

MARINE PROTECTED AREA (MPA) PARTNERSHIP CHARGE

MPA COLLABORATIVE NETWORK | OCEAN PROTECTION COUNCIL | RESOURCES LEGACY FUND

OCTOBER 24, 2017

BACKGROUND

The California Fish and Game Commission adopted the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Master Plan in August, 2016, which outlines the state's Marine Protected Area (MPA) Management Program, and requires active engagement in four key focal areas: Outreach and Education, Enforcement and Compliance, Research and Monitoring, and Policy and Permitting. Since the inception of the statewide Collaborative Network in 2013, the MPA Collaborative Network's (MPA CN) ability to aggregate local expertise to inform and support the management of the MPAs across the state has been critical to the success of the MPA Management Program. The MPA CN is made up of 14 individual member Collaboratives generally associated with California's coastal counties. As the partnership between the MPA CN and the state has grown, there is a need to more clearly define the shared purpose, roles, and responsibilities of the partnership.

The Ocean Protection Council (OPC), consisting of the Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency, Secretary for Environmental Protection, Chair of the State Lands Commission, two legislative members and two public members, was created by the California Ocean Protection Act of 2004. OPC is tasked with coordinating the activities of ocean-related agencies to improve the effectiveness of state efforts to protect ocean resources and establishing policies to coordinate the collection and sharing of scientific information related to coast and ocean resources.

The Resources Legacy Fund (RLF) is an independent non-profit organization that supports and performs essential services to promote land, freshwater and marine conservation. Consistent with its mission, RLF has developed and administered many strategic charitable programs, including one which is designed to achieve significant advances in coastal and marine conservation in California. RLF seeks to assist the parties to achieve the implementation objectives of the MPA Management Program by providing funding and other assistance.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among MPA partners was executed in May 2017 to allow that partnership to continue, and to formally recognize the MPA CN's significant contributions to the management of the state's MPA Network. Furthermore, the MOU formalizes the working relationship that has already been established between the MPA CN and the MPA Statewide Leadership Team (MSLT), and to increase the MPA CN's representation on the MSLT to better reflect local knowledge related to MPA management across the state.

PURPOSE

MPA partners recognize the importance and high priority of cooperative actions at local, regional, and statewide scales to manage the MPA Network created pursuant to the MLPA. This Charge describes

the goals, basic guiding principles, roles, and operational protocols for the partnership between the MPA CN, the California Ocean Protection Council (OPC), and Resources Legacy Fund (RLF). It further provides a platform for how these partners will work collaboratively to undertake efforts to inform, support, and implement actions to advance the MPA Management Program. This Charge will be periodically reassessed and updated by partners.

A FOUNDATION OF COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP

The working relationship between partners is built upon a foundation of collaborative leadership, wherein leadership is shared and supported across functional and agency/organizational boundaries. Collaborative leadership supports that all partners are in equal positions and working together to support their shared goals. Furthermore, it maintains a process that is mutually inclusive, and strongly supports the process of collaborative problem solving and collaborative decision making.

Through this process, partners collectively and constructively consider challenges, concerns or goals, including how decisions made may impact fellow partners; communicate effectively (early and frequent communication of ideas, opportunities, issues, etc.); use collective expertise and resources in constructive ways; and create authentic strategies for addressing the shared issues of the partnership and/or community.

DECISION MAKING: While there is no formal decision-making process for this partnership, collaborative decision making strongly encourages partners to make a determined, good faith effort to fully explore the issues, understand the information available, and develop inclusive solutions. Partners may choose to employ a consensus-seeking process for certain issues. The definition of consensus spans the range from strong support to neutrality, to abstention, to “I can live with it.”

With regard to the principles of collaborative decision making, it is highly suggested there is a basic agreement among partners that MPA-related projects pursued have value. In particular, those projects receiving state funding should have support from the state. Unintended impacts and/or negative consequences of potential projects should be collectively explored as part of the decision-making process.

Collaboration supports mutual influence and shared responsibility among partners, builds trust, leads to better and more effective solutions, and supports the achievement of a shared purpose.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

ALL PARTNERS WILL:

1. Work collaboratively and practice collaborative leadership among the partnership.
2. Commit to effectively communicating with fellow partners, and staying transparent in communications.
3. Commit to a shared value of positivity and reflecting the partnership in a positive way, both among each other and to the public, even during challenging circumstances.

