

**Fisheries Information Committee
Major Meeting Outcomes
January 10, 2009
Sheraton Four Points Hotel
Los Angeles, California**

1. Fisheries Information Committee (FIC)/ South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (RSG) members at the second meeting of the FIC maintained their commitment to work together to achieve an equitable, science-based outcome that addresses all goals of the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) and continues to support recreational and commercial fisheries.
2. FIC approved the 12/6/2008 meeting minutes. Prior to the meeting and via email communications members also approved the FIC Charter.
3. In preparation for the 1/13-14/2009 RSG meeting, FIC and RSG members reviewed the 12/30/08 version of the draft regional goals and objectives. FIC members discussed each of the goals/objectives and reached consensus on several recommended changes to the objectives.
 - Goal 1 - Members discussed that marine protected areas (MPAs) could be designed to achieve better water quality and address greenhouse gas related issues. Clarification of natural induced disturbances was requested and the example of possible sea urchin overgrazing of kelp was offered to help clarify possible, adverse, unintended consequences of poorly designed MPAs.
 - Goal 2 – All FIC members recommended that “most” remain in Objectives 2 and 3 to focus MPA designations on species most likely to benefit from MLPA protection.
 - Goal 3 - All FIC members recommended that the definition of “cultural experiences and uses” be expanded to include historical and cultural fishing areas to help ensure the areas/resources benefit from MPA designation.
 - Goal 4 – All FIC members supported the following recommendations:
 - When Goal 4 is used to designate a MPA, the meaning of “marine natural heritage” be clarified and that the designation be based on areas that are historically significant or were historically used. Clarification is not in the MLPA statute.
 - That if the Science Guidelines definitions of “key and unique habitats” are updated, that those updates be vetted through and clearly communicated as soon as possible to the RSG.
 - Goal 5 - All FIC members supported:
 - The following recommended change to Objective 2: “...a long-term standardized biological and socioeconomic monitoring and management (including fisheries management) protocols...”
 - That the MPA monitoring plans include the funding source for monitoring and enforcement, and that strategies for MPA evaluation include assessing effectiveness of enforcement. Committee members also discussed a recommendation to phase in MPAs, contingent on adequate funding for enforcement and monitoring.
 - Goal 6 – no recommended changes.
4. FIC and RSG members, meeting guests, observers and coordinators, reviewed initial draft MPA proposals from the local ports and FIC members suggested modifications based on group discussion. The committee reached consensus on several areas to include in a draft external proposal, while identifying rationale based on site selection criteria, consistent with MLPA goals, size and spacing and other available science guidelines. Members considered not only the needs of the fishing community, but also other stakeholder interests. Members

noted that guidance from the MLPA Initiative Team (I-Team) and Science Advisory Team (SAT) has sometimes been sketchy and incomplete, and may not be timely for on-time submittal of external proposals, due 2/18/2009. The group decided to proceed nevertheless and develop the best proposal possible under the circumstances.

5. FIC members agreed to the following next steps:
 - External proposal – FIC and RSG members will consult further with each other, FIC coordinators and local fishing interests to review recommendations made at the FIC meeting and refine the rationale for proposed MPAs, levels of protection and related designations.
 - Next meeting –
 - Date/Time: Sunday, February 8, 2009, 9:00 am to 3:00'ish.
 - Purpose: to refine external proposal and analyze MPA's using the EDOM model.
 - Invited "speaker": Dr. Carl Walters (Fisheries Centre, University of British Columbia), to present EDOM model and related MPA analysis. [After the meeting Mr. Walters confirmed his availability for 2/8/2009.]
 - Location: Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, LAX.
 - Future meetings - After February and submittal of the external proposal, meetings will generally occur a few weeks after RSG meetings and may either be of the full FIC or in the regions. Meeting planning will also consider scheduled meetings, including those of the Blue Ribbon Task Force, Science Advisory Team, Fish & Game Commission, and others, as well as FIC member schedules and RSG information needs. The meeting schedule is flexible to address issues as they arise.