



January
2010

• Executive
Director's
Message

• Meeting
Highlights

BRTF
SAT

• Documents
for Public
Comment

• Meetings &
Events

• FAQs

• Get Involved

Contact Us

Executive Director's Message

On behalf of the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Initiative, I am pleased to introduce the inaugural issue of the MLPA Initiative's North Coast News. This digital newsletter will be released on a regular basis to help keep you informed and actively involved in the marine protected areas (MPAs) planning process in the north coast. We are also working to have print copies of each issue available in specific locations familiar to your community, such as local California Department of Fish and Game offices and select libraries. The North Coast News will provide recaps of MLPA Initiative meetings, such as recent meetings of the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force and MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team that are summarized in this issue. We will also highlight frequently asked questions (FAQs), documents available for public comment, and upcoming meetings and events. As with all components of the MLPA Initiative, we welcome your feedback and constructive comments to help maximize the utility of future issues of the North Coast News.

We are off to a great start in the north coast study region, but there remains much work. Your active involvement is crucial to the success of the MLPA Initiative and we look forward to your ongoing participation in 2010.

~Ken Wiseman, Executive Director

Meeting Highlights

Blue Ribbon Task Force

Members of the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) are selected by the secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency for their knowledge, vision, public policy experience and diversity of professional expertise. For more information about the task force, [click here](#).

November 18-19, 2009 Agenda & Meeting Materials

The first meeting of the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force for the MLPA North Coast Study Region was held in Eureka on November 18, followed by a field trip in the Eureka/Arcata area on November 19. Task force Chair Cindy Gustafson led the meeting, which introduced the BRTF to the MLPA North Coast Study Region (NCSR), provided an overview of the north coast regional profile and reviewed policy direction provided in previous study regions and its applicability to the current study region (from the California border with Oregon to Alder Creek near Point Arena).

The BRTF received a briefing from staff on the external array development process and engaged in a dialogue with representatives of community groups that have indicated an intent to submit [external MPA arrays](#) for the north coast study region. Updates were provided on the status of the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT), MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG) and MLPA Statewide Interests Group (SIG). The BRTF reviewed current opportunities for public involvement at both the statewide and regional levels and requested public feedback on the draft strategy presented by staff. Also, in an effort to further consider and incorporate Native American interests in the MLPA Initiative, the task force requested staff to coordinate directly with local tribes and organize a panel discussion for the January BRTF meeting to assist the task force in preparing policy guidance.

Additionally, the BTRF:

- [Reviewed and adopted a revised BTRF operating procedures, reimbursement guidelines, and Reviewed a calendar of future meetings for the north coast. The task force provided feedback to MLPA Initiative staff and requested revisions to the calendar for further discussion during its January meeting \(link\).](#)

[The BRTF will meet again on Wednesday, January 13](#) for a field trip in the Del Norte County area. The task force will then convene for its second meeting on [Thursday, January 14](#) in Crescent City at the Elk Valley Rancheria Community Center.

Science Advisory Team

The MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT) is appointed by the director of Fish and Game and its members are tasked with providing the scientific knowledge and judgment necessary to assist with meeting the objectives of the MLPA Initiative and completing the north 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. The members of the SAT for the north coast were appointed in October 2009. For more information about the SAT, [click here](#).

October 30, 2009 Agenda & Meeting Materials

The first meeting of the SAT for the north coast study region and the twelfth meeting of the SAT for the south coast study region took place jointly in Eureka on October 30, 2009. The meeting focused on welcoming new SAT members and explaining the role of the SAT in the MLPA planning process.

New SAT members were introduced to the MLPA and MLPA Initiative, including the operating principles of the SAT, the [California Marine Life Protection Act Master Plan for Marine Protected Areas](#). Additionally, the SAT reviewed MPA proposal evaluation methods used in the south coast and discussed potential changes to be made to ensure that the methods reflected the north coast study region. The SAT also began initial discussions regarding bioregions for the north coast, levels of protection for marine harvest activities, spacing guidelines, and bioeconomic modeling.

During this meeting, the SAT also formed a number of work groups to help gather data and provide recommendations to the full SAT during the north coast process. The work groups include:

- Bioregions/habitat/study region boundary: John Largier, Phil Levin, Steven Morgan, Karina Nielsen, Pete Raimondi, Steve Rumrill, Craig Strong, Steve Wertz, ,
- Evaluations: Mark Carr, Steve Gaines, Ron LeValley, Steve Murray, Will White,
- Level of protection: Dave Hankin, Steve Wertz, Karina Nielsen, Larry Allen, Ron LeValley, Mark Carr
- Tribal: Astrid Scholz, Kevin Fleming, Dave Hankin, Steven Morgan, Karina Nielsen
- Bioeconomic modeling: Eric Bjorkstedt, Chris Costello, Steve Gaines, Astrid Scholz, Will White
- Water quality: Dominic Gregorio, John Largier, Steven Morgan, Pete Raimondi
- Species likely to benefit from MPAs: Larry Allen, Dawn Goley, Ron LeValley, Karina Nielsen, Pete Raimondi
- Birds and mammals: Dawn Goley, Ron LeValley, Craig Strong
- Potential commercial/recreational fishing impacts: Dave Hankin, Astrid Scholz

The SAT also selected the SAT Sub-team to the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group: Eric Bjorkstedt, Dominic Gregorio, Karina Nielsen, Craig Strong, and Will White.

This meeting included a public comment period, during which members of the public asked clarifying questions about the MLPA planning process and the role of the SAT. At the conclusion of the meeting, SAT members nominated and approved Mark Carr, Eric Bjorkstedt, and Ron LeValley as co-chairs.

Due to the extensive agenda for this joint meeting, the SAT for the south coast study region held another meeting (via webinar) on Monday, November 9, 2009 to review, discuss and potentially approve final documents prepared for the November 10, 2009 BRTF meeting in Los Angeles. The second SAT meeting for the north coast was scheduled for December 16-17, 2009 in Eureka.

December 16-17, 2009 Agenda & Meeting Materials

On December 16 and 17, the SAT held its second meeting for the north coast in Eureka. During the meeting, SAT members gave a number of presentations focusing on background information for the north coast study region and the methods used to evaluate marine protected area (MPA) proposals. Presentations were also given on components of SAT evaluations, including: bioregions, habitat representation and replication, levels of protection (LOPs), size and spacing of MPAs, bioeconomic modeling, and potential commercial and recreational fishing impacts. The SAT also received updates from the species likely to benefit from MPAs, study region boundary, modeling, and tribal work groups.

The SAT approved dividing the study region into two bioregions, with

a boundary at the mouth of the Mattole River. Community groups developing MPA arrays were encouraged to replicate habitats in each bioregion. The SAT also approved all currently proposed levels of protection except commercial take of urchins; the LOP work group will revisit and provide additional information for this activity at the SAT's next meeting on January 20-21, 2010 in Eureka. A list of LOPs for the north coast is available

[Top](#)

Documents for Public Comment

MLPA North Coast Regional Profile

On December 15, 2009 the public was invited to provide comments on the [Draft Regional Profile for the North Coast Study Region](#) (comments requested no later than January 15, 2010). We invite you to share your knowledge about the north coast study region to make certain the best readily-available information is provided to stakeholders and decision-makers within the MLPA process.

Comments can be submitted the following ways:

- Email to MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov
- Mail to:
Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
c/o California Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814
- Fax to 916.653.8102, Attn: MLPA Initiative

The profile is available [online](#) or on CD by contacting [Kathie Magnuson](#) (916.653.9486). Print forms of the profile are also available at libraries throughout the north coast study region. Contact Kathie for a list of libraries.

Draft Strategy for Public Participation in the MLPA North Coast Study Region

Comments on the [Draft Strategy for Public Participation in the MLPA North Coast Study Region](#) are due no later than February 15, 2010.

Comments can be submitted the following ways:

- Email to MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov
 - Subject: Draft Strategy for Public Participation
- 1. Mail to:
Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
c/o California Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814
- 2. Fax to 916.653.8102, Attn: MLPA Initiative

Upcoming Public Meetings & Events

Public Workshops

External MPA Array Support Workshops

For workshop agenda, [click here](#).

Monday, January 11, 2010

6:30-8:30 p.m.
CV Starr Community Center
300 S. Lincoln Street
Fort Bragg, CA 95437

Tuesday, January 12, 2010

6:30-8:30 p.m.
Humboldt Bay Aquatic Center
921 Waterfront Drive
Eureka, CA 95501

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

6:30-8:30 p.m.
Hampton Inn & Suites
100 A Street
Crescent City, CA 95531

Public Meetings

All meetings are open to the public and are also simultaneously webcast on the day of the meeting on the [MLPA website](#). Open houses, workshops and work sessions are generally not videotaped or webcast.

Wednesday, January 13 & Thursday, January 14, 2010

Blue Ribbon Task Force
Elk Valley Rancheria Community Center
2332 Howland Hill Road
Crescent City, CA 95531
[Meeting Agenda](#)

Wednesday, January 20 & Thursday, January 21, 2010

Science Advisory Team
Red Lion Hotel Eureka
1929 Fourth Street
Eureka, CA 95501

All meeting agendas are posted to the [MLPA website](#) at least one week in advance of the meeting. Meeting materials are posted as soon as they become available. In addition to the simultaneous live webcast of meetings, the video and audio archives are posted to the website within two days of each meeting.

Events & Activities

Suggestions for community events to inform the public on the north coast process are welcome! A special thank you to those Key Communicators who have been distributing MLPA Initiative information to a wider public. To learn how you can become a Key Communicator, contact the MLPA Initiative Public Outreach and Education Team via [email](#) or call 707-832-4088.

[Top](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the process for developing marine protected area (MPA) proposals within the north coast study region?

In previous study regions, groups and individuals “external” to the appointed regional stakeholder group have submitted MPA arrays and proposals, while the regional stakeholder group developed “internal” arrays and proposals. Complete external MPA proposals were included in the MPA planning process in a variety of ways: by the regional stakeholder group as elements in internal MPA proposals; as separate MPA proposals; and/or as ideas that informed the MPA planning process.

Process Adaptations to Better Suit the North Coast Community

To fully integrate the robust local knowledge available within the MLPA North Coast Study Region, community groups and/or individuals were invited to develop external MPA arrays as the Similar to past study regions, complete external MPA arrays that include full geographic coverage of the study region and outline details of MPAs, including specific boundaries and proposed regulations, will be evaluated by the SAT, DFG, State Parks and MLPA Initiative staff, as well as reviewed by the BRTF and the public. External proposed MPA arrays, along with their evaluation results, will be presented to the north coast regional stakeholder group for consideration in MPA planning.

North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG)

More than 80 individuals have been nominated for the NCRSG (deadline for nominations was November 30). Approximately 20-30 individuals will be appointed in late January by the director of the California Department of Fish and Game and the chair of the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force. The NCRSG is primarily tasked with developing MPA proposals for the north coast study region. During its initial meetings, the NCRSG will be provided with the draft arrays developed by community groups, and the various evaluations and feedback received on those arrays, to be considered in MPA proposal development.

Building on lessons learned from previous study regions and the unique attributes of the north coast study region (in particular, the close relations that already exist among north coast stakeholders), the NCRSG will be composed of primary members only (in previous study regions, the stakeholder groups included both primary members and alternates). This process change will allow for more full-group discussions and increase the effectiveness of NCRSG deliberations.

What is the timeline for MPA planning in the north coast?

The MLPA Initiative is in the initial stages of the MPA planning process in the north coast. MPA proposals developed through the MLPA Initiative are crafted over three iterative rounds. In October, north coast communities were invited to develop draft MPA arrays as part of Round 1 of the MPA planning process. During Rounds 2 and 3, NCRSG members will have the opportunity to integrate ideas from the external arrays as they develop the next stage of MPA proposals. Input from community groups and the general public will continue to

be included throughout the MPA proposal development process.

