

STAFF SUMMARY FOR NOVEMBER 4, 2015

6. MASTER PLAN FOR MARINE PROTECTED AREAS**Today's Item****Information** **Action**

Receive update from DFW on review and revision process for updating the master plan for marine protected areas (MPAs).

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

- **Today receive update on master plan for MPAs** **Nov 4, 2015; Ventura**
- FGC receipt of draft master plan for MPAs Dec 9-10, 2015; San Diego

Background

The Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) calls for creating an improved network of MPAs redesigned to increase its coherence and effectiveness at protecting the State's marine life, habitats, and ecosystems (§2853(a), Fish and Game Code). To help achieve its goals, the MLPA directs DFW to prepare, and FGC to adopt, a "master plan" to guide the design, implementation, and management of a redesigned network of MPAs in California (§ 2855, Fish and Game Code).

A draft master plan for MPAs was adopted by FGC in 2008 (available at www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/mpa/masterplan.asp) as a "living document" with a focus on providing guidance for designing California's MPAs through a regional approach. The master plan played a significant policy role in providing consistent scientific and design feasibility standards and guidelines across all planning regions. The regional design and adoption phases were completed in 2012 and, now that the coastwide MPA network is in place, focus has shifted from planning to implementation and management. To reflect the new focus, DFW is revising and finalizing the master plan for FGC adoption, as the foundation for managing the MLPA program statewide (FGC §2859(b)). DFW has collaborated extensively with staff from FGC, the Ocean Protection Council, and the California Ocean Science Trust to tie together MPA management, monitoring, research and evaluation concepts and priorities across statewide and regional scales. A preliminary draft was made available by request to tribes on September 25, 2015, and FGC is scheduled to receive the draft updated master plan in December 2015. Today, DFW will provide an overview of the approach used for the updated master plan, and highlight areas that represent new policy direction for FGC consideration.

Significant Public Comments

Both fishing and environmental non-governmental organization stakeholders alike have expressed an interest in how adaptive management will be characterized in the updated master plan, both in terms of timeframe for management review cycles, and criteria that FGC will use for considering adaptive management actions.

Recommendation (N/A)**Committee Direction (N/A)**