

**California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative**  
**Charter of the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force, 2008-2009**  
*August 22, 2008*

**Official Name:** This task force officially is designated as the California Marine Life Protection Act Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) to the California Resources Agency.

**Background:** The California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) was tasked by the 1999 Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) to prepare, or cause to be prepared, a master plan, with recommended alternative networks of marine protected areas within the state's coastal waters, for proposed adoption by the California Fish and Game Commission. Designing and implementing marine protected areas is challenging from a public policy perspective because of numerous scientific, economic and cultural questions, many of which are not definitively answered by the best available science. Therefore, the secretary for resources determined it beneficial to convene a task force to make recommendations for implementing the MLPA and enhance the state's ability to carry out the mandate under the Marine Life Protection Act.

Creation of a BRTF was initially stipulated in a 2004 memorandum of understanding (MOU) to which the California Resources Agency, DFG, and Resources Legacy Fund Foundation were parties. The MOU created a public-private partnership, known as the MLPA Initiative, to help the state implement the MLPA. One element of the initiative was a pilot project along the central coast (Pigeon Point in San Mateo County to Point Conception in Santa Barbara County). A second MOU was signed in December 2006 for the purpose of continuing the public-private partnership, including a task force, in the north central coast (Alder Creek in Mendocino County to Pigeon Point in San Mateo County), and an amendment to the second MOU continues the partnership through the south coast study region (Point Conception to the California-Mexico border in San Diego County, including offshore islands), through the north coast study region (California-Oregon border in Del Norte County to Alder Creek) and to begin planning in the San Francisco Bay study region (Golden Gate Bridge to Carquinez Bridge).

**Membership:** The BRTF will be composed of five to seven distinguished, knowledgeable and highly credible public leaders selected by the secretary for resources. The secretary shall have sole discretion to select members of the task force, and may consider persons for their intellect, vision, public policy experience, and diversity of professional expertise. The secretary shall also select one person to serve as chair of the task force.

**Term:** Each member of the task force shall serve for the duration of the MLPA South Coast Project, through December 2009, or until relieved of duties. Each member shall serve at the pleasure of the secretary.

**Charge:** The charge to the task force is to meet the objectives of the MLPA Initiative, implementing the provisions of the MOU effective January 1, 2007, including to:

- oversee a regional project to develop alternative marine protected area packages in an area along the south coast to present to the California Fish and Game Commission by December 2009,
- prepare information and recommendations for coordinating management of MPAs with federal agencies, and
- provide direction for expenditure of initiative funds.

The task force will also work to resolve policy disputes and provide direction in the face of uncertainty, while meeting the objectives of the MLPA.

The chair of the BRTF will oversee the work of the executive director to the initiative, work with the director of DFG to convene the MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group, and serve as the principal link between the BRTF and initiative staff.

Members are also expected to serve as liaisons to the South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group.

**Attendance:** Members of the BRTF are each expected to attend all regular meetings of the task force, which shall generally be scheduled as one- or two-day working meetings as needed between September 2008 and December 2009. One or more members of the BRTF shall attend each meeting of the MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group.

**Remuneration:** Members of the BRTF will, upon request, be reimbursed for actual travel expenditures related to the MLPA Initiative, but not for time.

**California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative**  
**Charter of the 2008-2010 Master Plan Science Advisory Team**  
*September 3, 2008*

**Official Name**

This team officially is designated as the California Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) 2008-2010 Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT) to the California Department of Fish and Game.

**Background**

The California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) was tasked by the 1999 MLPA to prepare, or cause to be prepared, a master plan, with recommended alternative networks of marine protected areas within the state's coastal waters, for proposed adoption by the California Fish and Game Commission (F&GC). The MLPA directs the DFG to appoint a master plan team to advise and assist in the preparation of the master plan. The statute identifies the composition of the master plan team, but also allows for the contribution of other experts to the master plan development process (Fish and Game Code, Section 2855).

Due to the complexities presented by the task of drafting a master plan, the DFG will enhance the scientific expertise required by the MLPA by adding to the master plan team, described in statute, members with biological, fisheries and socioeconomic expertise. In addition, because the policy considerations of the master plan will be addressed by the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) through recommendations to the F&GC, the DFG is focusing the charge of the master plan team to the scientific considerations involved in drafting the programmatic portion of the master plan and designing alternative regional proposals for marine protected areas. The master plan team is therefore renamed the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT) to reflect this enhanced expertise and scientific focus.

