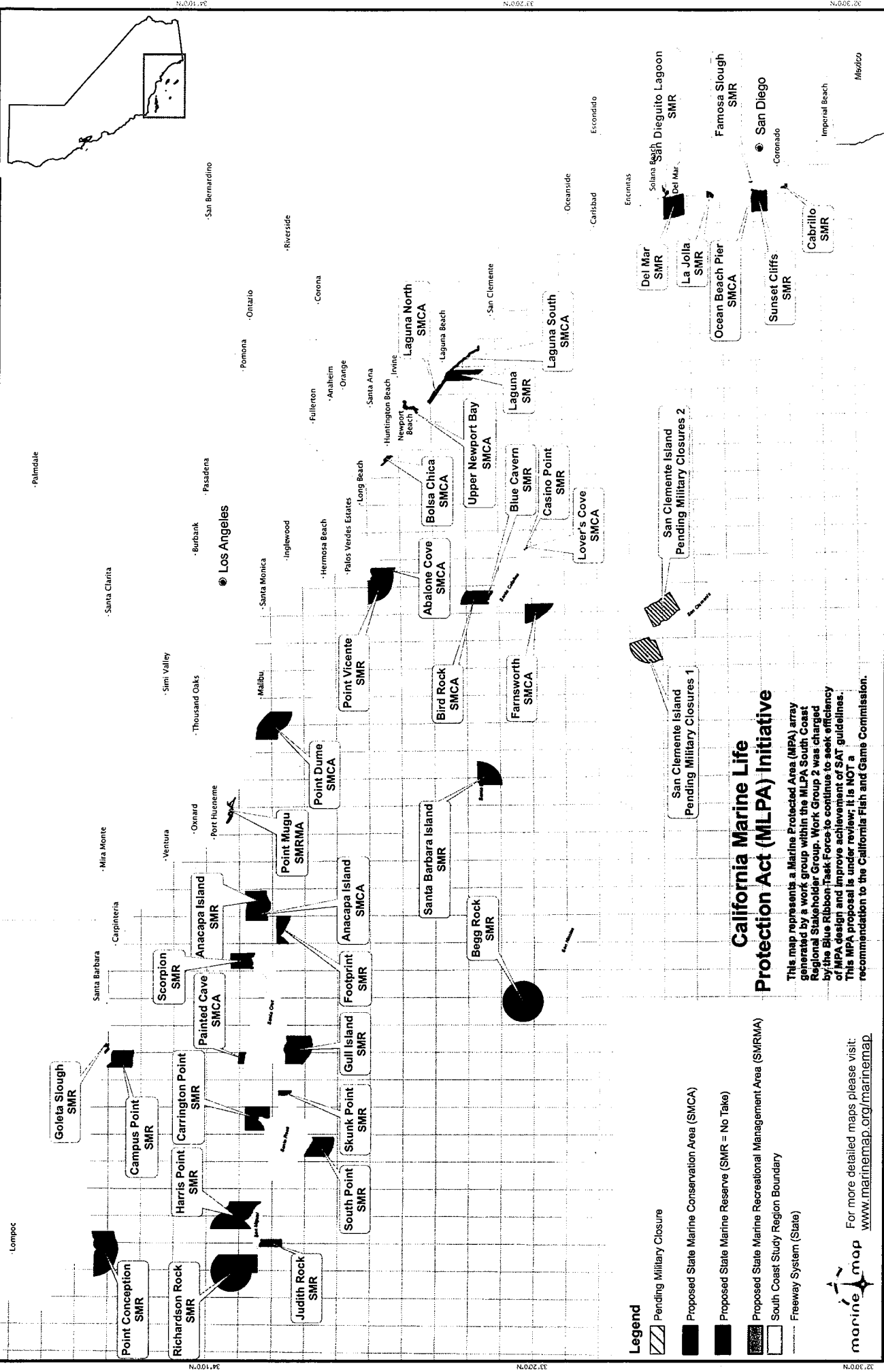
Group 2 endeavored to meet design guidelines while balancing them with socio-economic impacts, an equilibrium necessary to gaining the local support essential to MPA success. We considered Ecotrust's spatial analyses of fisheries value, plus modeling analysis from both the University of California at Davis and the University of California at Santa Barbara's bio-economic models. We also undertook exhaustive outreach to coastal-dependent entities to understand the socio-economic impacts to public essential services and industries that use areas under consideration for MPA's.

