Getting Beyond the Fish: Suggestions for including Cultural Heritage Resources in California Marine Protected Areas

John W. Foster
State Underwater Archaeologist, California State Parks
MPA/FAC Meeting, Charleston SC
April 21, 2010
Status of Designated MPAs in California

- 72 listed among charter MPAs (April 2009)
- established under the Marine Life Protection Act/ using designations approved by the State Fish and Game Commission
- excellent science-based process for dealing with the conservation of marine life and the commercial and sports take
- extensive public input and stakeholder meetings
- other MPAs established for the purpose of protecting water quality
Results to Date:

State Marine Reserve
State Marine Conservation Area
Area of Special Biological Significance
  The main designations used to protect habitats, marine life and water quality

State Marine Park
  not used

Existing system of UW Parks ARE NOT emerging as MPAs under the MLPA process as management entities. Cultural and Recreational sites are not being designated.

To add more diverse MPA designations - use the Marine Managed Area Improvement Act to add:

State Marine Cultural Preservation Area
State Marine Recreational Management Area
  No affect on fishing regulations (commercial or sport). Can overlap other MPA designations. Classifications can be adopted by the State Parks and Recreation Commission.
The Potential for Including Significant Cultural Heritage Resources in California MPAs is very High

Rich maritime history of California Indigenous peoples
  Ancient California was colonized by sea

Maritime traditions are important to California Native people

Vast Pacific coastal terrace now a submerged cultural landscape
  Submerged villages, resource procurement areas and ceremonial sites

15,000+ shipwrecks in the state database. Many sites are embedded in MLPA designated areas

Sites representing significant themes in California and US history are well documented. (ancient seafaring, European colonization, Mission history Gold-Rush, maritime disasters, WWII, etc.)
Potential Cultural MPAs in California

- Brother Jonathan 1865
- Frolic 1850
- SS Pomona 1908
- San Agustin 1595
- King Phillip 1878
- USN Airship Macon 1935
- Montebello 1941
- Goleta Cannons
- Winfield Scott 1853
- Palos Verdes Stone Anchors
- F4-U Corsair 1949
- Submerged La Jolla Village
- LaGrange 1859
- Sterling 1855
- Clarksburg Gold Rush Shipwreck
Fort Ross State Historic Park
Russian Capital of California 1811-1841
SS Pomona on her maiden voyage, 1888
SS Pomona has become a popular dive site.
Steam tubes from the starboard boiler, *SS Pomona*
Union Oil Company tanker Montebello

Photo courtesy of the Vancouver Maritime Museum
JAP SUB SINKS TANKER HERE

Roosevelt, Churchill Confer in Washington on Unified War Conduct

36 Crewmen Saved In Three Lifeboats

All 36 members of the crew of the Union Oil tanker Montebello were saved today after Japanese operating a big submarine sunk the boat at 4 a.m. off the coast of Pedro Blanco in San Luis Obispo county and fired on the men as they left the sinking tanker in three lifeboats.

The loaded, 800-ton tanker, struck almost immediately with a torpedo, sank in about 20 minutes.

As the men swam toward shore in the lifeboats the submarine approached on the surface within 500 feet as crewmen mounted the connning tower and fired on the men in the three lifeboats. Bullets shattered beams on one of the boats but failed to hit any of the men.

One of the Helveticas, a small 14-foot motor boat, was saved. Captain John J. Young, who was on the boat, said the boat was blown over by the explosion and they landed as only 9 a.m.

Captain John J. Young, Andria Wolfe and David M. Clark were in the water and caught the men to shore. The men were rescued at the San Luis Obispo county dock.

New Signal For City Blackouts
City Plans Law to Ban Late Music
State Votes Million For Guard
British Leader Brings 80 Experts to Confab

U.S. Troops Held Own At Luzon

Captain Tells of
Delta was used by NOAA to explore and document the Montebello
Montebello rests at upright on the bottom at a depth of 880 feet.
fishing nets drape the Montebello
Benefits of Adding Cultural MPAs in California

*Greater appreciation of significant heritage resources

*Greater application of traditional knowledge and management techniques

*Enhanced overall public support for the MPA concept

*Improved management of shipwrecks can yield important habitat benefits