Creation of the SAT was initially stipulated in a 2004 memorandum of understanding (MOU) to which the California Resources Agency, California Department of Fish and Game, and Resources Legacy Fund Foundation were parties. The MOU created a public-private partnership, known as the MLPA Initiative, to help the state implement the MLPA. One element of the initiative was a pilot project along the central coast (Pigeon Point in San Mateo County to Point Conception in Santa Barbara County). A second MOU was signed in December 2006 for the purpose of continuing the public-private partnership in the north central coast (Alder Creek in Mendocino County to Pigeon Point in San Mateo County). The second MOU was amended and extended the agreement to include the south coast (Point Conception in Santa Barbara County to the California/Mexico border in San Diego County, including offshore islands), north coast (California/Oregon border in Del Norte County to Alder Creek in Mendocino County), and the San Francisco Bay region (Golden Gate Bridge to Carquinez Bridge).

**Membership**

The MLPA requires that the master plan team include staff from the California Department of Fish and Game, the California Department of Parks and Recreation, the State Water Resources Control Board, one member appointed from a list provided by Sea Grant, and five

to seven scientists, one of whom may have expertise in the economics and culture of California coastal communities. The SAT will include those members identified in statute and additional scientists knowledgeable in marine ecology, fisheries, marine protected areas, economics and the social sciences. The DFG director will appoint the members of the SAT. In considering members for the SAT, the director may consult with the secretary for resources, the chair of the BRTF, and the president of the F&GC. The SAT shall designate one member to serve as chair of the SAT or two to serve as co-chairs. The chair(s) will be responsible for assisting the DFG in planning meetings, ensuring meetings meet their stated objectives, and acting as the primary SAT liaison to the BRTF. The chair(s) shall assign four to six members to serve as the SAT sub-team to the MLPA South Coast Project.

### **Term**

Each member shall serve, as appointed by the director of the California Department of Fish and Game, for the duration of the MOU, through June 2010, or until relieved of duties.

### **Charge**

The charge to the SAT is to provide the scientific knowledge and judgment necessary to assist the DFG with: (1) meeting the objectives of the MLPA Initiative, (2) providing input to the BRTF, and (3) completing the south coast portion of the master plan for MPAs. Principally, the SAT is charged with reviewing and commenting on scientific papers relevant to the implementation of the MLPA, reviewing alternative MPA proposals, reviewing draft master plan documents, addressing scientific issues presented by those documents, and addressing scientific questions raised by the BRTF or stakeholders. In the course of assisting the DFG, members shall refrain from making policy judgments; rather, where available science presents options or uncertainty, the SAT shall frame and refer those policy questions to the DFG, or if appropriate, the BRTF.

The SAT will be supported by the science and planning advisor for the MLPA Initiative, the California Department of Fish and Game's policy advisor, and other DFG staff.

The SAT will convene regular, open meetings that may be attended by interested members of the public. Any meeting of a majority of SAT members will be publicly noticed at least 10 calendar days prior to the meeting and open to the public. The DFG, with the assistance of SAT members, will report SAT findings and recommendations to the BRTF at the BRTF's regular, open meetings. The SAT chair(s) may convene sub-teams of the members as necessary to address specific scientific issues; sub-teams will report the results of their work to the full SAT at regularly scheduled, open meetings.

Guidance from the SAT on the design of an improved system of marine protected areas, as required in the MLPA, becomes effective through adoption of the *California Marine Life Protection Act Master Plan for Marine Protected Areas* by the F&GC. Guidance developed by the SAT was adopted by the F&GC in August 2005. The SAT may propose revisions or augmentations to that guidance for consideration by the DFG, which may in turn transmit the proposed revisions with recommendations to the BRTF and F&GC. Revisions should be based

on either new scientific information brought forward by the SAT or differences specific to the MLPA South Coast Study Region.

### **Attendance**

The members of the SAT are each expected to attend all regularly scheduled meetings of the SAT. The chair(s) of the SAT, or designees, is/are expected to attend all regular meetings of the BRTF, which shall be scheduled as needed from September 2008 through June 2010. Other members of the SAT may attend BRTF meetings. The chair(s) of the SAT may also assign members to sub-teams, and those members are expected to fulfill all assignments of those sub-teams including attending any additional scheduled meetings. Members of the SAT Sub-Team to the MLPA South Coast Project shall also attend regularly scheduled meetings of the MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group to provide scientific summaries, answer scientific questions, and advise on relevant scientific merits of various MPA proposals. Members will be responsible for reviewing all relevant materials in advance of each meeting.

### **Remuneration**

Members of the SAT will, upon request, be reimbursed for actual travel expenditures related to the MLPA Initiative, but not for time.



**California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative**  
**Draft Charter of the MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group**  
*August 22, 2008 Draft*

**Official Name:** This group officially will be designated as the MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (SCRSG) to the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (2008-2009).

