

# Marine Life Protection Act

Environmental Advisory Committee  
September 10, 2009

## Marine Life Protection Act Initiative

- Signed into law in 1999
- Redesign existing protected areas
- To protect and conserve marine habitats and ecosystems
- Improve recreation, education and study opportunities

## Marine Protected Areas

- State Marine Reserve
  - No fishing, limited recreational activities
- State Marine Park
  - No commercial fishing
- State Marine Conservation Area
  - No commercial or recreational fishing
  - Catch & release allowed

## MPA design

- Science Advisory Panel guidance to the Regional Stakeholder Group
  - Design areas to be:
    - 3-12 miles along the shoreline
    - From the high tide line out to state limit, 3 miles
    - 31 miles between sites
    - Include key habitat areas
      - Eelgrass
      - Saltmarsh
      - mudflats

