

California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
Proposed Recommendation to the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force from the
MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group

Revised: February 25, 2010

Proposed text for a recommendation from the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG) to the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) on the topic of tribal uses was discussed at the NCRSG's February 25, 2010 meeting (via conference call/webinar). The agreed-upon text for the proposed recommendation is below.

NCRSG Recommendation to the BRTF

The NCRSG promotes the following to the BRTF:

1. The NCRSG recognizes that California tribes and tribal communities are inadequately dealt with in the MLPA framework, including the *Marine Life Protection Act Master Plan for Marine Protected Areas*;
2. That the NCRSG requires policy guidance on how to address this issue and that without such guidance, the NCRSG is unable to properly discharge its function and runs the risk of developing marine protected area (MPA) proposals that are less than robust;
3. That the MLPA Initiative shall appropriately acknowledge that California tribes and tribal communities have aboriginal rights to take marine resources and to use and manage coastal areas for traditional subsistence, cultural, religious, ceremonial, and other customary purposes. The tribal coalition will provide draft language to the NCRSG, BRTF, and MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team.
4. The NCRSG suggests establishing a separate tribal advisory group to the BRTF consisting of BRTF members, policy officials from the California Department of Fish and Game, California Natural Resources Agency, appropriate federal agencies, and California tribes and tribal communities (at a minimum the NCRSG representatives) for the purposes of developing appropriate policy guidance to the NCRSG and to the California Fish and Game Commission, and with a view toward amending the MLPA master plan.