During each round of planning, MPA arrays and proposals are evaluated by the SAT. In addition, feedback is provided by the BRTF, DFG, State Parks and MLPA Initiative staff. The public also has an [opportunity to provide input during](#) each round. The various forms of evaluation and input provide opportunities for refinement and improvement in successive rounds.

(NOTE: all dates are subject to change)

Round 1 (draft external MPA arrays developed by community groups): November – February 2010

Round 2 (draft MPA proposals developed by NCRSG):
March – May 2010

Round 3 (final NCRSG MPA proposals developed by NCRSG):
June – September 2010

Develop BRTF recommendation(s):
October 2010

Presentation of BRTF recommendation(s) to the California Fish and Game Commission:
December 2010

[Top](#)

Get Involved

The success of the MLPA largely depends on the continued involvement of the public. There are a number of ways that members of the public can participate in this process:

Stay informed

- Sign up for the [MLPA email list](#)
- [Attend meetings or view live or archived](#) webcasts of meetings
- MLPA Initiative is on Facebook! Join the [MLPA Initiative group](#) on Facebook for the latest MLPA news

Provide feedback

Providing feedback is one of the most important ways to get involved in the MLPA Initiative process. Public comment provided at meetings should be concise and focused on specific ideas or suggestions. While the time available for verbal comments at meetings is usually limited, there is no limit on the length of comments submitted in writing. All written comments should be submitted via [email, mail or fax](#).

All comments received (both verbally and in writing) are compiled on a weekly basis and distributed to the I-Team and MLPA Initiative groups (BRTF, NCRSG and SAT as appropriate). Please do not send comments to SAT or BRTF members directly.

Specific opportunities to provide input include:

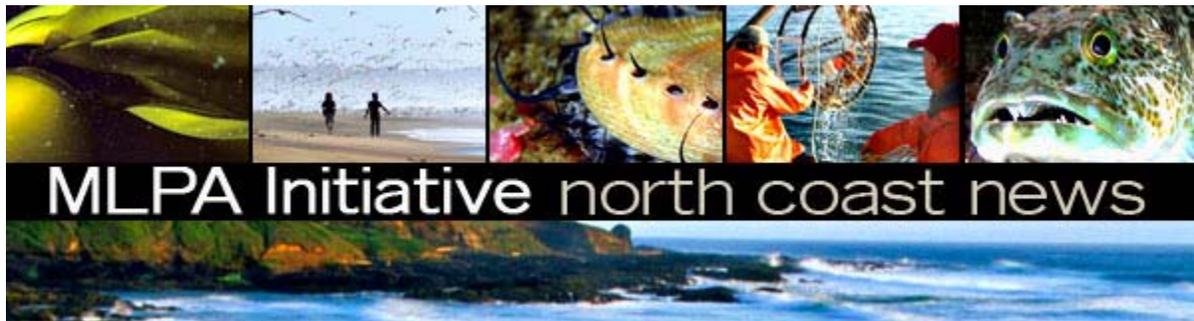
- Submitting feedback on documents open for public comment
- Participating in workshops, open houses and public information presentations
- Submitting comments, ideas and suggestions to MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov

Spread the word

- Circulate North Coast News far and wide to help ensure others in your community are aware of the MLPA Initiative, upcoming meetings and opportunities for public involvement
- If you are a leader in your community and/or have access to a large number of constituents, become a "Key Communicator." Contact the Public Outreach and Education Team via email or call 707-832-4088 to learn more.

[Top](#)

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
c/o California Natural Resources Agency,
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814
916.654.1885 office
916.653.8102 fax
MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa>



February
2010

• Executive
Director's
Message

• Meeting
Highlights

BRTF
SAT
RSG

• Documents
for Public
Comment

• Meetings &
Events

• FAQs

• Get Involved

Contact Us

Executive Director's Message

I am pleased to announce the north coast marine protected area (MPA) planning process has recently achieved two significant milestones: the submission of eight external proposed MPA arrays by community groups (available [online](#) or via [MarineMap](#)) and the appointment of the [MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group \(NCRSG\)](#). The tireless efforts of those community groups that developed external arrays have established a solid foundation for the NCRSG to build upon in the next two rounds of MPA planning. The ideas put forth in the external arrays truly represent the personal relationships and collaborative spirit that have developed between different user groups in the north coast.

To be successful, it will be important for the NCRSG to incorporate feedback from the science advisory team, blue ribbon task force, California Department of Fish and Game, California State Parks, MLPA Initiative staff, and members of the public to build off and refine the external MPA arrays. It will also be important for the NCRSG to continue to cultivate the working relationships with different user groups, both internally amongst the stakeholders and externally with the community at large.

Even with the tremendous progress to date, we still have a long road ahead. I am confident, however, that the framework provided by the external arrays, coupled with the expertise of the NCRSG and continued involvement of the community, will help ensure we successfully fulfill the goals of the MLPA.

I wish to thank the community groups for their valuable efforts, and extend a warm welcome to the NCRSG members as they take the helm of the MPA planning process.

~Ken Wiseman, Executive Director

Meeting Highlights

Blue Ribbon Task Force

[January 13-14, 2010 Agenda & Meeting Materials](#)

On January 13, the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) participated in a field trip that began in Orick and traveled through Del Norte County. This tour was followed by the BRTF's second meeting in Crescent City on January 14.

The task force received a number of presentations including an overview on the evolving nature of living marine resource

management and the role of marine protected areas, as well as the science of marine protected areas. In an effort to further consider and incorporate Native American interests in the MLPA Initiative, a panel presentation by more than 10 of northern California's tribes and tribal communities was provided to the BRTF.

The BRTF reviewed policy direction provided in previous study regions and discussed its applicability to the MLPA North Coast Study Region. The BRTF is expected to approve this guidance at its March 1-2, 2010 meeting.

The BRTF will meet again on March 1 in Fort Bragg and then participate in a field trip in the Mendocino County area on March 2.

Science Advisory Team

January 20-21, 2010 Agenda and Meeting Materials

The third meeting of the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT) took place in Eureka on January 20 and 21, 2010. SAT members were presented with an update on the 18 external array groups that indicated their intent to submit an array. The SAT was also presented with the following:

- An overview of birds and mammals that occur in the north coast study region, along with the proposed MPA evaluation methods for this region and a description of how birds and mammals might benefit from MPAs. Evaluation methods are similar to those used in the south coast study region, although proposals will be evaluated in their entirety rather than by bioregion.
- A description of north coast water quality and the evaluation methods that will be used. Evaluation methods for this secondary evaluation are largely similar to those in the south coast study region, except:
 - Bays/estuaries will be evaluated using an area measurement.
 - Evaluation will not focus on power plant entrainment.
 - Evaluation will consider harbors to be non-point pollution sources.
- Key and unique habitats, including how evaluations will consider limited eel grass data outside Humboldt Bay. Unique habitats discussed included drowned river canyons, sea stacks, and dynamic river mouths.
- Habitat replication thresholds, including minimum size replicate for the combined soft bottom categories. Background on the development of MPA size and spacing guidelines and new visual representations of the consequences of different size and spacing combinations of MPAs.
- Modeling evaluation methods, including the new genetic connectivity analysis.
- The levels of protection decision tree for coastal pelagic finfish by dipnet or hand nets (high), salmon by non-troll hook and line in waters less than 50 meters (moderate), and sea urchin by hand (moderate-low).

The SAT also received updates from the modeling, tribal, and species likely to benefit work groups, and also reviewed draft responses to science questions. In light of the severe weather that

made travel difficult for both SAT members and members of the public, all proposed actions were postponed to the February 11, 2010 SAT teleconference/webinar meeting.

February 11, 2010 Agenda & Meeting Materials

On February 11, 2010, the fourth meeting of the SAT was held via teleconference and webinar. Members approved all SAT evaluation methods presented during the meeting, including those for habitat representation, habitat replication, bioeconomic modeling, benefits to marine birds and mammals, MPA size, MPA spacing, potential commercial and recreational fishery impacts, and water and sediment quality. SAT members also approved:

- Inclusion of information about three specific habitat types (offshore rocks and sea stacks, dynamic river mouths, and drowned river canyons) under existing key habitats
- A recommendation to include at least one replicate of each habitat type in each bioregion
- Continued development of the supplemental genetic connectivity metric by the modeling work group
- Methods used for assigning levels of protection and six newly proposed levels of protection

The next SAT meeting will be in Eureka on March 16-17.

[Top](#)

Regional Stakeholder Group

February 8-9, 2010 Agenda & Meeting Materials

On February 8-9, 2010, the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG) held its first meeting in Eureka. During this meeting, the NCRSG:

- Received an overview of the goals of the MLPA and MLPA Initiative, including the roles and responsibilities of the NCRSG
- Discussed, revised and adopted ground rules to guide the NCRSG process
- Received presentations on:
 - Key findings from the stakeholder assessment memorandum
 - BRTF guidance for the north coast project
 - Available tools and best readily available information for north coast process
 - Process and timeline for developing MPA proposals
 - How the NCRSG will coordinate with the SAT

NCRSG members also shared their key interests, affiliations, and areas of expertise and had the opportunity to participate in an evening MarineMap training.

During the meeting, NCRSG members requested more comprehensive and accurate information about California tribes and tribal communities be added to the regional profile. MLPA Initiative staff committed to provide California tribes and tribal communities

with extra time (until April 1, 2010) to include additional, unedited information in an appendix to the regional profile. Additionally, a follow-up NCRSG teleconference/webinar took place on [February 25](#) to discuss and potentially vote on an NCRSG recommendation regarding how tribal uses should be addressed in the marine protected area planning process. The outcomes of the meeting will be presented to the BRTF at its March 1, 2010 meeting.

The second NCRSG meeting will be held in Crescent City on [March 24-25](#).

Documents for Public Comment

Update on the Draft Regional Profile of the North Coast Study Region

The [MLPA Regional Profile of the North Coast Study Region](#), which provides background information for MPA planning, was released in December for public review as part of a joint-fact finding effort. More than 600 specific comments from 34 individuals and groups were received by the January 15 deadline. A revised version of the regional profile will be available by early March and includes additional substrate data, new data layers, expanded information on California tribes, and additional fisheries statistics. In addition, a special appendix on California tribes and tribal communities, as well as some outstanding habitat data will be added in the next few months. The public will be notified as this new information becomes available.

Upcoming Public Meetings & Events

Public Meetings

All meetings are open to the public and are also simultaneously webcast on the day of the meeting on the [MLPA website](#). Open houses, workshops and work sessions are generally not videotaped or webcast.

March 1-2, 2010

Blue Ribbon Task Force
C.V. Starr Community Center
300 S. Lincoln Boulevard
Fort Bragg, CA 95437

March 16-17, 2010

Science Advisory Team
Red Lion Hotel
1929 Fourth Street
Eureka, CA 95501

March 24-25, 2010

Regional Stakeholder Group
Crescent City
Location TBD

All meeting agendas are posted to the MLPA website at least one week in advance of the meeting. Meeting materials are posted as soon as they become available. In addition to the simultaneous live webcast of meetings, the video and audio archives are posted to the [Cal-Span website](#) within two days of each meeting.

Events & Activities

Public Informational Presentation

Monday, March 22

6:30 p.m.

Mattole River Community Center

29230 Mattole Rd.

Petrolia, CA 95558

Suggestions for community events to inform the public on the north coast process are welcome! A special thank you to those Key Communicators who have been distributing MLPA Initiative information to a wider public. To learn how you can become a Key Communicator, contact the MLPA Initiative Public Outreach and Education Team via [email](#) or call 707-832-4088.

[Top](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the appointment process for regional stakeholders?

A request for nominations to the NCRSG was made this fall and distributed to more than 3,000 groups and individuals asking for nominations to be made by November 30, 2009. Nominees were evaluated against the selection [criteria established](#) in the request for nominations. Staff recommendations to California Department of Fish and Game Director John McCamman and MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force Chair Cindy Gustafson were informed by facilitator interviews, nomination letters, letters of support, DFG background checks (including fish and game citations), as well feedback from other staff who have knowledge of and experience working with the nominees.