4. Remain cooperative and participatory in efforts; be accountable for agreements and responsibilities; take responsibility for implementing the partnership's work plan.
5. Provide expertise and experience to inform discussions and materials development, and listen to and incorporate expertise provided to the extent possible.
6. Review materials and complete all commitments prior to each meeting.
7. Evaluate collective achievements and shortcomings and implement adaptive management to improve partnership functioning.
8. Assist in outreach to share concepts and requirements to the larger community including promoting the partnership and positively reflecting the working relationship among partners.
9. Develop and nurture close relationships between state agencies and grassroots organizations.
10. Maintain a focus on solutions that benefit the entire region and/or state, to the extent possible.
11. When in-person meetings are requested, the partner(s) holding the meeting will make the request at least one month in advance, whenever possible.
12. Whenever possible, requests to review materials should be made a minimum of five business days in advance of the requested deadline. A 10-business day review period is preferred.

RLF STAFF WILL:

1. Assist the partners to achieve the implementation objectives of the MPA Management Program by providing funding, strategic advice, and other assistance.
2. Serve on MSLT and coordinate with agencies on how philanthropic funds support state priorities.

OPC STAFF WILL:

1. Coordinate the activities of ocean-related agencies to improve the effectiveness of state efforts to protect ocean resources, and establish policies to coordinate the collection and sharing of scientific information related to coast and ocean resources.
2. Facilitate Communications among MOU partners:
 - a. on needs of the state/MSLT to MPA CN staff, and, as needed and in consultation with MPA CN staff, directly to member MPA Collaboratives;
 - b. that summarizes the perspective of the state's main priorities; and
 - c. that result in shared priorities among MOU partners.
3. Actively seek creative ways to support MPA CN with human and financial resources.
4. Assist MPA CN in building infrastructure and developing tools that improve collaboration among MPA CN with the state agencies.
5. Create and support innovative ways to bring the MSLT and MPA CN together to establish personal and working relationships (e.g., annual retreat, etc.).
6. Actively seek opportunities to hear from MPA CN and member Collaboratives regarding local issues and concerns, to address concerns in state planning processes to the extent possible, to better support member Collaboratives in managing MPA resources, and to incorporate principles of adaptive management.
7. Continue to demonstrate to MPA CN, member MPA Collaboratives, RLF, and other state partners the value of the partnership through regular communication of collaborative activities and successes.

MPA COLLABORATIVE NETWORK STAFF WILL:

1. Act as liaison between state agencies and member MPA Collaboratives by providing background/ context/ contacts/ protocols for communication to help identify shared priorities and opportunities for the Parties to provide support to one another.
2. Support communication between member MPA Collaboratives including sharing of best practices and lessons learned.
3. Coordinate cross-collaborative, regional, and statewide communication on education and outreach, research and monitoring, and enforcement and compliance projects and programs.
4. Work with California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and other state agencies to ensure that the goals and objectives of each party are clearly articulated to the MPA Collaboratives and member organizations working to assist them.
5. Solicit and obtain funding for the MPA CN to support the projects and regional and statewide coordination of member MPA Collaboratives. Solicit and obtain funding for specific statewide projects as well as organizational support for each collaborative.
6. Support member MPA Collaboratives, empower MPA Collaboratives to work locally on behalf of MPAs and other ocean conservation issues and to be valued state partners. Ensure participation is diverse and remains high.
7. Continue to demonstrate to OPC, RLF, and other state partners the value of the partnership, member MPA Collaboratives and the MPA CN through regular communication of collaborative activities and successes.

MEMBER MPA COLLABORATIVE CO-CHAIRS AND MEMBERS WILL:

1. Help with distributing public information about MPAs and MPA-related activities, actions and events, the availability of materials, and opportunities for public participation.
2. Provide timely information about their Collaboratives' MPA engagement efforts and other local MPA management relevant information to the MPA CN.

GROUND RULES

The MPA Partners will utilize standing ground rules regarding meeting protocol and may modify them as appropriate.

