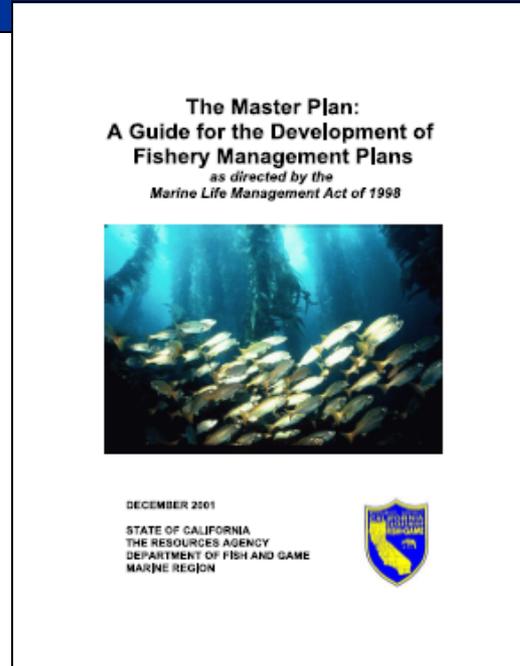




Overview of Marine Life Management Act (MLMA) Master Plan Amendment Process



Marine Resource Committee Meeting

November 4, 2015 • Ventura, CA

Tom Barnes

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

MLMA Master Plan

- MP required content (FG Code Section 7073)
 - List of fisheries
 - Priorities for FMPs
 - Essential Fishery Information (EFI)
 - Process for stakeholder involvement
 - Process for MP review and amendment
- FGC adopts MP & amendments
- Current MP adopted in 2001

GOAL

To amend the Master Plan for Fisheries so that it:

- enhances sustainability of the state’s ocean fisheries,
- increases management effectiveness and efficiency,
- sets clear expectations, and
- fosters transparency and flexibility.

OBJECTIVES

1. Establish priorities among fisheries and within fisheries
2. Develop strategies for implementing MLMA-based active management
3. Develop strategies for enhanced management
4. Identify strategies for enhanced stakeholder engagement in fisheries management
5. Identify strategies for making the Master Plan an adaptive and living document, improve efficiencies, engage the scientific community
6. Identify resources needed for effective Master Plan implementation

Issues not addressed in current MP

- Too few FMPs have been prepared
- Unclear when FMPs necessary
- High cost of FMPs
- FMPs are too detailed & complex
- FMPs should be scaled to each fishery
- Existing prioritization is dated
- Process for stakeholder science
- Role of stock assessments
- MPAs and fishery management
- Alternatives to rulemakings
- Increased interest in Tribes, collaborative research, & co-management



Elements of MP

- Management priorities
- FMP contents
- Stock assessments
- Ecosystem considerations
- Incorporate MPAs
- Bycatch
- Economic considerations
- Community considerations
- Stakeholder involvement
- Collaborative management
- EFI
- Risk/Uncertainty/Precaution
- Peer review
- Adaptive management
- Emerging Fisheries
- FMP amendment
- Enforcement
- Experimental gear
- Implementing regulations
- Climate change
- Communication plan
- Legislative needs
- Tribal considerations

Process for MP

- Funding shift from MLPA to MLMA
 - “1-Pager” policy guidance; MP & electronic reporting
- OPC-Science Advisory Team meeting in late 2013
- Resources Legacy Fund (RLF) assistance
- Utilize new tools and outside experts
- Collaborate with partners
 - Builds capacity
 - Save on cost
- 2-phased approach: Information gathering & MP preparation
- Includes Project Manager and Technical Writers
- Building blocks need evaluation
 - Shape to fit
 - Some key elements remain unaddressed
- CDFW responsible for submitting to FGC



Stakeholder “Building Blocks”

- MLMA Assessment Framework - COS
- Data limited toolkit –NRDC/UBC
- Climate Ready fisheries - OST
- Risk Assessment using ERA/PSA – OST
- Dashboard/Web-based portal/Status of Fisheries – TBD
- Scaled FMPs – TBD
- Data Review - MRAG
- Socioeconomics - TBD
- Partnerships – TNC
- Stakeholder Engagement toolkit – COS, K&W
- Prioritization framework - TBD
- Peer Review – TBD
- CEQA – TBD

Other “Building Blocks”

- 2001 MP
- Existing FMPs
- Existing rulemakings
- MLMA Lessons Learned
- State Wildlife Action Plan

Time Frame

- 2015 Assemble MR Team and partnerships
- 2016 Formalize amendment Team including contractors
- 2016 Information gathering
- 2017 Prepare amendment
- 2018 Possible FGC adoption