The director and chair appointed stakeholders who represent a broad diversity of interests, perspectives, and geographic locations within the MLPA North Coast Study Region. In instances where staff was unable to find strong candidates that could represent a certain interest or perspective, staff was directed by the director and chair to seek nominees beyond the initial set of nominees (i.e., nominees who submitted their nomination letters by November 30) to recruit possible additional nominees. In each of these cases, the nominee submitted the requested information and was interviewed by the neutral facilitators. A similar directive has been used in other study regions.

Is there a deadline for commenting on draft MPA arrays and proposals?

While there are no specific deadlines for submitting public comments on draft MPA arrays and proposals, comments are most effective when timed to inform the deliberations of the NCRSG. Key dates to

be mindful of include:

Feedback on Round 1 external proposed MPA arrays

- The public is invited to submit feedback on the Round 1 external MPA arrays and evaluation results. The Round 1 external MPA arrays may be found on the [MLPA Initiative website](#) as well on [MarineMap](#); the external arrays will inform future MPA proposal development by the NCRSG
- Public feedback on [Round 1 arrays](#) is most helpful to inform NCRSG development of Round 2 draft MPA proposals if submitted as verbal comment during the March NCRSG 24-25 meeting or in written form by Monday, May 10. This will help inform the NCRSG work sessions on April 20-21 and May 19. The public will also have the opportunity to provide verbal comment at the NCRSG meeting on May 20, just prior to completion of Round 2 MPA proposals.

Feedback on Round 2 NCRSG draft MPA proposals

- On July 6-8, a series of public open houses will be held throughout the study region to provide the public the opportunity to review and comment on the NCRSG's Round 2 draft proposals
- Public feedback on Round 2 MPA proposals is most helpful if submitted in written form at the July 6-8 public open houses, as verbal comment during the July 21-22 BRTF meeting or July 29 NCRSG meeting, or in written form by Monday, August 23. This will help inform NCRSG work sessions on July 30 and August 30. The public will also have the opportunity to provide verbal comment at the NCRSG meeting on August 31, just prior to completion of Round 3 MPA proposals.

Feedback on Round 3 NCRSG final MPA proposals

- The MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force will review Round 3 proposals during its October 26-28 meeting. Public input on Round 3 proposals is most helpful if submitted in written form by Wednesday, October 13 or as verbal comment during the October 26-28 BRTF meeting.

Providing feedback is one of the most important ways to get involved in the MLPA Initiative's MPA planning process. While the time available for verbal comments at meetings is usually limited, there is no limit on the length of comments submitted in writing. Also, while the public is invited to observe the NCRSG work sessions, there are no verbal public comment opportunities during work sessions, so it is important to provide written feedback at least one week before each work session is scheduled.

All written comments should be submitted via [email, mail or fax](#). All written comments are compiled on a weekly basis and distributed to the I-Team and MLPA Initiative groups (BRTF, NCRSG and SAT as appropriate).

[Top](#)

Get Involved

The success of the MLPA largely depends on the continued involvement of the public. There are a number of ways that members of the public can participate in this process:

Stay informed

- Sign up for the [MLPA email list](#)
- [Attend meetings or view live or archived](#) webcasts of meetings
-  MLPA Initiative is on Facebook! Join the [MLPA Initiative group](#) on Facebook for the latest MLPA news

Provide feedback

Providing feedback is one of the most important ways to get involved in the MLPA Initiative process. Public comment provided at meetings should be concise and focused on specific ideas or suggestions. While the time available for verbal comments at meetings is usually limited, there is no limit on the length of comments submitted in writing. All written comments should be submitted via [email, mail or fax](#).

All comments received (both verbally and in writing) are compiled on a weekly basis and distributed to the I-Team and MLPA Initiative groups (BRTF, NCRSG and SAT as appropriate). Please do not send comments to SAT or BRTF members directly.

Specific opportunities to provide input include:

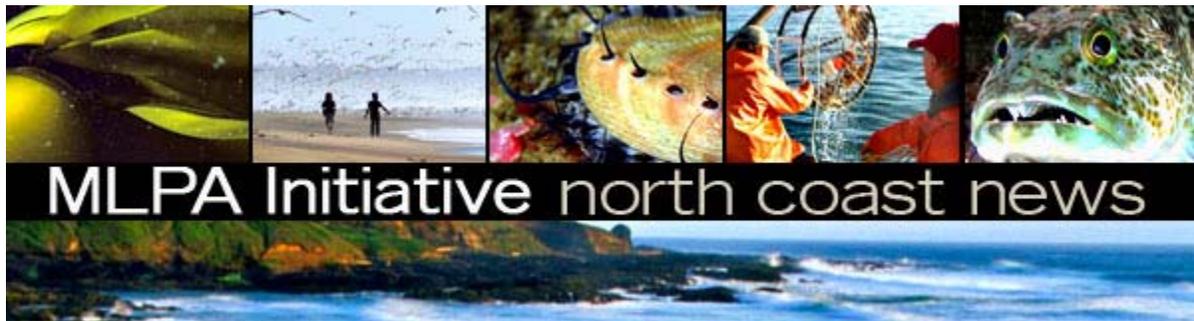
- Submitting feedback on [documents](#) open for public comment
- Participating in [workshops, open houses and public information presentations](#)
- Contacting a member of the [regional stakeholder group](#)
- Submitting comments, ideas and suggestions to MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov

Spread the word

- Circulate [North Coast News](#) far and wide to help ensure others in your community are aware of the MLPA Initiative, upcoming meetings and opportunities for public involvement
- If you are a leader in your community and/or have access to a large number of constituents, become a "Key Communicator." Contact the Public Outreach and Education Team via [email](#) or call 707-832-4088 to learn more.

[Top](#)

Sacramento, CA 95814
916.654.1885 office
916.653.8102 fax
MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa>



April
2010

• Executive
Director's
Message

• Meeting
Highlights

BRTF
SAT
RSG

• Documents
for Public
Comment

• Meetings &
Events

• FAQs

• Get Involved

Contact Us

Executive Director's Message

It was just over a year ago that I started, once again, making regular trips to the very special communities of California's north coast. As a kid on vacation from a small rural community in the Central Valley, I always felt very comfortable and at home in these coastal communities. Memories of hiking incredible shoreline vistas, my first abalone dive and the absolute certainty as a 12-year old that I had snagged bottom at the mouth of the Klamath, only to quickly find a very different 20 pound outcome as I struggled to land my first salmon!

Although our initial MLPA Initiative meetings would hardly be described by anyone as "comfortable," the north coast communities have given this planning process a chance to show that we are trying to implement this law in the most open and equitable way possible, while honoring the unique nature of California's north coast. It was a very significant moment last week for those of us serving as your MLPA Initiative staff to be able to join with local stakeholders in the planning of recreational activities and a community potluck on April 19. The commitment and positive energy of all involved gives me great confidence that we will succeed in crafting a marine protected areas solution that respects all interests in the north coast. Now that the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group has received evaluations of the eight Round 1 draft MPA arrays developed by north coast community groups, I believe we're continuing what was a great start by those groups.

I am very encouraged about our progress to date and look forward to the upcoming NCRSG work sessions where we will be able to watch the Round 2 draft proposals begin to blossom and grow.

~Ken Wiseman, Executive Director

Meeting Highlights

Blue Ribbon Task Force

March 1-2, 2010

On March 1, the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force held its third meeting in Fort Bragg. During this meeting, the task force:

- Received science presentations on water quality and on the use of commercial and recreational fishing data in the design and evaluation of marine protected areas (MPAs)
- Received an update on Round 1 external proposed MPA arrays submitted by community groups

- Reviewed policy direction that had been provided in previous study regions and confirmed its applicability to the MLPA North Coast Study Region

The task force also discussed additional policy direction specific to the north coast. During this discussion, the task force received [California Department of Fish and Game and California Department of Parks and Recreation input](#) on the state decision-making context related to tribal uses of marine resources. To ensure the task force had adequate time to fully discuss policy direction specific to tribal traditional uses, a subsequent meeting via teleconference and webinar was scheduled for Thursday, March 18.

On March 2, the task force participated in a field trip of the central part of Mendocino County's coastline, beginning in Westport and concluding at Albion River Campground.

March 18, 2010

The task force's fourth meeting was held on March 18 via teleconference/webinar. During this meeting, the task force discussed additional policy direction and legal guidance for the north coast related to tribal and tribal community uses of marine resources. The task force guidance included direction for NCRSG members and California tribes and tribal communities to:

- Continue sharing information with one another;
- Avoid siting MPAs in locations of high priority for California tribes and tribal communities; and
- Where MPAs are sited in locations where tribal activities occur, allow for these uses in SMCAs or SMPs.

The task force noted that, consistent with California Department of Fish and Game authorities and policy, allowed uses should be proposed that apply to all Californians. The task force also noted this guidance is intended to complement other guidance that have previously been provided. The task force also discussed potential long-term solutions that may be pursued outside of the MLPA Initiative's planning process; these potential solutions will be further discussed in an April 9 meeting between the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), California Department of Parks and Recreation (California State Parks) and California tribes and tribal communities.

The task force's next meeting is schedule for [May 3-4 in Crescent City](#).

Science Advisory Team

March 16-17, 2010

On March 16-17, the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT) held its fifth meeting in Eureka. SAT members voted to approve all evaluation results of [Round 1 external proposed marine protected area \(MPA\) arrays](#), including those for:

- [Habitat representation](#)
- [Habitat replication](#)
- [MPA size](#)
- [MPA spacing](#)

- [Bioeconomic modeling](#)
- [Potential commercial and recreational fishery impacts](#)
- [Water quality](#)
- [Marine birds and marine mammals](#)

The SAT also approved the [evaluation methods](#) document chapters for habitat replication, water quality, and marine birds and marine mammals. Finally, the SAT approved the species likely to benefit (SLTB) list, the SLTB criteria document, and the draft responses to science questions. The next SAT meeting will held via teleconference and webinar on [May 12, 2010](#).

[Top](#)

North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group

[February 25, 2010](#)

On February 25, the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG) held its second meeting via teleconference and webinar. During this meeting, NCRSG members and MLPA Initiative staff discussed the February 19, 2010 [MLPA Initiative memorandum](#) summarizing anticipated legal guidance from DFG and California Fish and Game Commission staff regarding how California tribal and tribal community marine resource uses should be addressed in the MPA planning process.

NCRSG members discussed and revised draft text for a proposed NCRSG recommendation to the BRTF regarding tribal and tribal community marine resource uses. Following the meeting, the proposed language was electronically sent to the NCRSG, and members were asked to vote on whether they supported the proposed NCRSG recommendation to the BRTF. The results of the vote (28-yes, 3-no, 3-abstain) and the recommendation were presented to the BRTF at its March 1-2, 2010 meeting, which helped inform the BRTF's deliberations.

[March 24-25, 2010](#)

On March 24-25, the NCRSG participated in its third meeting in Crescent City. NCRSG members shared their geographic areas of importance and received a number of presentations, including:

- Overview on Round 1 external proposed MPA arrays and the geographic overlap of those arrays, as well as presentations by proponents for each of the 8 external arrays
- SAT evaluation methods and evaluation results for Round 1 external proposed MPA arrays, including habitat representation and replication, MPA size and spacing, potential impacts to fisheries, bioeconomic models, marine birds and mammals, and water quality
- DFG guidance, evaluation methods, evaluation of existing MLPA North Coast Study Region MPAs, and Round 1 evaluation results
- State Parks guidance, evaluation methods and Round 1 evaluation results • MLPA goals and draft north coast regional objectives
- Preliminary guidance for considering Goal 3 NCRSG members

also received a presentation describing, and provided feedback on, MLPA Initiative staff guidance for Round 2 process design.

