MLPA Highlights

- Central Coast: Monitoring
- North Central Coast: Adoption and implementation phase
- North Central Coast Monitoring Plan
- South Coast: Proposal phase
- North Coast: Planning phase

Central Coast Monitoring

- DFG Studies:
  - 2009 marked second year of nearshore fishes studies in Carmel Bay area MPAs using H&L, trap, and scuba.
  - Parameters: species composition, relative abundance (catch rate), length frequency, movement (tag/recapture)
  - 9 trapping days July-September; 240 traps set
  - 2 H&L days on F/V Fulmar; 205 fish caught
  - 4 scuba survey days April-May; approx. 1000 fish observed.

Central Coast Monitoring

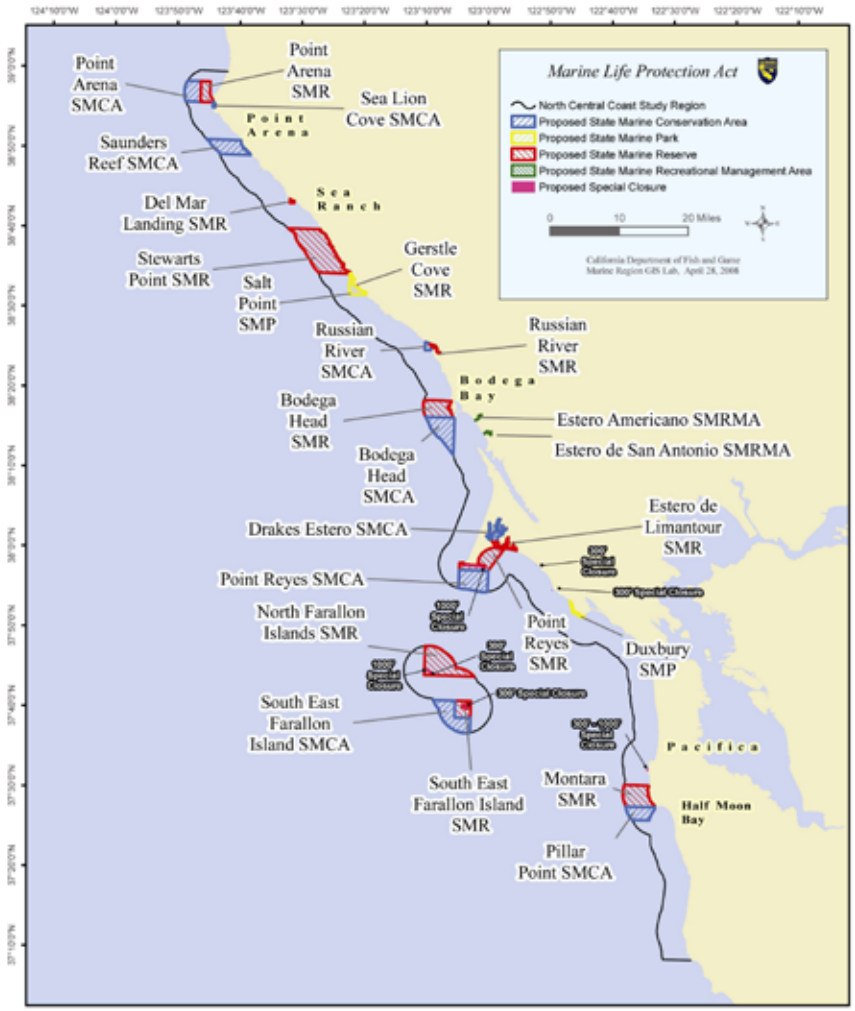
- DFG Studies:
  - 2009 marked second year of nearshore fishes trap study near Pt. Lobos and southern Monterey Peninsula
  - 24 trap days June-September in depths less than 100 ft
  - Second year of ROV surveys to begin late this month or early November in selected MPAs

Funding was cut in December 2008 and all OPC-funded monitoring work ceased.