Based on this comprehensive effort, it is our firm conviction that any proposal resulting in higher socio-economic impacts than Group 2's proposal would result in failed ocean-dependent businesses, disrupted harbor operations and significant impacts to the century-old culture of our coastal communities.

We believe Group 2's proposal meets the goals of the Act. However, given natural distributions of some "key" habitats and shortcomings of best readily available data (accuracy, completeness), several identified "key" habitat types were unavailable in sufficient amount and within Science Advisory Team-identified benchmark distances. In some of these instances selection of the most proximal "replicates" of these habitats could not be feasibly accommodated without enduring unacceptable socio-economic impacts. In other cases, Group

2 members, whose local knowledge includes over 350 years of at-sea experience, were able to help bridge or correct those data gaps.

In conclusion, the Group 2 proposal includes key geographies and protects essential, iconic habitats necessary to advance goals of the MLPA and provide an efficient and effective MPA network in the South Coast Study Area. Its value is enhanced by the support it has received, from not only those who contributed to its design, but from the individuals, businesses and agencies upon whose cooperation and sacrifice it depends for success. Adoption of the Group 2 proposal will provide excellent conservation value, avoid undue, unnecessary socio-economic harm and ensure protected ocean parks for generations to come.



California Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Initiative

This map represents a Marine Protected Area (MPA) array generated by a work group within the MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group. Work Group 2 was charged by the Blue Ribbon Task Force to continue to seek efficiency of MPA design and improve achievement of SAT guidelines. This MPA proposal is under review; it is NOT a recommendation to the California Fish and Game Commission.

For more detailed maps please visit: www.marinemap.org/marinemap

Projection Information:
 Name: NAD 1983 California Teale Albers
 Projection: Albers
 Datum: North American 1983

Printing Date: 09/21/2009
Created By: Marine Map, Cartographic Division UCSB

Scale: 1:1,400,000
 Grid: 5min intervals

California MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group
Narrative Rationale for SCRSG Marine Protected Area Proposal 3
September 16, 2009

MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (SCRSG) Work Group 3 (WG3) Methodology

- Create a proposal striving to achieve *preferred* SAT science guidelines as requested by the BRTF.
- Analyze each sub-bioregion's marine resources, choosing clusters of key and unique habitats to create efficient MPAs that protect a naturally functioning biodiverse food web for maximum productivity and ecosystem resilience – all in one preferred-science MPA.
- Consult and utilize 2nd round SAT bio-economic modeling analyses, as they balanced biological productivity and socio-economic effects simply, comparably and spatially.
- Carefully consider feasibility, State Parks, and stakeholder guidance as well as positive and negative socio-economic effects.
- Seek convergence where possible and adopt scientifically valid cross-interest shapes held common from previous rounds.
- Create several sub-preferred shapes in high use areas by refining MPAs to the tenth of a minute to maximize cost- benefit while ensuring scientific performance.
- Design small heritage MPAs to capture unique or high performance habitats—just big enough and with enough protection to capture the heart or essence of the resource and make a valid contribution to the MPA network.
- Absorb or eliminate non-performing Existing MPAs.

SCRSG WG3's MPA Proposal Summary

At **Point Conception**, we created an SMR that captured all available habitats in a remote, sparsely populated area, with just over the preferred six coastal miles. Conception is Group 3's largest MPA due to an offshore fan for rare rock. We based the coastal extent on a Round 2 convergence shape shown in SAT modeling to be the most efficiently productive.

At **Goleta, Celo in the Chumash language**, we used an early round MPA shape presented by local fishermen, enlarging 1/10th of a minute to the west to complete a soft proxy replicate. This minimum sized MPA contains all SAT key offshore habitats but three rare deep ones, and connects to Devereux Lagoon.