MLPA Initiative staff modified the process design to incorporate interests expressed and feedback received from NCRSG members. The NCRSG work groups will meet in Fort Bragg on April 20-21 for their first work sessions. In addition, there will be a community potluck held in the Fort Bragg area to allow NCRSG members to get to know the community in the southern part of the study region.

Documents for Public Comment

Invitation to Submit North Coast Information

Interested members of the public are invited to provide new information and/or comments on the Regional Profile of the North Coast Study Region (California-Oregon Border to Alder Creek in Mendocino County) with the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force for discussion during its meeting on May 3-4, 2010. Members of the public are invited to submit written comments and/or to present verbal comments during the meeting.

Submissions are requested no later than April 19, 2010 for compilation and distribution to the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force. The public is encouraged to review the regional profile and submit written comments. Key information to include when submitting comments:

- Identify the specific section(s) on which you are commenting and/or providing supplemental information
- Indicate whether you wish to provide verbal, in-person comments at the May 3-4 meeting

The regional profile is available to view in two ways:

1. Immediately available for download on the MLPA website
2. On CD by contacting the MLPA Initiative office (MLPAOffice@resources.ca.gov or 916.654.1885)

Written comments should be submitted by April 19, 2010 in one of three ways:

1. Email to MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov
2. Fax to 916.653.8102 (Attention: MLPA Initiative)
3. Postal service to MLPA Initiative c/o California Natural Resources Agency 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311 Sacramento, CA 95814

For additional details, [click here](#).

Update: Documents for Review

Update on the Strategy for Public Participation in the MLPA North Coast Study Region

The MLPA Initiative's *Strategy for Public Participation in the MLPA North Coast Study Region* identifies the various methods to be used to help ensure quality public participation in developing recommendations the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force will deliver to the California Fish and Game Commission for the MLPA North Coast Study Region. As a result of the thoughtful input from the north coast community, the strategy was updated and a final version was reviewed and approved by the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force on March 1, 2010.

Upcoming Public Meetings & Events

Public Meetings

All meetings are open to the public and are also simultaneously webcast on the day of the meeting (field trips not included); meeting details are available on the [MLPA website](#). Open houses and workshops are generally not videotaped or webcast.

To the extent possible, public participation locations are also set up in at least one other city within the study region (Crescent City, Eureka and/or Fort Bragg) to provide members of the public with a stable Internet connection for the webcast and the opportunity to provide comments during the public comment period(s).

All meeting agendas are posted to the MLPA website at least one week in advance of the meeting. Meeting materials are posted as soon as they become available. In addition to the simultaneous webcast of meetings, the video and audio archives are posted online within two days of each meeting.

May 3-4, 2010

Blue Ribbon Task Force
Elk Valley Rancheria Community Center
2332 Howland Hill Road
Crescent City, CA 95531

Additional public participation location:

C.V. Starr Community Center
300 S. Lincoln Boulevard
Fort Bragg, CA 95437

If you live in the Eureka/Arcata area and are interested in helping to manage a local public participation site, please contact Kelly Sayce at 707-832-4088.

May 12, 2010

Science Advisory Team
Teleconference/Webinar
Staffed public participation locations will be announced soon for Crescent City, Eureka, Fort Bragg, Sacramento, Santa Barbara and

Los Alamitos.

Work Sessions

Work sessions provide NCRSG members with focused, face-to-face opportunities to pursue their charge of developing alternative MPA proposals. NCRSG work sessions are not formal public meetings and are not videotaped or webcast. All work sessions are open to members of the public, who may attend as observers; while there is not formal public comment, there are informal opportunities for members of the public to share their perspectives with NCRSG members and MLPA Initiative staff. To help create a “safe space” for NCRSG members to explore possible MPA ideas, the public will not be permitted to videotape, audiotape or take pictures of work sessions.

April 20-21, 2010

North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group
Work Session
C.V. Starr Community Center
300 S. Lincoln Boulevard
Fort Bragg, CA 95437

May 19-20, 2010

North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group
Work Session and Meeting
Elk Valley Rancheria Community Center
2332 Howland Hill Road Crescent City, CA 95531

Community Events

North Coast Community Potluck ([click here](#) for event flyer)
Monday, April 19

Learn more about the MLPA and get to know the NCRSG members!
4-8 p.m (drop by anytime!)
Caspar Community Center
15051 Caspar Road Caspar, CA 95420-0114
(707) 964-4997
www.casparcommons.org

Join the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG) and MLPA Initiative staff at the Caspar Community Center for a delicious potluck dinner. Participants are encouraged to contribute to the potluck – feel free to bring your favorite dish or select from the list of suggested items. Need ideas for what to bring? If your last name starts with:

- A – G: Bring a side dish (such as potato salad or green salad)
- H – P: Bring an appetizer (such as chips and salsa or a veggie tray)
- Q – Z: Bring dessert (such as cookies or pudding)

Please bring your own beverages and, if possible, utensils and plate! Drop by to learn about the MLPA, meet the NCRSG and share ideas with your stakeholder representatives.

[Top](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

Can members of the public still submit MPA and array ideas to the MLPA Initiative?

Yes, the public can still submit MPA ideas throughout the three rounds of MPA planning in the north coast study region. Community groups were encouraged in [Round 1 of the MPA planning process](#) to submit MPA "arrays" for the study region that could then be evaluated and used by a regional stakeholder group for developing draft MPA proposals; eight MPA arrays were submitted in February. The MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG) is now beginning to develop draft MPA proposals for Round 2 of the planning process.

The public is encouraged to submit MPA ideas to be considered by the NCRSG in its deliberations. There are a number of ways to share information, including: designing MPAs using MarineMap (the online mapping tool), submitting written public comments, or presenting verbal public comments at MLPA meetings.

Any member of the public can set up a MarineMap account by registering at <http://northcoast.marinemap.org/> (click on "register" in the upper right-hand corner). With a MarineMap account, anyone can create MPAs and share those ideas with the NCRSG by using the "share" function. If you are having difficulties registering or sharing ideas within MarineMap, please send an email to help@marinemap.org.

Members of the public can also share ideas via written public comment (MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov) or verbally at [public meetings](#). MPAs ideas shared by the public will be considered by the NCRSG as it develops draft MPA proposals in Round 2 (ends May 20, 2010) and Round 3 (ends August 31, 2010) of the north coast MPA planning process. It is helpful to submit ideas early in the process so that NCRSG members have time to integrate new ideas and learn from those ideas during the evaluations of Round 2. The results of Round 3 evaluations will be used to inform the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force's recommendation to the California Fish and Game Commission.

[Top](#)

Get Involved

The success of the MLPA largely depends on the continued involvement of the public. There are a number of ways that members of the public can participate in this process:

Have you contacted your regional stakeholder group members?

Share your questions and concerns with the [MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group \(NCRSG\) members](#). Composed of your local representatives, the NCRSG is charged with drafting marine protected area (MPA) recommendations for the north coast segment of California's statewide MPA network. Contact an NCRSG member

today and ensure your voice is included in the MPA planning process.

Stay informed

- Sign up for the [MLPA email list](#)
- [Attend meetings or view live webcasts or archived videos of meetings](#)
-  The MLPA Initiative is on Facebook! [Join the MLPA Initiative group on Facebook](#) for the latest MLPA news

Provide feedback

Providing feedback is one of the most important ways to get involved in the MLPA Initiative. Public comment provided at meetings should be concise and focused on specific ideas or suggestions ([click here](#) for suggested guidelines for providing public comment). While the time available for verbal comments at meetings is usually limited, there is no limit on the length of comments submitted in writing. All written comments can be submitted via email, mail or fax ([click here](#) to view north coast written public comments submitted to date):

Email: MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov

Mail: Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
c/o California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Fax: 916.653.8102

All written comments are compiled on a weekly basis and distributed to the I-Team and MLPA Initiative groups (BRTF, NCRSG and SAT as appropriate). Please do not send comments to SAT or BRTF members directly.

Specific opportunities to provide input include:

- View current MPA arrays and proposals anytime by clicking the  button or visiting [MarineMap](#)
- Submitting feedback on documents open for public comment
- Participating in [workshops, open houses and public information presentations](#)
- Contacting a member of the [north coast regional stakeholder group](#)
- Submitting comments, ideas and suggestions to MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov

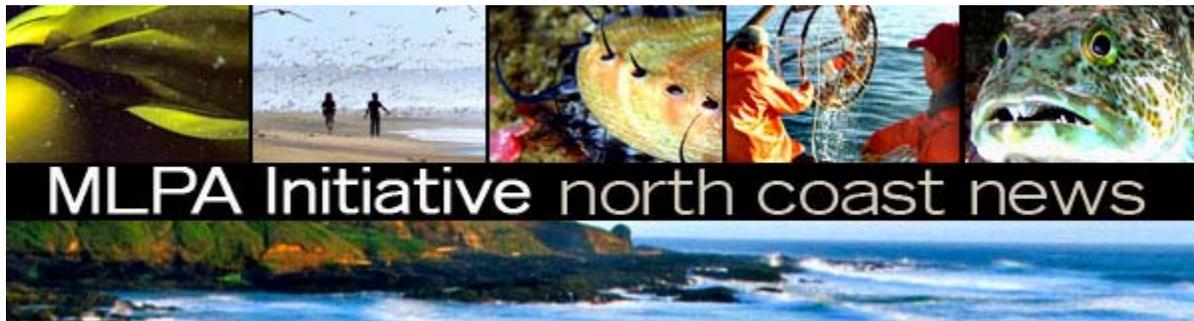
Spread the word

- Circulate [North Coast News](#) to help ensure others in your community are aware of the MLPA Initiative, upcoming meetings and opportunities for public involvement

- If you are a leader in your community and/or have access to a large number of constituents, become a “Key Communicator.” Contact the Public Outreach and Education Team via [email](#) or call 707-832-4088 to learn more.

[Top](#)

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
c/o California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814
916.654.1885 office
916.653.8102 fax
MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa>



May
2010

• Executive
Director's
Message

• Meeting
Highlights

BRTF
SAT
RSG

• Meetings &
Events

• FAQs

• Get Involved

Contact Us

Executive Director's Message

Recently, work groups of the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG) came together for their first work sessions and began developing Round 2 draft marine protected area (MPA) proposals. The NCRSG members were equipped with the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT) evaluation of "Round 1" external proposed MPA arrays, along with important guidance from the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force and feedback from the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks), and MLPA Initiative staff. While many of the stakeholders worked together during the development of Round 1 external arrays, these work sessions marked the launch of the NCRSG MPA planning process where NCRSG members began to work together, as a formal part of the MLPA Initiative, to integrate the diverse range of interests represented on the NCRSG, consider external arrays, and incorporate valuable public input – into this phase of MPA proposal development. I have encouraged NCRSG members to balance important tradeoffs while striving to meet the important guidelines, and achieve broad, cross-interest support.

The cross-interest deliberations began at the first work sessions on April 20-21 in Fort Bragg and will continue during the next work session and meeting May 19-20 in Crescent City. I invite members of the public to provide the NCRSG with specific feedback – whether in person or via email, mail or fax – on the components of the draft MPA proposals that you support or do not support, and why. Please also consider how the proposed MPA proposals, and your comments, help meet the goals of the MLPA. In addition, I encourage you to take advantage of the upcoming public workshops scheduled for July, which will be an opportunity where the MLPA Initiative comes to you to get your thoughts on Round 2 draft MPA proposals. This valuable public input will assist the NCRSG during the final round to develop strong cross-interest proposals.

~Ken Wiseman, Executive Director

Meeting Highlights

Blue Ribbon Task Force

May 3-4, 2010

The MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) held its fourth meeting in Crescent City on May 3-4. During this day-and-a-half meeting, the BRTF received an overview on changes to the regional profile of the MLPA North Coast Study Region. The public and California tribes and tribal communities were also invited to provide the BRTF with

any new, missing or inaccurate information specific to the profile.