**Background:** The California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) was tasked by the 1999 Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) to prepare, or cause to be prepared, a master plan, with recommended alternative networks of marine protected areas within the state's coastal waters, for proposed adoption by the California Fish and Game Commission. The MLPA requires DFG to engage other interested parties to contribute to the master plan, including scientists, geographic information system experts, commercial and recreational fishermen, divers, and other individuals knowledgeable about the state's underwater ecosystems, the history of fishing effort or marine protected area management, or other relevant subjects. DFG is also required to take into account relevant information from local communities and solicit comments and advice from interested parties.

Developing a statewide master plan for marine protected areas (MPAs), while engaging the various interested parties, requires considerable work and analysis. Through a 2004 memorandum of understanding (MOU), the California Resources Agency, DFG, and Resources Legacy Fund Foundation created a public-private partnership, known as the MLPA Initiative, to help the state implement the MLPA. One element of the initiative was a pilot project along the central coast (Pigeon Point in San Mateo County to Point Conception in Santa Barbara County) where a combination of the efforts of prior working groups, available scientific resources and potential partnerships provided a sound foundation for beginning implementation of the MLPA. A second MOU was signed in December 2006 for the purpose of continuing the public-private partnership in the north central coast (Alder Creek near Point Arena in Mendocino County to Pigeon Point in San Mateo County, including offshore islands). The second MOU has been amended to continue the partnership through 2011 in the remaining three study regions: south coast (Point Conception to the California/Mexico border in San Diego County, including offshore islands), north coast (California/Oregon border to Alder Creek) and San Francisco Bay (Golden Gate Bridge to Carquinez Bridge).

Consistent with the MLPA and MOU amendment continuing the MLPA Initiative, the SCRSG will be convened to enhance the state's ability to carry out the mandates of the Marine Life Protection Act, and to ensure that regional knowledge and interests are reflected in alternative proposals for MPAs along the south coast.

**Membership:** The SCRSG is composed of individuals who are able and willing to provide information that will assist in developing alternative proposals for MPAs along the south coast. The chair of the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) and the director of DFG shall have sole discretion to select members of the group. In selecting members, the chair and director may consider professional expertise or experience, diversity of perspectives, geographic location, willingness to express fundamental interests as opposed to fixed positions, access to and effective use of a communication network, willingness to convey the interests of one or more stakeholder groups, capacity to work with diverse viewpoints, ability to work collaboratively and seek to integrate the interests of a broad range of constituencies, ability to

balance a regional perspective with localized knowledge, and commitment to completing all aspects of the charge of the group by October 2009.

**Term:** Each member of the SCRSG shall serve through October 2009, or until relieved of duties. Each member shall serve at the pleasure of the chair of the BRTF and the director of DFG.

**Charge:** In cooperation with a facilitation team, a science advisory team, and staff from the MLPA Initiative, the SCRSG will provide assistance in the following key tasks:

- Provide local knowledge of the south coast study region for refining a regional profile and informing the MLPA planning process;
- Evaluate existing marine protected areas within the MLPA South Coast Study Region in relation to the goals of the MLPA, guidance provided in the draft *California Marine Life Protection Act Master Plan for Marine Protected Areas*, and a statement of feasibility criteria from DFG;
- Provide information to other members of the SCRSG that may be helpful in designing alternative MPA proposals;
- Developing alternative marine protected area proposals for the MLPA South Coast Study Region, that meet the requirements of the MLPA, for consideration by the BRTF and the California Fish and Game Commission;
- Conduct outreach to constituent groups for involvement in the MLPA South Coast Project; and
- Identify potential panel speakers to present stakeholder group recommendations and commentary at meetings of the BRTF and other public meetings.

The SCRSG will work with a facilitation team, a science advisory team, and MLPA Initiative staff. The primary focus of deliberations will be public sessions of the group. The SCRSG will not finalize any proposals outside the public sessions of the group.

Note that the charge of the SCRSG is not to:

- Debate the virtues of the Marine Life Protection Act or whether MPAs should be established,
- Debate the validity of MPAs as a fisheries management tool (fisheries management is not the main goal of the MLPA), or
- Debate the detailed guidance of the draft California Master Plan for MPAs (it is guidance adopted and/or under consideration by the California Fish and Game Commission).

**Attendance:** The members of the SCRSG, or their alternates, are expected to attend all regular meetings of the group, which shall generally be scheduled as needed from October 2008 through October 2009. These meetings will move throughout the study region. The SCRSG may have work sessions, where sub-groups meet separately for one-day meetings. SCRSG members are encouraged to participate in work group meetings.



**Remuneration:** Primary members and alternates of the SCRSG, upon request, will be reimbursed for actual travel expenditures related to the MLPA Initiative. A daily stipend may be made available for attendance at publicly-noticed MLPA Initiative meetings for those members who are not participating as part of their job activities and are giving personal time without compensation.