

**Fisheries Information Committee
Major Meeting Outcomes
May 9, March 21, 2009
Sheraton Four Points Hotel
Los Angeles, California**

1. Fisheries Information Committee (FIC) member guests introduced themselves.
2. Diane Pleschner-Steele and Joe Exline reminded the group that this meeting would be the final opportunity to revise External Proposal A (with an exception noted in 6. below) and that Tuesday, May 12, 2009 was the deadline for submitting the revised proposal to the MLPA Initiative.
3. FIC members approved the March 21, 2009 meeting minutes.
4. Joe Exline led a review of the updated habitats in MarineMap. Key points:
 - At the May 5, 2009 Science Advisory Team (SAT) meeting, it was apparent that the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Initiative guidance on kelp habitats did not have the unanimous support of the SAT.
 - MarineMap includes two kelp databases: 'persistent' kelp canopies that were present during at least three of the seven years selected by MLPA Initiative staff and the maximum size of kelp canopies documented via aerial photographs during these years.
 - Protection of marine bird and mammal habitats will be of concern mainly at the Islands.
 - Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) may contain artificial reefs.
5. The FIC noted that the goal of revising External Proposal A is to make it acceptable to a majority cross section of RSG members, including interests other than fishermen. With the help and advice from RSG members, FIC Coordinators and guests present at the meeting, the FIC agreed to modifications to the proposed MPAs. Members began updating the rationale supporting the proposed MPAs and continued to identify areas where designation of MPAs would cause undue and unnecessary economic hardship on the commercial and recreational fishing communities. The group also reviewed and proposed revisions to boundaries, rationale and goals/objectives for existing MPAs.
6. It was noted that the MPA designations around Santa Catalina and San Clemente Islands can be revised after the Blue Ribbon Task Force renders a decision on how military exclusion zones will be treated in state waters. Eighty percent of the southern Channel Island habitat is around San Clemente Island. Military closures off San Clemente protect two replicates of habitat.
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7. Guest Joe Farlo, Torrance Memorial Medical Center, presented an overview of pollution involving the Whites Point sewer outfall near Palos Verdes shelf. He noted that the surrounding habitat is recovering from the effects of DDT and that an MPA at Portuguese Bend would be appropriate.
8. Next Steps:
 - Joe Exline will immediately forward further updates to individual goals/objectives and rationale to FIC members for comments prior to May 12.
 - The revised External Proposal A will be provided to the MLPA Initiative by Tuesday, May 12, 2009.
 - Joe Exline will present External Proposal A at the next RSG meeting, May 20-21, 2009
 - The next FIC meeting will be scheduled via electronic communications after the May RSG meeting.