The BRTF also reviewed eight "Round 1" external proposed MPA arrays submitted by north coast community groups and received the evaluation results of external arrays from the science advisory team, DFG, State Parks and MLPA Initiative staff. Following review of the Round 1 external MPA arrays, the BRTF reaffirmed its guidance to the NCRSG for developing "Round 2" draft MPA proposals:

- MPA proposals should meet the science guidelines provided in the MLPA, in the California Marine Life Protection Act Master Plan for Marine Protected Areas, and by the science advisory team
- MPA proposals should have a backbone of MPAs that have a very high or high level of protection (as assigned by the science advisory team), including some state marine reserves
- The NCRSG should generate a range of MPA proposals in Round 2 and strive for cross-interest support in their MPA designs
- The NCRSG should consider unique aspects of the study region, including weather conditions, safety concerns, existing fisheries management measures, and aspects of local economies, while still meeting the science guidelines
- Stakeholder input and local knowledge is important, and should be used to supplement the best readily available scientific information

In addition, the task force directed the MLPA staff to provide a written memo to the NCRSG that clarifies BRTF guidance regarding developing draft MPA proposals in Round 2. During its discussion regarding Round 2 guidance, the task force discussed [traditional, non-commercial tribal uses of marine resources](#) in the MLPA North Coast Study Region. The task force will meet on Monday, May 17 via teleconference and webinar to continue its discussion on this issue and provide further guidance to the NCRSG and SAT specific to tribal uses.

During the afternoon of May 4, the task force participated in a field trip to Smith River Rancheria, Pelican State Beach and Point St. George. The BRTF will meet again on [May 17 via teleconference and webinar](#).

[Top](#)

North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group

[April 20-21, 2010](#)

On April 20-21, work groups of the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG) held their first work sessions in Fort Bragg. During these work sessions, NCRSG members met in their respective gem groups (Ruby and Sapphire) for two all-day work sessions to begin designing cross-interest draft MPA proposals.

A tremendous "thank you" to more than 100 members of the Mendocino County community who contributed to a fabulous potluck on Monday, May 19 at the Caspar Community Center.



The NCRSG work groups will continue their MPA planning discussions in work sessions on May 19. An NCRSG meeting will be held on May 20, during which NCRSG members will complete their preparation of draft MPA proposals to be forwarded for Round 2 evaluation and public input.

Upcoming Public Meetings & Events

Public Meetings

All meetings are open to the public and are also simultaneously webcast on the day of the meeting (field trips not included); meeting details are available on the MLPA website.

Open houses and workshops are generally not videotaped or webcast. Work sessions are not videotaped or webcast; click here to learn more about NCRSG work sessions. To the extent possible, public participation locations are also set up in at least one other city within the study region (Crescent City, Eureka and/or Fort Bragg) to provide members of the public with a stable Internet connection for the webcast and the opportunity to provide comments during the public comment period(s).

All meeting agendas are posted to the MLPA website at least one week in advance of the meeting. Meeting materials are posted as soon as they become available. In addition to the simultaneous webcast of meetings, the video and audio archives are posted online within two days of each meeting.

Monday May, 17, 2010

Blue Ribbon Task Force

May 17, 2010

2:00 p.m. via teleconference and online meeting

Toll-free conference call

Dial-in number: 1 (877) 615-4337

Passcode: 6384800#

Presentations via GoToMeeting

Make your reservation now at

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/167242792>

Wednesday, May 19*

North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group

Hampton Inn & Suites

100 A Street

Crescent City, CA 95531

Thursday, May 20, 2010

North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group

Elk Valley Rancheria Community Center

2332 Howland Hill Road
Crescent City, CA 95531

* **Work Sessions:** Work sessions provide NCRSG members with focused, face-to-face opportunities to pursue their charge of developing alternative MPA proposals. NCRSG work sessions are not formal public meetings and are not videotaped or webcast. All work sessions are open to members of the public, who may attend as observers; while there is no formal public comment forum, there are informal opportunities for members of the public to share their perspectives with NCRSG members and MLPA Initiative staff. To help create a "safe space" for NCRSG members to explore MPA ideas, the public will not be permitted to videotape, audiotape or take pictures of work group discussions during the work sessions. Accredited media interested in covering an NCRSG work session must receive prior permission from the MLPA Initiative media relations team. [Contact the media relations team.](#)

Community Events

Upcoming Public Workshops

Save the date! A series of public workshops will be held in early July in the north coast study region. These workshops are an opportunity for the public to review and comment on Round 2 draft proposals.

Tuesday, July 6

5:00-7:00 p.m.
C.V. Starr Community Center
300 South Lincoln Street
Fort Bragg, CA

Wednesday, July 7

5:00-7:00 p.m.
Humboldt Bay Aquatic Center
921 Waterfront Drive, Room 211
Eureka, CA

Thursday, July 8

5:00-7:00 p.m.
Elk Valley Rancheria Community Center
2332 Howland Hill Road
Crescent City, CA

[Top](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

What does best readily-available science mean?

"Best readily-available science" is the best data that is accessible in a format that can be readily incorporated into the marine protected area (MPA) planning process. Marine systems are highly complex and new information is constantly being generated by ongoing research. Recognizing this, and that complete information, knowledge and understanding will never exist to fully inform management decisions, the California State Legislature requires the use of best readily-available science in decisions regarding the creation of new MPAs and any major modifications of existing MPAs under the Marine Life

Protection Act (MLPA) (California Fish and Game Code §2855(a)).

In the MLPA North Coast Study Region (NCSR), the MLPA Initiative worked to identify readily-available science and information in part by hosting a [data outreach workshop](#) at the start of the MLPA north coast process in July of 2009 to build upon the data already identified. Following this outreach, the MLPA Initiative engaged in joint fact-finding with stakeholders, community groups, local agencies, tribes and tribal communities, scientists, and members of the public during the drafting and revision of the [north coast regional profile](#). Additionally, the SAT established a protocol for submitting data to the MLPA Initiative to help inform the planning process (Items [D1](#) and [D2](#) at the December 16, 2009 SAT meeting).

While there will always be additional information that may further inform MPA planning, a large amount already exists to help California citizens redesign the system of state MPAs to achieve the goals of the MLPA. Current information is based on a long history of scientific research and data gathering, not only in California, but also around the world, on marine habitats, oceanography and marine species, among other topics. As further information and data is generated after the MPA planning process, it can be used for informing adaptive management of the statewide system of MPAs.

How is best readily-available science used in the MPA planning process?

Data are used in a variety of ways in the MLPA Initiative planning process. Information about the NCSR is made available to stakeholders in the regional profile, as well as in an online decision support tool called [MarineMap](#). The NCRSG uses the best readily available information to help inform their discussions and decisions on where to place MPAs. The SAT uses data to create guidelines and conduct evaluations of MPA proposals. Additionally, data are conveyed through scientific presentations given during the north coast MPA planning process.

Scientific guidelines for MPA planning are provided in the text of the MLPA; further details are outlined in the [California Marine Life Protection Act Master Plan for Marine Protected Areas](#), as adopted by the California Fish and Game Commission after substantial public input and scientific peer review. The methods and application of the guidelines in the master plan have been peer reviewed and found to be scientifically sound. In keeping with the best readily-available science, the [science guidance is reviewed, refined and improved](#) in each study region as the planning process proceeds.

In the NCSR, the SAT used the best readily-available science to tailor the science guidelines and evaluations to the unique conditions of the study region. Results of the scientific evaluations are provided to the NCRSG and BRTF, who will incorporate the results into their planning and decisions, as well as the public. After the MPA planning process is completed, new science will continue to help improve California's network of MPAs by informing an adaptive management process.

What new information specific to the north coast is available to help inform the planning process?

MLPA Initiative staff worked to compile information about the NCSR in the [north coast regional profile](#). Information in the regional profile is

relevant to marine protected area (MPA) planning for the NCSR and was developed and revised with significant input from a broad range of groups and individuals. The regional profile includes information on ecological, biophysical, socioeconomic, and jurisdictional characteristics, as well as the management setting of the NCSR, among other topics such as information on California tribes and tribal communities. The regional profile is comprised of informational text, appendices with statistical information, and two atlases displaying spatial information.

Spatial information is particularly useful in MPA planning. Appendix A of the regional profile lists more than 150 data layers that have been compiled for use in the MPA planning process, many of which have been made available via an online decision support tool called MarineMap (<http://northcoast.marinemap.org/>). Examples of the data sets include:

- detailed mapping of the ocean floor to help identify locations and extent of marine habitats;
- recreational harvest of abalone to help identify areas of high and low use;
- fishery closures, including rockfish conservation areas;
- a human uses atlas of 27 different consumptive and non-consumptive uses and activities to help identify on a broad scale where these activities take place; and
- a survey of commercial and recreational fishermen (for 10 commercial fisheries, commercial passenger fishing vessels, private vessels, kayak fishing, and consumptive diving, as well as seaweed harvesting and oyster mariculture statistics) and resulting maps showing areas of high importance so that localized use may be considered in MPA planning. These data are also used by the SAT for evaluating potential impacts to commercial and recreational fishing by alternative MPA proposals.

The examples described above are only a few of the many types of information specific to the north coast study region available for MPA planning. Members of the public are invited to explore these and other data using both the north coast regional profile and MarineMap.

[Top](#)

Get Involved

The success of the MLPA largely depends on the continued involvement of the public. There are a number of ways that members of the public can participate in this process:

Have you contacted your regional stakeholder group members?

Share your questions and concerns with the [MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group \(NCRSG\) members](#). Composed of your local representatives, the NCRSG is charged with drafting marine protected area (MPA) recommendations for the north coast segment of California's statewide MPA network. Contact an NCRSG member today and ensure your voice is included in the MPA planning

process.

Stay informed

- Sign up for the [MLPA email list](#)
- [Attend meetings or view live webcasts or archived videos of meetings](#)
-  The MLPA Initiative is on Facebook! [Join the MLPA Initiative group on Facebook](#) for the latest MLPA news

Provide feedback

Providing feedback is one of the most important ways to get involved in the MLPA Initiative. Public comment provided at meetings should be concise and focused on specific ideas or suggestions ([click here](#) for suggested guidelines for providing public comment). While the time available for verbal comments at meetings is usually limited, there is no limit on the length of comments submitted in writing. All written comments can be submitted via email, mail or fax ([click here](#) to view north coast written public comments submitted to date):

Email: MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov

Mail: Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
c/o California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Fax: 916.653.8102

All written comments are compiled on a weekly basis and distributed to the I-Team and MLPA Initiative groups (BRTF, NCRSG and SAT as appropriate). Please do not send comments to SAT or BRTF members directly.

Specific opportunities to provide input include:

- View current MPA arrays and proposals anytime by clicking the  button or visiting [MarineMap](#)
- Submitting feedback on documents open for public comment
- Participating in [workshops, open houses and public information presentations](#)
- Contacting a member of the [north coast regional stakeholder group](#)
- Submitting comments, ideas and suggestions to MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov

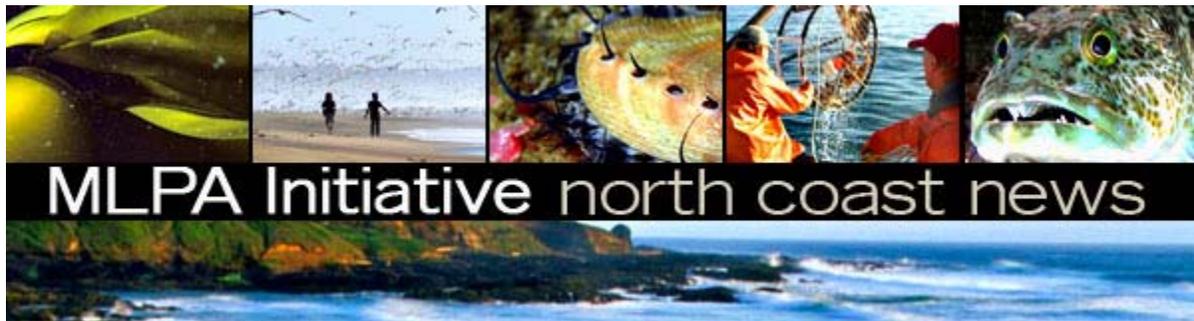
Spread the word

- Circulate [North Coast News](#) to help ensure others in your community are aware of the MLPA Initiative, upcoming meetings and opportunities for public involvement

- If you are a leader in your community and/or have access to a large number of constituents, become a "Key Communicator." Contact the Public Outreach and Education Team via [email](#) or call 707-832-4088 to learn more.