- The status of those contracts is unknown at this time

North Central Coast

- August 5- Fish and Game Commission adopted Integrated Preferred Alternative:
- establishes 22 marine protected areas (MPAs), 2 SMRMAs, and 6 special closures, in total covering approximately 153 square miles (20.1%) of state waters in the north central coast study region, which extends from Alder Creek, near Pt. Arena, to Pigeon Point, in San Mateo County. Approximately 86 square miles (11% of state waters) are designated as "no take" state marine reserves.
- Regulations expected to become effective in January 2010.



North Central Coast Study Region

Integrated Preferred Alternative

This marine protected area (MPA) proposal was unanimously selected on April 23, 2008 by the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) as its preferred alternative and is being submitted to the California Fish and Game Commission (CFGC) for consideration. This proposal integrates elements from three proposals developed by the North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCCSRG) (proposals 1-3, 2-XA, and 4). These NCCRSG proposals will also be forwarded in their entirety to the CFGC for consideration. Further information on each MPA proposal can be found in the associated text document with the same MPA proposal name.

North Central Coast Monitoring

- MPA Monitoring Enterprise hosted a workshop in Monterey September 28-29 to receive feedback on draft monitoring plan for north central coast from DFG.
- The revised draft document will be available for public comment from November 23 to December 18.

South Coast: Timeline

MPA Proposal Development Schedule:

- Round 1– Initial Draft MPA Arrays (March 2009)
  - Receive evaluations (April 2009)
- Round 2 – Draft MPA Proposals
  - Begin Revising
  - Complete Round 2 Draft MPA Proposals (May 2009)
  - Public workshops for comment on draft proposals (June/July 2009)
  - BRTF held ninth public meeting July 28-29
  - Regional Profile updated on web site July 29
- Round 3: Final MPA Proposals (August 2009)
  - Stakeholder group held seventh meeting August 3; included discussion of SAT evaluation of Round 2 proposals and DFG feasibility evaluation.
  - Stakeholder group held eight meeting September 9-10
  - BRTF holding tenth public meeting (with stakeholder group) October 20-22.

South Coast Timeline

Open houses held for public information and comment

- June 29: Carlsbad
- June 30: San Diego
- July 1: Laguna Beach
- July 6: San Pedro
- July 7: Marina Del Rey
- July 8: Oxnard
- July 9: Santa Barbara
- July 13: Catalina Island

- More than 900 people attended the open houses. Comments were received on the “Round 2” MPA proposals.

South coast timeline

- October 20-22 BRTF meeting:
  - Round 3 MPA proposals presented, with evaluations by DFG,DPR,SAT and MLPA staff
  - BRTF selects a preferred alternative MPA proposal from among three options
  - On October 21 two 3-hr public comment periods were allowed
- December 9-10: Commission will receive preferred alternative and any other proposals identified by BRTF, and regulatory process will begin
- Final Adoption by Commission: Expected Mid-2010

MPA summary for NC, C, S coasts

- 90-103 MPAs, excluding special closures, military closures, SMRMAs
- ca. 690- 720 square miles
- 47-54 SMRs
- 35-43 SMCAs
- 0-1 SMP
- This excludes North coast and SF Bay

North Coast

- Planning commenced in June 2009.
- Initial outreach efforts and collaborative data collection began in June 2009.
- Sept 29, 2009 public workshops in Eureka, Crescent City, and Fort Bragg:
  - Receive an introduction to the MLPA and MLPA Initiative
  - Review the north coast MPA planning process
  - Learn the necessary components of an MPA proposal, including science and feasibility guidelines
  - Receive basic training in MarineMap, the MLPA Initiative's online mapping tool
- Sept 30, 2009 informal Q&A session re. redesigning north coast MPAs -same locations as above
- Joint meeting SATs from North and South coast October 30 in Eureka

Change in BRTF Leadership

- September 2009: Cathy Reheis-Boyd appointed as Chairperson. She replaced Don Benninghoven, who was appointed to the Fish and Game Commission.

Funding Support for DFG Efforts

- September 17, 2009 Ocean Protection Council meeting: the council approved $4.4 million that will go to the Department of Fish and Game to help implement the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) over the next year. The funds will be used for planning and implementation efforts as related to the MLPA Initiative process in the north central, south, and north coastal regions of the state.
- These funds restored the $4.4 million cut to DFG from the General Fund