Nearby **Naples Reef** was deemed important for inclusion for intrinsic value and bio-economic performance (this tiny Naples MPA produced as much biomass conservation as mega Point Conception). Naples provides eco- dive, snorkel, kayak and wildlife viewing opportunities as well as 'Fishing the Line.'

The SMCA at **Rincon, Mishopsno** in Chumash, was created to fulfill SAT spacing habitat replication requirements to Point Dume. This MPA efficiently accomplishes all available spacing replicates, in a sparsely populated area with high quality near-shore habitat. There

was a typically delicate balance in play: avoid Carpinteria Reef and State Park while achieving science guidance.

Dume/Lachusa, with both preferred size and coastline, these MPAs encompass two ecotypes, a submarine canyon and all available habitats. Lachusa SMCA extends west just far enough to include a full persistent kelp bed replicate, rather than combining small patches of kelp. This same Lapis Dume cluster scored highest in SAT modeling effect on biomass. Pt. Dume SMR will serve a large local and tourist non-consumptive diving, snorkeling, kayaking, paddling and wildlife viewing community.

Palos Verdes SMR is another bio-economic powerhouse that includes part of a submarine canyon and all but 1 key habitat. This was the only place to put this network-critical SMR to include key habitats and avoid feasibility issues, with northern boundary efficiently matching Fishing District 19A line."

At **Laguna SMR** we adhered to the Laguna City Council's request to protect all of Laguna for ease of enforcement. The tiny SMCA strips protect the high intrinsic-value intertidal habitats of Newport and Dana Point, while allowing most fishing. This design best leverages long-standing community implementation infrastructure, including local enforcement officers, citizen docent programs, and State Parks on-site facilities and personnel.

At the **offshore islands**, we included the offered **military options**, and at Catalina designed two minimum sized SMRs protecting unique habitats on both the front and back sides at **Farnsworth** and the **North End**. Farnsworth replicates all offshore habitats but one and adds rare deepwater eelgrass; North End includes all habitats but four. Two small heritage SMR's were placed at critically valuable front side marine resource habitats at **Blue Cavern** and **Long Point**.

In **San Diego County** major marine assets were widely spread, including a full suite of healthy estuaries, Swamis northern kelp, La Jolla's deep canyon, La Jolla Reefs, Point Loma kelp and the Tijuana River's border ecosystem.

We chose to protect the two best habitats in minimum-sized MPAs: **Swamis** persistent kelp with its multi-habitat ecosystem and San Elijo lagoon connection, and the incomparable **South La Jolla Reef**, with by far the highest San Diego area Round 2 SAT model effect on biomass. La Jolla Canyon's double heads, at **Matlahuayl** and **San Diego-Scripps, Cabrillo National Monument** and three **north county estuaries** were protected in MPAs sized minimally to accomplish their individual tasks with maximum protection for minimum socio-economic costs.