[Top](#)

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
c/o California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814
916.654.1885 office
916.653.8102 fax
MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa>



June
2010

- Executive Director's Message

- Meeting Highlights

BRTF
SAT
RSG

- Meetings & Events

- FAQs

- Get Involved

Contact Us

Executive Director's Message

As I reflect on the past year since we embarked upon the north coast marine protected area (MPA) planning process, I am grateful for the dedication and countless hours put in by the regional stakeholder group, science advisory team, task force, staff and interested public. Every meeting serves as testament to the tremendous levels of preparation, effort and commitment demonstrated by all involved.

This resolve allowed us to recently reach an important milestone – the regional stakeholder group completed its [Round 2 draft MPA proposals](#), which are now being evaluated. The proposals can be viewed on the MLPA website, as well as in MarineMap, and will be showcased at a series of open houses to be held throughout the study region in early July. To help ensure that these proposals honor and respect traditional tribal gathering activities, MLPA Initiative staff is also conducting targeted outreach to north coast tribes and tribal communities, thanks in great part to the coordination efforts of Dr. Satie Airame. Additionally, we continue to seek the perspective of [statewide stakeholders](#) with a variety of marine interests to provide advice regarding improvements to the process and to help spread the word so that different perspectives are being reached, heard and integrated.

I encourage all members of the north coast community to participate in reviewing the [Round 2 draft MPA proposals](#). Your feedback is an essential part of the MPA planning process and I welcome each of you to attend an open house as one way to review the proposals and provide your input.

~Ken Wiseman, Executive Director

Meeting Highlights

Blue Ribbon Task Force

[May 17, 2010 - Agenda and Meeting Materials](#)

On May 17, the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) held its fifth meeting via teleconference and webinar to discuss the decision-making context for tribal uses of marine resources in state waters. After considering proposed language for a motion, extensive discussion among task force members and input from the public, the [BRTF adopted guidance](#) to provide to the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group members as they completed their [Round 2 draft MPA proposals](#).

The BRTF's next meeting will be held on [July 21-22](#) in Fort Bragg. Public participation locations will also be available in Crescent City and Eureka.

Science Advisory Team

May 12, 2010 – Meeting Agenda and Materials

The MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT) held its sixth meeting via teleconference and webinar on May 12, 2010. SAT members discussed a wide variety of issues and approved several items, including:

- a revised water quality guidance document,
- draft responses to science questions received from the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG),
- new components of the marine birds and marine mammals evaluation methods, and
- replication thresholds for soft bottom habitats.

The SAT also voted to keep the level of protection (LOP) for redbtail surfperch at “moderate” LOP and to forward a draft document on adaptive management to the NCRSG to assist its planning efforts.

The SAT is currently conducting evaluations of the Round 2 draft MPA proposals. Each evaluation work group will present preliminary evaluation results during the June 29-30 SAT meeting in Eureka. In addition to presenting the preliminary evaluation results, SAT members will discuss responses to science questions, hear updates from work groups, and review additions to the evaluation methods document. SAT members will present evaluation results at the upcoming BRTF and NCRSG meetings.

The next SAT meeting will take place in Eureka on June 29-30. Public participation locations will also be available in Crescent City and Fort Bragg.

Top

North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group

May 19 – Work Session

May 20, 2010 – Meeting Agenda and Materials

On May 19, the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG) participated in an all-day work session in Crescent City. During this work session, NCRSG members met in their respective work groups to continue designing cross-interest Round 2 draft MPA proposals.

On May 20, the NCRSG participated in its fourth meeting in Crescent City. After providing presentations to the full NCRSG on the interim status of draft MPA proposals, the work groups reconvened to incorporate NCRSG and public feedback and complete their Round 2 draft MPA proposals. Each work group developed two draft MPA proposals (along with Proposal 0), as well as separate

What are “special closures” and how do they differ from MPAs?

Special closures are designated by the California Fish and Game Commission to provide geographically-specific protection of marine resources from human activities that may not be provided by MPAs or existing law; examples include protecting marine birds and marine mammals disturbance at nesting, roosting and haul-out sites. Special closures are generally smaller than and may coincide with, overlay, or be separate from proposed MPAs.

The California Department of Fish and Game recommends that any proposed restrictions on access be proposed through special closures rather than MPAs. Generally, a distance-from-shore seaward boundary of 300 or 1000 feet is used and may be seasonal or year-round. Additionally, special closures generally

recommendations for special closures:

- [Proposal 0 \(existing MPAs\)](#)
- [Ruby Draft MPA Proposal 1](#)
- [Ruby Draft MPA Proposal 2](#)
- [Sapphire Draft MPA Proposal 1](#)
- [Sapphire Draft MPA Proposal 2](#)

Key next steps in the Round 2 draft MPA proposal evaluation process include:

- June 29-30: The [science advisory team will meet in Eureka](#) to review preliminary evaluation results.
- July 6-8: A series of [public open houses](#) will be held throughout the north coast study region to solicit community input.
- July 21-22: The MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) will receive the evaluations of Round 2 draft MPA proposals and supporting documents from the MLPA Master Science Plan Advisory Team, California Department of Fish and Game, California Department of Parks and Recreation, and MLPA Initiative staff.

The NCRSG will hold its next meeting on July 29 in Fort Bragg to receive informational presentations on the review and evaluations of the Round 2 draft MPA proposals. Comments collected online and during the public open houses regarding will be distributed. The BRTF and MLPA Initiative staff will also provide guidance for how to approach Round 3 of the MPA design process. Public participation locations will be available in Crescent City and Eureka. On July 30, the NCRSG will meet in a work session to begin developing Round 3 draft MPA proposals.

Upcoming Public Meetings & Events

Public Meetings

All meetings are open to the public and are also simultaneously webcast on the day of the meeting (field trips not included); meeting details are available on the [MLPA website](#). Open houses and workshops are generally not videotaped or webcast. Work sessions are not videotaped or webcast; click here to learn more about [NCRSG work sessions](#).

To the extent possible, public participation locations are also set up in at least one other city within the study region (Crescent City, Eureka and/or Fort Bragg) to provide members of the public with a stable Internet connection for the webcast and the opportunity to provide comments during the public comment period(s).

Meeting agendas are posted to the MLPA website at least one week in advance of the meeting. Meeting materials are posted as soon as they become available. In addition to the simultaneous webcast of meetings, the video and audio archives are [posted online](#) within two days of each meeting.

**Tuesday, June 29 –
Wednesday, June 30, 2010**
Master Plan Science Advisory Team
[Meeting Agenda and Materials](#)
Red Lion Hotel
1929 Fourth Street
Eureka, CA 95501

**Wednesday, July 21 –
Thursday, July 22, 2010**
Blue Ribbon Task Force
C.V. Starr Community Center
300 S. Lincoln Street
Fort Bragg, CA 95437

**Thursday, July 29 (meeting) and
Friday, July 30 (work session*)**
Regional Stakeholder Group
C.V. Starr Community Center
300 S. Lincoln Street
Fort Bragg, CA 95437

* Work Sessions: Work sessions provide NCRSG members with focused, face-to-face opportunities to pursue their charge of developing alternative MPA proposals. NCRSG work sessions are not formal public meetings and are not videotaped or webcast. All work sessions are open to members of the public, who may attend as observers; while there is no formal public comment, there are informal opportunities for members of the public to share their perspectives with NCRSG members and MLPA Initiative staff. Accredited media interested in covering an NCRSG work session are asked to contact the MLPA Initiative [media relations team](#) prior to the session.

Community Events

Upcoming Public Workshops

Members of the public are invited to join us at the upcoming North Coast Summer Public Open Houses to review and provide feedback on Round 2 draft marine protected area proposals for the MLPA North Coast Study Region ([informational flyer](#)).

Attend the open houses to visit informational stations, review and comment on the Round 2 draft MPA proposals, provide input on particular areas of interest, and ask questions of staff and regional stakeholders.

Drop by anytime! *Please note specific times associated with each location.*

July 6, 2010
5:00-7:30 p.m.
C.V. Starr Community Center
300 South Lincoln Street
Fort Bragg, CA 95437

July 7, 2010
8:00-10:00 a.m.
The Octagon/Beginnings
5 Cemetery Road
Briceland, CA 95560

July 7, 2010

5:00-7:30 p.m.
Humboldt Bay Aquatic Center
921 Waterfront Drive, Room 211
Eureka, CA 95501

July 8, 2010

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Redwood National and State Parks
South Operations Center
121200 Hwy. 101
Orick, CA 95555

July 8, 2010

5:00-7:30 p.m.
Elk Valley Rancheria Community Center
2332 Howland Hill Road
Crescent City, CA 95531

What if I can't attend one of the public open houses in person?

If you are both able to attend, you may also provide your feedback on Round 2 draft MPA proposals by visiting

http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/mpaproposals_nc.asp. Here, you can complete an online form expressing your comments, which will be shared with the NCRSG and BRTF. Additionally, print copies of the feedback forms are available at [local libraries and government offices](#), which can be mailed or faxed to the MLPA Initiative office.

Your comments will be most helpful if received no later than July 14, 2010 so the information can be distributed to NCRSG and BRTF members prior to the start of Round 3.

[Top](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

How will the success, or failure, of the MPAs designated under the MLPA be evaluated?

Determining success of an MPA and/or MPA network involves identifying and understanding changes to the ecosystem (including ecosystem function) and the role of MPAs in affecting those changes; measuring and understanding MPA effects (e.g., are there more fish inside versus outside MPAs?); and understanding changes in human uses (socioeconomics). Given the complexity of developing a monitoring program with such a focus and scale, a new entity, the MPA Monitoring Enterprise, was created to help the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) meet the monitoring requirements of the MLPA. In collaboration with DFG and various experts, the MPA Monitoring Enterprise is focused on developing regional and network-wide monitoring plans to deliver data essential for ensuring the long-term adaptive management of the new statewide system of MPAs designated through the MLPA. The MPA Monitoring Enterprise developed the MPA monitoring plan for the MLPA North Central Coast Study Region (downloadable at http://calost.org/North_Central.html#NCCplan) and is currently developing a monitoring plan for the MLPA South Coast Study Region.

How will baseline data be used to inform the assessment of

the MPA network?

An important component of monitoring is establishing a baseline condition from which change over time can be measured and assessed. In developing the regional MPA monitoring plan for the MLPA North Central Coast Study Region (NCCSR), the MPA Monitoring Enterprise designed a comprehensive baseline program. This baseline program will provide a comprehensive integrated assessment of MPA and ecosystem conditions from which change over time can be evaluated and monitored. Baseline projects for the NCCSR include kelp and rocky intertidal surveys, high resolution aerial kelp and intertidal mapping surveys, ROV surveys, population monitoring of nearshore foraging seabirds and marine mammals, surveys of sandy beaches and adjacent surf zone communities and a baseline socioeconomic characterization focused on consumptive and non-consumptive private recreation, commercial fishing, and commercial charter boats. More information on these projects can be found on the [California Sea Grant website](#).

Similar baseline data collection efforts have been implemented for the central coast study region, and will be implemented for the south and north coast study regions.

How will baseline and future monitoring be funded?

