Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Update

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council meeting

April 21, 2011
Monterey, CA

Susan Ashcraft, Department of Fish & Game
Overview

Statewide Update
- MPA Information and Outreach
- Monitoring

Regional MPAs Update

MPAs and Fisheries Integration Workshop
Outreach and Education

- Focus: regulatory information
- Website
- Mobile MPA site
- Regional MPA guides
- Fishing regulations booklets

Introducing: MarineBIOS
Outreach and Education

Vital Partnerships

- Enforcement
- Agencies (State, Federal, City & County)
- Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation - MOU pending

Under Development:

- Long-term statewide strategy
- Partnership guidelines
- Plans for External Advisory Group
MPA Monitoring

Monitoring Plans - Ecosystem focus
- Central Coast: Analyzing data
- North Central: Collecting data
- South Coast: Collecting data*
- North Coast: Planned for late 2012
- Statewide: To be determined
Central Coast MPAs

5 year anniversary - Fall 2012

- 5 year review planning
- Analysis of baseline data
- Public Symposium (early 2013)
- Formal review process - Fish and Game Commission (late 2013)
- MPA management next steps
North Central Coast MPAs

- Increased outreach and education efforts
- Broader distribution of existing outreach materials
- Baseline data collection still on-going
South Coast MPAs

Effective January 1, 2012

Department Products:

- New MPA information online in advance
- Mobile MPA site updated January 3
- Notice flyer posted & distributed
- Regulations booklets
- Soon: South Coast MPA booklet
South Coast MPAs (cont)

- Partnership Collaborations
  - Channel Islands NMS
  - NGO consortium and local county agencies
  - County-specific MPA tri-fold brochures
Targeted Outreach
- Local governments
- Sportfishing community
- Commercial lobster fishery

Enforcement is keeping busy

Some challenges with misinformation
Proposed regulations process underway

Draft EIR:
- Early March release
- 45 day comment period

April: Discussion
June: Adoption
Monitoring to start mid-2012
March 2011: DFG-convened workshop
22 scientists participated
Key questions:
- Expected biological effects of MPAs on California marine fisheries?
- Can MPAs be incorporated into stock management?
- Should fisheries management strategies change in response to a network of MPAs?

Report available:
http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/mfig.asp
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