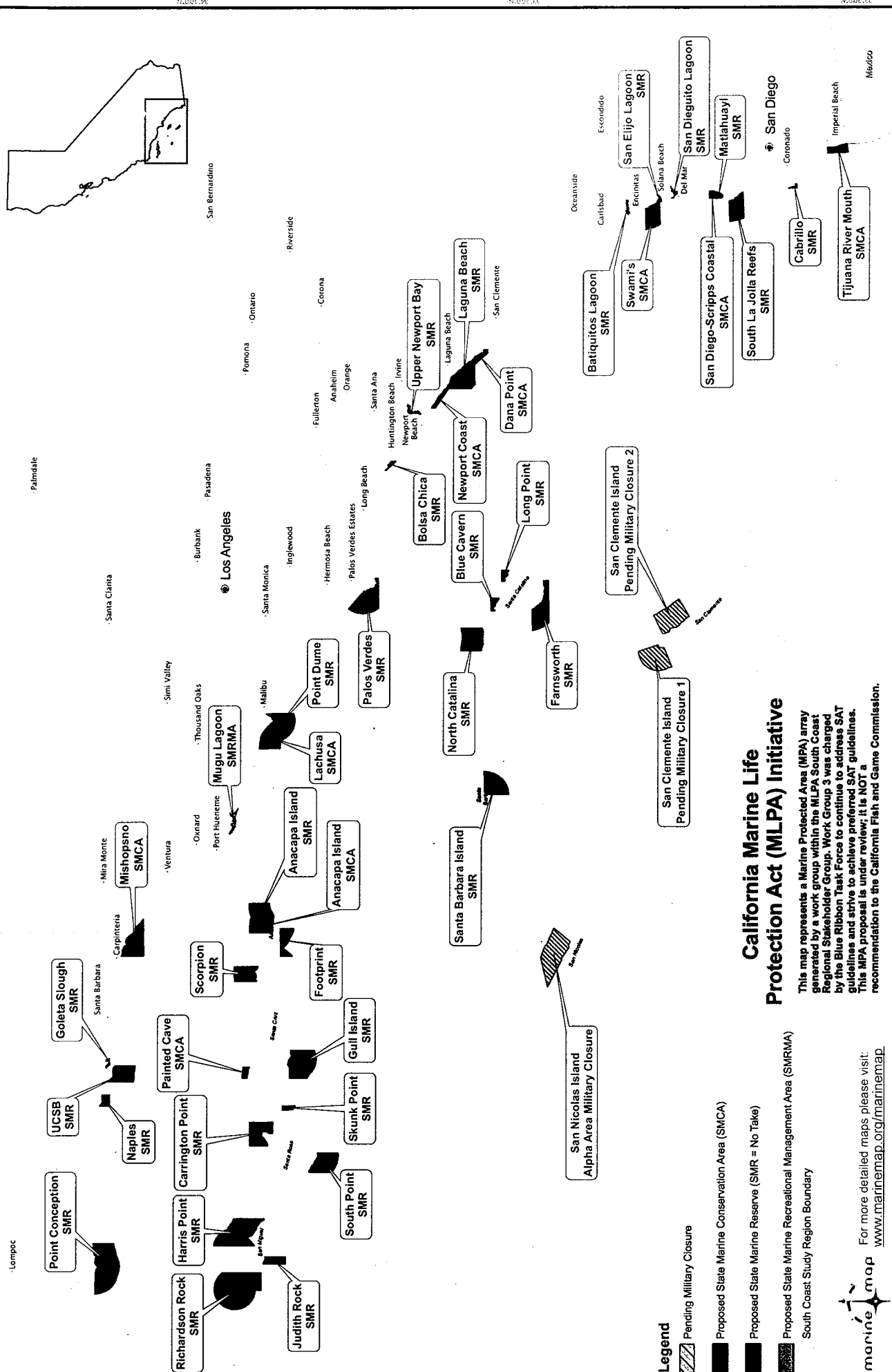
The southernmost **Tijuana River Mouth SMCA** respects SAT guidance that persistent south to north currents are likely to replenish populations by south to north larval migrations. This SMCA is an important link in cross-border larval transport from Mexico into the US and north along the coast, and provides biological connectivity to TJ River estuary.

SUMMARY: Our efficient science-based MPA proposal protects a total of 17.5% of the South Coast study region, with 12.4% in SMRs. These percentages include existing MPAs at the northern Channel Islands, and the military island MPAs pursuant to BRTF guidance. In comparison, the newly adopted MLPA proposal in the North Central Coast protects about 20%

of their study area. The Group 3 proposal was designed to function as an interconnected network of MPAs that meet preferred SAT guidelines and fulfill the goals of the MLPA, with the ultimate intent of making a substantial contribution to the State-wide network of MPAs. At 17.5% of the study region including the existing Channel Islands MPAs, this efficient, conservative array compares favorably to previously adopted arrays.

MLPA South Coast Study Region:

Round 3 - South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group MPA Proposal 3



California Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Initiative

This map represents a Marine Protected Area (MPA) array generated by a work group within the MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group. Work Group 3 was charged by the Blue Ribbon Task Force to continue to address SAT guidelines and serve to achieve preferred SAT guidelines. This MPA proposal is under review; it is NOT a recommendation to the California Fish and Game Commission.

For more detailed maps please visit: www.marinemap.org/marinemap

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