Approximately \$12 million is available from the California Ocean Protection Council to collect baseline information for each of three coastal study regions including the north central coast, south coast, and the north coast study regions (approximately \$4 million per region). An additional \$4 million has already been utilized for baseline projects in the MLPA Central Coast Study Region. Baseline programs and regional MPA monitoring plans for the south coast and north coast will be developed sequentially as MPAs in each region are adopted.

The availability and level of funding for long-term management is unknown at this time and never certain. However, the north central coast MPA monitoring plan provides a scalable and tiered framework to implement monitoring at various funding levels to enhance MPA understanding and management. A scalable approach offers the opportunity to monitor multiple ecosystems and ecosystem components at high resolution when funding is strong. When funding is lean, this structure recommends monitoring specific components that will act as indicators.

Importantly, the NCCSR monitoring framework offers an example of how monitoring can be shared among numerous partners, including citizen-based monitoring programs. These partnerships will become very important for the success of long-term monitoring and MPA management because partnerships draw on the knowledge and resources from other government agencies, not-for-profit organizations, and research institutions. This structure is repeated in natural resource management for California again and again and is particularly strong for ecosystem-based management because ecosystems are not easily managed by a single agency or organization.

How are socioeconomics considered during the MPA planning process?

Both potential positive and potential negative socioeconomic effects are considered in MPA planning through the MLPA Initiative, even though maximizing positive or minimizing negative socioeconomic impacts is not an explicit goal of the MLPA.

For example, enhanced ecosystems may have positive socioeconomic effects. Benefits derived from MPAs take many forms and include direct

benefits to organisms (e.g., fish are protected from harvest and may achieve larger size) and indirect benefits such as ecosystem functioning (e.g., fish which are protected and grow to larger size achieve greater fecundity thus exhibiting greater reproductive output promoting population growth, ultimately affecting components of ecosystem functions, such as trophic relationships). Ecosystem services are services that functioning ecosystems offer and which often benefit people. An MPA designed to attract dive tourism is one example whereby a service (benefit) people gain is improved recreational opportunity through improved ecosystem structure (healthy and attractive habitats and large and abundant organisms). Another important example is food production, whereby a 'healthy' ecosystem provides resources that may be utilized in the seafood industry. Both of these examples are founded in ecological aims but also have clear economic benefits which may be considered while attempting to minimize negative economic impacts when designing MPAs.

Potential negative socioeconomic impacts are considered in MPA planning as well. It is important to recognize that consideration of socioeconomics as described above is functionally and fundamentally different from stating that a desired outcome of MPAs is to achieve healthy local economies. Economies are driven by numerous and complex factors mostly outside the capacity of the MLPA's influence. Further, the MLPA directs that socioeconomic factors be considered in MPA planning, but does not explicitly state minimizing negative (or maximizing positive) socioeconomic impacts as a goal. In recognition of the importance of marine resources to coastal communities, the MLPA Initiative has exceeded the requirements of the act and more fully integrated consideration of human use information in the MPA planning process (for example, the collection of spatial data indicating areas of stated importance for commercial and recreational fisheries by Ecotrust).

[Top](#)

Get Involved

The success of the MLPA largely depends on the continued involvement of the public. There are a number of ways that members of the public can participate in this process:

Have you contacted your regional stakeholder group members?

Share your questions and concerns with the [MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group \(NCRSG\) members](#). Composed of your local representatives, the NCRSG is charged with drafting marine protected area (MPA) recommendations for the north coast segment of California's statewide MPA network. Contact an NCRSG member today and ensure your voice is included in the MPA planning process.

Stay informed

- Sign up for the [MLPA email list](#)
- [Attend meetings or view live webcasts or archived videos](#) of meetings
-  The MLPA Initiative is on Facebook! [Join the MLPA Initiative group on Facebook](#) for the latest MLPA news

Provide feedback

Providing feedback is one of the most important ways to get involved in the MLPA Initiative. Public comment provided at meetings should be concise and focused on specific ideas or suggestions ([click here](#) for suggested guidelines for providing public comment). While the time available for verbal comments at meetings is usually limited, there is no limit on the length of comments submitted in writing. All written comments can be submitted via email, mail or fax ([click here](#) to view north coast written public comments submitted to date):

Email: MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov

Mail: Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
c/o California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Fax: 916.653.8102

All written comments are compiled on a weekly basis and distributed to the I-Team and MLPA Initiative groups (BRTF, NCRSG and SAT as appropriate). Please do not send comments to SAT or BRTF members directly.

Specific opportunities to provide input include:

- View current MPA arrays and proposals anytime by clicking the  button or visiting [MarineMap](#)
- Submitting feedback on documents open for public comment
- Participating in [workshops, open houses and public information presentations](#)
- Contacting a member of the [north coast regional stakeholder group](#)
- Submitting comments, ideas and suggestions to MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov

Spread the word

- Circulate [North Coast News](#) to help ensure others in your community are aware of the MLPA Initiative, upcoming meetings and opportunities for public involvement
- If you are a leader in your community and/or have access to a large number of constituents, become a “Key Communicator.” Contact the Public Outreach and Education Team via [email](#) or call 707-832-4088 to learn more.

[Top](#)

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
c/o California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814
916.654.1885 office
916.653.8102 fax
MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa>



August
2010

• Executive
Director's
Message

• Meeting
Highlights

BRTF

SAT

RSG

• Meetings &
Events

• FAQs

• Get Involved

Contact Us

Executive Director's Message

What a busy summer it has been! I am delighted to report more than 275 people attended five open houses held throughout the MLPA North Coast Study Region on July 6, 7, and 8. These open houses provided the public an opportunity to review and comment on the four Round 2 NCRSG draft MPA proposals, resulting in more than 120 comments, suggestions and ideas. This valuable input was provided to the blue ribbon task force and the north coast regional stakeholder group to help inform the third and final round of MPA proposal development. Like all comments submitted throughout the planning process, comments made on the Round 2 draft MPA proposals are accessible online (a [summary of public comments](#) is available as well as a [compilation of all the public comments](#) submitted through July 19). I encourage members of the public to review the feedback provided by your fellow north coast residents.

Also in July, the science advisory team completed its scientific evaluations of the Round 2 draft MPA proposals and presented its findings to the blue ribbon task force. The task force [provided guidance for the development of Round 3 proposals](#), and the members of the regional stakeholder group began to put this guidance into practice as they started to develop their final MPA proposal(s) at their late July meeting.

In addition to all of our meetings, the MLPA Initiative has made some great strides in improving online access to materials and information. Launched in May, the [new "Key Resources" page](#) provides a one-stop place to find key documents and resources such as responses to science questions, policy documents, and MLPA 101 materials. Also, check out our [new online search engine](#), which offers an easy way to access meeting documents quickly.

While these past few months have certainly had their fair share of challenges, I am routinely impressed by the tight bonds the north coast communities share and the mutual respect, compassion and understanding for all perspectives and voices. I thank members of the public in advance of our upcoming meetings in August and beyond, for continuing the theme of respect and consideration as we move into the final stages of the planning process.

~Ken Wiseman, Executive Director

Meeting Highlights

Blue Ribbon Task Force

[July 21-22, 2010 – Meeting Agenda and Materials](#)

The MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) held its seventh meeting on July 21-22 in Fort Bragg. During this meeting, the task force received all four MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG) Round 2 draft

marine protected area (MPA) proposals, as well as draft recommendations for special closures. The task force also received evaluations of NCRSG draft MPA proposals and special closures from the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT), California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), California Department of Parks and Recreation (California State Parks) and MLPA Initiative staff.

During this meeting, the task force discussed and approved additional guidance to the NCRSG regarding developing Round 3 MPA proposals. Key elements of the Round 3 process guidance includes:

- The NCRSG will work primarily in a full group setting toward developing a cross-interest proposal that meets the minimum science guidelines to the extent possible, with a specific focus on addressing gaps in the Round 2 draft MPA proposals, such as habitat replication and MPA spacing.
- If the NCRSG cannot come to agreement on a single proposal, it should work to identify key geographies where the group cannot come to agreement on a single MPA design and create multiple proposals to address those differences. All NCRSG members should be able to live with at least one Round 3 MPA proposal.
- To increase information available to the BRTF, MPAs with proposed uses intended to accommodate tribal uses will be evaluated and reported for habitat replication, MPA size and MPA spacing as follows:
 1. Proposed allowed uses and methods of take will be assigned a level of protection (LOP) consistent with the SAT's protocol.
 2. MPAs that are intended to be part of the backbone of an MPA proposal, but with an LOP below moderate-high only to accommodate tribal uses, will first be reported according to SAT evaluation methods (not included if LOP is less than moderate-high) and then in a supplementary evaluation be reported with all MPAs at or above moderate-high LOP.

The BRTF's next meeting will be held on October 25-27 in Fortuna where it will receive the final NCRSG MPA proposal(s) and evaluations and will develop recommendations to deliver to the California Fish and Game Commission.

Science Advisory Team

June 29-30, 2010 – Meeting Agenda and Materials

The seventh meeting of the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT) took place in Eureka on June 29-30. During the meeting, SAT members discussed and approved all evaluation results of the Round 2 draft MPA proposals, pending minor edits to the bioeconomic modeling evaluation results. Additionally, SAT members approved responses to science questions, which were forwarded to the BRTF and NCRSG.

July 28, 2010 – Meeting Agenda and Materials

On July 28, 2010, the eighth meeting of the SAT for the MLPA North Coast Study Region (NCSR) was held via teleconference and webinar. During the meeting, SAT members approved three documents:

- Revisions to the Draft Methods Used to Evaluate Marine Protected Area Proposals in the MLPA North Coast Study Region (July 27, 2010 draft)

- [Summary of SAT Evaluation of North Coast Round 2 Draft MPA Proposals: Habitat Representation, Habitat Replication, and MPA Size and MPA Spacing Analyses \(Revised July 14, 2010\)](#)
- [Draft Responses to Science Questions Posed during the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team Meeting on June 29-30, 2010 \(July 27, 2010\)](#)

The next SAT meeting will be October 13-14, 2010 in Eureka when the science evaluations of the Round 3 draft MPA proposal(s) will be reviewed.

[Top](#)

North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group

[July 29-30, 2010 – Meeting Agenda and Materials](#)

The fifth meeting of the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG) was held on July 29-30 in Fort Bragg. During this meeting, the NCRSG received a number of presentations, including:

- Guidance for Round 3 process design from the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force and MLPA Initiative staff;
- Overview presentations of Round 2 draft marine protected area (MPA) proposals and draft proposed special closures; and
- Evaluation results of Round 2 draft MPA proposals from the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT), California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) and MLPA Initiative staff.

The NCRSG began developing its Round 3 MPA proposal(s) as a full group and specifically identified potential MPA options for homework groups to build from during their efforts between the NCRSG's July and August meetings. The NCRSG selected its Round 3 co-leads: Brandi Easter, Zack Larson, Bill Lemos, Jennifer Savage, Tom Trumper, and Adam Wagschal. Four homework groups (southern bioregion, northern bioregion, estuaries, and special closures) were created and participants were identified to continue developing ideas to be incorporated into the Round 3 MPA proposal(s).

The next NCRSG meeting will take place August 30-31, 2010 in Fortuna to develop the Round 3 NCRSG MPA proposal(s) to be forwarded to the BRTF for consideration.

Upcoming Public Meetings & Events

Public Meetings

All meetings are open to the public and simultaneously webcast on the day of the meeting (field trips not included). Meeting details are available on the [MLPA website](#). Open houses, workshops and work sessions are generally not videotaped or webcast. Click here to learn more about [NCRSG work sessions](#).

To the extent possible, public participation locations are also set up in at least one other city within the study region (Crescent City, Eureka and/or Fort Bragg) to provide members of the public with a stable Internet connection for the webcast and the opportunity to provide comments during the public comment period(s).