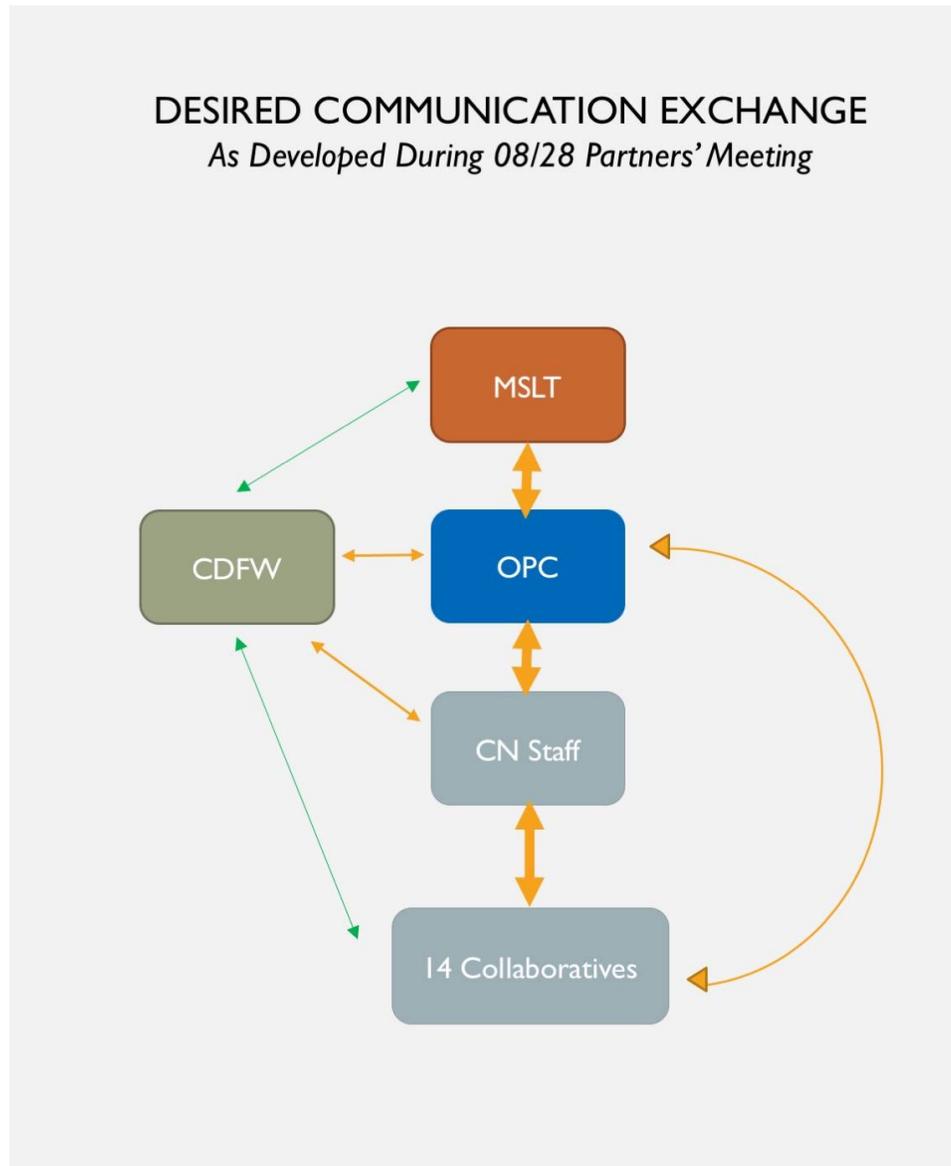
Partners agree to:

- Keep commitments once made
- Listen and openly discuss issues with others who hold diverse views
- View disagreements as problems to be solved rather than battles to be won
- Not engage in stereotyping and personal attacks on other participants
- Not ascribe motives or intentions of other participants
- Respect the integrity and values of other participants
- Appreciate humor but not engage in humor at the expense of others
- Honor time
- Use conversational courtesy
- Employ electronics courtesy

- Whenever possible, not be in transit during phone meetings. If a partner does need to be in transit during a phone meeting, the partner agrees to notify the other partners as soon as possible and suggest a new time to meet unless all partners agree to continue with the call regardless.

MEETING FREQUENCY AND PARTICIPATION

- Meetings between the MPA CN, OPC, and RLF will occur on a monthly basis, typically via conference call/ webinar.
 - Participation in these monthly standing meetings by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife is highly encouraged.
 - OPC will be responsible for initial agenda development, and capturing highlights and action items from each call, unless otherwise mutually agreed to. OPC will circulate meeting agendas at least three days in advance of the phone call for review from partners.
- The member MPA collaborative Co-Chairs, MPA CN and OPC will strive to host a bi-annual in person meetings and/or webinars to allow for high-level information exchange and updates among individual Collaboratives and between individual Collaboratives and OPC.
 - The MPA CN will work collaboratively with OPC to develop the agenda and other materials for these meetings, and will be the main lead for promoting the meetings throughout the Network. The MPA CN will be responsible for setting the dates and meeting logistics (i.e. conference call number, location, etc.). The MPA CN will set the meeting dates at least one month in advance, with a strong preference to set both meeting dates at the start of each year since so many partners will be involved.
- Regional and Statewide forums for MPA CN, member Collaboratives, and state agencies will be organized as resources allow, ideally every other year.
 - The MPA CN will work collaboratively with OPC to develop the forum agenda, and will be the lead for promoting the meetings throughout the Network and setting dates and meeting logistics. The MPA CN will set the forum dates at least two months in advance, with a strong preference to set the forum dates at least four months in advance since so many state and local agencies are requested to attend.
- The MSLT will meet quarterly. OPC will be the lead for promoting the meetings throughout the MSLT and setting meeting logistics. Meeting dates for the whole year will be set by the end of the previous year.



Bold arrows indicate more frequent communication.

Thin arrows indicate communication as-needed.