



May 19, 2016

Valerie Termini  
Executive Director  
California Fish and Game Commission  
P.O. Box 944209  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Dear Ms. Termini,

As you are aware, California's recreational fishing community finds the commission's decision to postpone assessments of Marine Protected Areas from every five-years, to every 10-years, objectionable and contrary to a commitment made to Californians.

What's more, anglers who participated in stakeholders' groups were surprised to learn that the commission has no intention of honoring commitments to restore fishing to MPAs, once fishing populations are healthy once again.

For the purpose of clarifying the commission's current intentions, and to avoid any future confusion over commitments or policy objectives, we are requesting a response to the following questions in writing prior to final adoption of the 2015 Marine Protection Areas draft plan at the June 2016 Fish and Game Commission hearing.

We respectfully request responses to the following questions (1-8), specifically for each and every California MPA that bans or limits recreational fishing:

- 1) Has a baseline analysis been conducted and if not, why? And if so, what was the date of the baseline assessment and what were the conclusions regarding efficacy of the MPA?
- 2) If no baseline analysis was conducted, when will they begin and be completed?
- 3) Has an assessment been conducted? If not, why? If yes, what were the conclusions?
- 4) When will the assessment begin and be completed? Be specific.
- 5) What was/is the cost of the assessment and is it fully funded by the State? If not, how will it be funded and what impact will a lack of funding have on providing assessments in a timely fashion?



- 6) Does the state have a sufficient number of Game Wardens to police or protect MPAs from poaching?
- 7) How will the state determine that a MPA has met its design objective and has a healthy and plentiful fishery biomass?
- 8) If the assessment concludes that fishing populations are healthy, will recreational hook and line fishing be reinstated? If not, why not?

**General Questions: (applying to all MPAs)**

- 9) Can the commission identify any legislative action that precludes recreational fishing from returning to the MPA? Under what circumstances would recreational fishing be denied?
- 10) How will the state evaluate whether the MPA has been an effective tool of measuring and increasing fishing populations?
- 11) Is the state under any obligation to conduct assessments, or to do so in a timely fashion? And if not, could anglers assume that the Administration's policy is to permanently ban fishing in Marine Protect Areas?
- 12) How does the state measure to what extent recreational fishing impacts MPAs, and in comparison to commercial fishing or environmental hazards, such as oil drilling, agricultural operations or storm water runoff? If recreational fishing's impact is negligible, would the state consider incremental openings of MPAs, starting with recreational hook and line fishing?

Responding fully and in a timely fashion could assure recreational anglers that the California Fish and Game Commission is adopting policies that are transparent to the public.

Thank you in advance for a timely response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marko M.", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Marko Mlikotin  
Executive Director

CC: California State Legislature Outdoor Sporting Caucus