

Concepts for a Process to Move Ahead with MPAs in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

The following concepts are draft and are put forward by the MBNMS for consideration and feedback from the Sanctuary Advisory Council:

1. Over the last 5 years, much work has gone into the consideration of MPAs including the development of tools, products and goals. To the maximum extent possible, the process ahead should capitalize on this previous work
2. The membership of the MPA working group should remain approximately the same, although some adjustment to stakeholder representation may be warranted (i.e. add groundfish representation)
3. Science members should remain involved but serve as subject matter experts, not as stakeholders. A separate but public science panel should be convened to evaluate eventual proposals. Include a PFMC SSC member as part of science panel.
4. Working group meetings should be professionally facilitated
5. Working group and science panel meetings should be public and any products made publicly available
6. The MPA planning process should frequently provide for appropriate PFMC input and coordination prior to the NEPA phase.
7. There is a need for socioeconomic study to understand the impacts of Federal water MPAs
8. A starting point for discussions should be the Areas of Interest previously identified by the working group that are adjacent to MPAs in state waters
9. Adjacent State and Federal waters MPAs should generally have parallel regulations
10. Once the planning process begins, the working group will have approximately 6 meetings over 6 months to develop proposals to forward to the Sanctuary Advisory Council. The SAC will then provide it's advice to the MBNMS, and the MBNMS will consult with the PFMC regarding implementation.

11. Include a thorough characterization of existing protective measures as the status quo alternative and include the Davidson Seamount, if it becomes part of the Sanctuary, when developing alternatives.
12. Any decision regarding how MPAs will be implemented under the NMSA, the MSA, or both will be made in the future in close coordination with NOAA Fisheries, and PFMC