

THE CCMP AMENDMENT PROCESS

Background:

The Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for Morro Bay (CCMP) gives the Executive Committee the power to “approve CCMP changes that further the goals of the CCMP.” (Vol 1. p 7-5). The resolution adopting the final CCMP on May 4, 2000 identifies the purpose (goal) of the CCMP as to “restore and monitor the... integrity of the estuary, including restoration of and maintenance of water quality, a balanced indigenous population of shellfish, fish and wildlife, and recreational activities in the estuary, and assure that the designated uses of the estuary are protected.”

The Executive Committee, after consultation with a working group and the Implementation Committee, established a procedure for amending the CCMP, described below. They directed that this procedure be implemented on a trial basis with the first proposed CCMP amendment. The EC also directed that while CCMP amendments are under consideration, a brief summary sheet describing the issue, the sources of information to be considered in the amendment, and a timeline for the amendment process will serve as a ‘placeholder’ in an Appendix to the CCMP.

The Amendment Process:

The application and review cycle will be open every other year, starting in 2003, to avoid excessive and ongoing demands on staff and committee time. Applications for CCMP changes are due by June 1st. The MBNEP will provide advance notice to the community that applications for amendments are being accepted. Short application forms will be developed so that proposed changes and their rationales can be efficiently presented. The applications will be reviewed by staff and presented to the EC at their regular August meeting. The EC will decide whether the requests actually involve CCMP changes or could be more appropriately handled as “issues of concern” that fall within the existing scope of the CCMP. For those requests that do involve actual changes, the EC will do an initial screening to determine which warrant the expenditure of staff and committee resources for further consideration.

Those that are deemed worthy of further consideration will be assigned to a working group, or if no working group is deemed appropriate for the requested change, an ad hoc committee can be formed to review and assess the request. The working group will evaluate the requests and formulate recommendations to the IC and EC. The IC will consider the working group recommendations at their next regular meeting of February. The proposed amendments will also be presented at a public meeting to solicit comment and input from the community.

At the EC’s regular meeting in May, the EC will consider the recommendations of the working group and IC, and any input received at the public meeting, and take an action on the changes. The EC can accept the proposed amendment, reject it, accept it with modifications, or direct staff to perform further analysis

The dates described above may be adjusted based on the time needed by the working group to formulate a recommendation, the public meeting process, and the actions of the IC and EC.