Meeting agendas are posted to the MLPA website at least one week in advance of the meeting. Meeting materials are posted as soon as they become available. In addition to the simultaneous webcast of meetings, the video and audio archives are [posted online](#) within two days of each meeting.

Monday, August 30 – Tuesday, August 31, 2010

Monday, August 30 at 9:00 a.m.
Tuesday, August 31 at 8:00 a.m.
Regional Stakeholder Group
River Lodge Conference Center
1800 Riverwalk Drive
Fortuna, CA 95540

A single public comment period will be held, beginning on Monday, August 30 at approximately 4:30 p.m. The comment period will recess and resume at approximately 11:00 a.m. the following morning for approximately one hour. Members of the public will have the opportunity to speak at one of the identified time periods; to be most effective for stakeholder group discussions, it is suggested that comments be made on Monday, August 30. [Click here for "Guidelines for Providing Public Comment"](#).

Thursday, September 1, 2010

Regional Stakeholder Group Work Session*
River Lodge Conference Center
1800 Riverwalk Drive
Fortuna, CA 95540

Wednesday, October 13 – Thursday, October 14, 2010

Science Advisory Team
Red Lion Hotel
1929 Fourth Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Monday, October 25 – Wednesday, October 27, 2010

Blue Ribbon Task Force (with the North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group)
River Lodge Conference Center
1800 Riverwalk Drive
Fortuna, CA 95540

* **Work Sessions:** Work sessions provide NCRSG members with focused, face-to-face opportunities to pursue their charge of developing alternative MPA proposals. NCRSG work sessions are not formal public meetings and are not videotaped or webcast. All work sessions are open to members of the public, who may attend as observers; while there is no formal public comment period, there are informal opportunities for members of the public to share their perspectives with NCRSG members and MLPA Initiative staff. Accredited media interested in covering an NCRSG work session are asked to contact the MLPA Initiative [media relations team](#) prior to the session.

Community Events

Information Session

Sunday, August 29, 2010
Shelter Cove Fire Station Meeting Hall
9126 Shelter Cove Road

3:00 - 4:30 PM

[Informational Flyer](#)

The Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Initiative invites the Shelter Cove community and others to attend an informational presentation designed to orient interested members of the public to the MLPA North Coast Study Region marine protected area planning process. MLPA Initiative staff will invite questions and solicit input on the draft MPA proposals. For more information contact Kelly Sayce by [email](#) or by phone at 707-832-4088.

[Top](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

How does the MLPA differ from fisheries management regulations current in place in the north coast study region?

MPAs established under the MLPA are intended to complement existing fishing regulations and are not intended to replace existing or future regulations. MPAs are focused on ecosystems, rather than individual species, and are designed to allow both fished and unfished species to exist in a more natural setting.

The [Marine Life Management Act \(MLMA\)](#) is California's primary fishery management tool. The MLMA acknowledges that other conservation and management programs, such as those being developed under the MLPA, help facilitate long-term protection of fishery resources. An important difference, however, is that habitat protection under the MLMA is intended to advance the "primary fishery management goal" of sustainability, while protected areas established under the MLPA are intended to address broader, ecosystem-based objectives that are not limited to managing fisheries. Some goals of the MLPA simply cannot be achieved with traditional fisheries management.

What is the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) rationale for the inclusion of Stone Lagoon in the MLPA North Coast Study Region (NCSR)?

Based on [criteria determined by DFG](#), Stone Lagoon is included in the NCSR. The determination to include Stone Lagoon was based on the consideration of a series of data sources, including detailed accounts of natural breaching events, documented saltwater fish species, and reported water quality measurements. Key considerations included:

- Stone Lagoon, fed primarily by one perennial stream (McDonald Creek), breaches naturally and is therefore tidally influenced, at least periodically. Breaching occurs every several years from either the seaward or the lagoon side and, upon breaching, the water level in the lagoon typically reaches near sea level within a day or so. The breach site can quickly close or remain open for months, depending on the level of water exchange.
- Common saltwater fish species have been reported from Stone Lagoon, such as Pacific herring, Pacific staghorn sculpin, tidewater goby, bay pipefish, tubesnout, night smelt, topsmelt, cabezon, surfperches, starry flounder, and sandsole.

A detailed explanation for the method used to determine the NCSR boundary can be found in section 3.1.3 of the [Regional Profile of the North Coast Study Region \(Alder Creek to the California-Oregon Border\)](#); this method is consistent with how boundaries were determined for previous MLPA study regions.

How does the California Fish and Game Commission's recent decision to revise Stewarts Point State marine Reserve in the MLPA North Central Coast Study Region potentially affect proposed placement of north coast MPAs?

On June 24, 2010, the [California Fish and Game Commission \(F&GC\)](#) reviewed a proposal to change a portion of Stewarts Point State Marine Reserve (in the north central coast study region) to allow for certain recreational activities, thereby allowing traditional tribal gathering to continue. The F&GC unanimously approved reclassifying a portion of Stewarts Point State Marine Reserve as a state marine conservation area that would extend 1000 feet offshore from the northern boundary of the reserve to just below Rocky Point, approximately four miles south. This change amended the new MPA regulations that [went into effect in the region on May 1, 2010](#) as well as the replication of beach habitat in the north central coast.

The sixth goal of the MLPA states California's MPAs should be designed as a statewide network. Habitats protected in MPAs in other study regions can help to guide regional stakeholders in the placement of and rationale for MPAs in the north coast study region. As a result of the F&GC's change to Stewarts Point State Marine Reserve in the north central coast, the reserve no longer includes sufficient beach length to constitute a replicate of beach habitat (see the [north central coast evaluation methods document](#) for a description of replication and how it helps to achieve the goals of the MLPA). The next replicate of beach habitat to the south is located at Bodega Head State Marine Reserve in the north central coast, approximately 58 miles south of Alder Creek, the border between the north coast and north central coast study regions. This change in the configuration of replicated habitats in the north central coast study region challenges the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG) to consider placing an MPA closer to the border between the study regions to create a replicate for beaches.

Information about the F&GC's action and the resulting change in beach habitat replication was presented by the SAT to the NCRSG in July for consideration. MLPA Initiative staff advised the NCRSG to consider the information and follow BRTF guidance to strive to meet the SAT guidelines. However, recognizing that this change took place at the beginning of the final round of MPA proposal development and that the NCRSG may choose not to create a replicate for beaches, NCRSG members were asked to explain their rationale for not designing MPAs to include a replicate for beaches in the southern bioregion of the north coast study region.

How do the MPA size and spacing guidelines described in the California Marine Life Protection Act Master Plan for Marine Protected Areas apply to estuaries?

Estuarine habitats, including estuarine waters, eelgrass, coastal marsh, and tidal flats, are among the key habitats identified in the [master plan](#) and thus are subject to the spacing guidelines applied to all key habitats. In past study regions, estuarine habitats were unevenly distributed or poorly mapped, which reduced the utility of estuarine spacing evaluations; however, spacing

was assessed for estuarine habitats in the north central coast.

In the north coast study region estuarine habitats, with the exception of tidal flats, are generally well mapped and are relatively evenly distributed across the study region. Although gaps between adjacent estuaries in the north coast do not exceed the spacing guideline of 62 miles, eelgrass and coastal marsh habitats are less evenly distributed throughout the study region with natural gaps that exceed the spacing guidelines. During Round 1 of MPA proposal development, SAT evaluations were completed for estuarine habitat representation, replication and size. Noting the number of estuaries in the north coast study region, SAT members agreed during their March 16-17, 2010 meeting that an evaluation for spacing also should be conducted for rounds 2 and 3. Round 2 evaluations were conducted for estuarine habitat representation and replication, as well as MPA size and spacing, consistent with the evaluation methods; this evaluation contributed new information to inform the north coast MPA planning process.

The NCRSG has been provided the estuarine evaluation information to help inform Round 3 discussions. The SAT will continue evaluations of estuarine habitats, including MPA spacing, to provide information for planning. MLPA Initiative staff advised the NCRSG to consider the information and follow BRTF guidance to strive to meet the SAT guidelines. However, recognizing that this information was presented to the NCRSG at the beginning of the final round of MPA proposal development and that the NCRSG may not meet the SAT guidelines for estuarine habitats,, NCRSG members were asked to explain their rationale for why spacing guidelines were not met for estuarine habitats.

How do I use the MLPA Initiative website's document search engine?

Did you know you can search for any MLPA Initiative meeting document through our new document search engine? Here are some steps to help you find the information you're searching for in a quick and easy way:

- Visit: http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/meetings_n.asp
- At the top right of the page you will see "Meeting Materials to Search for North Coast Study Region Meeting Agendas and Materials in the DFG Document Library"

Meetings and Events (North Coast Study Region)

- [UPCOMING MEETINGS](#)
- [Blue Ribbon Task Force](#)
- [Master Plan Science Advisory Team](#)
- [North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group](#)
Note: There are two types of NCRSG meetings. A description of the two types is provided in the [NCRSG meeting section](#).
- [Statewide Interests Group](#)
- [Public Meetings, Public Workshops and Open Houses](#)

Internet Webcasting and Video Archives

These links connect to the CAL-SPAN website.

- [View or listen](#) to **MLPA Initiative** meetings in real time via Internet webcasting. (Note: This feature is available only on the day of a scheduled meeting, and does not include Fish and Game Commission meetings)
- [View or listen](#) to **California Fish and Game Commission** meetings in real time via Internet webcasting. (Note: This feature is available only on the day of a scheduled meeting)
- [Video Archive of MLPA Meetings](#)

Meeting Materials

- [Search for North Coast Study Region Meeting Agendas and Materials in the DFG Document Library](#)
- [Locations for Viewing Print Copies of MLPA Meeting Materials and Meeting Video DVDs for the North Coast Study Region](#) (for those with limited internet connectivity) 

Meeting Materials



- [Search for North Coast Study Region Meeting Agendas and Materials in the DFG Document Library](#)
- [Locations for Viewing Print Copies of MLPA Meeting Materials and Meeting Video DVDs for the North Coast Study Region \(for those with limited Internet connectivity\)](#) PDF

- When you click on this link you are taken to this page:

Document Library → Browse by Category → Category Document Viewer

Marine Life Protection Act North Coast Study Region Documents

Document Library Subcategory: All Subcategories Search Advanced Search

Advanced Criteria: category is "MLPA-NorthCoast"

RSS 2.0 Feed

Rows per page: 50 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Page 1 of 10 Results 1 - 50 out of 495

File	Title	Subject	Author	Published
(2.60 MB)	Updated Maps for Areas of Water Quality C	Meeting Briefing Document	MLPA Initiative Staff	8/24/2010
(469 KB)	Updated Evaluation Methods: Chapter 10. V	Meeting Briefing Document	MLPA Initiative Staff	8/24/2010
(2.01 MB)	Draft Methods Used to Evaluate Marine Pro	Meeting Briefing Document	MLPA Initiative Staff	8/24/2010
(25.8 KB)	Draft Meeting Agenda, North Coast Region	Meeting Agenda	MLPA Initiative Staff	8/20/2010
(32.7 KB)	Draft Meeting Agenda, North Coast Region	Meeting Agenda	MLPA Initiative Staff	8/9/2010
(5.00 MB)	Public comments through 8/18/2010	Public Comment	MLPA Initiative Staff	8/19/2010
(5.67 MB)	Public comments regarding the Draft Regio	Public Comment	MLPA Initiative Staff	8/17/2010
(1.00 MB)	Public comments regarding the Draft Regio	Public Comment	MLPA Initiative Staff	8/17/2010

- You can then enter in keywords, such as "public comment", and hit "search". You can also choose a "subcategory" so the search only targets a specific MLPA Initiative meeting type.
- Once the search has populated the list of potential documents, you can sort by "author", "subject" or "published" to be sure you get the document you're looking for!

[Top](#)

Get Involved

The success of the MLPA largely depends on the continued involvement of the public. There are a number of ways that members of the public can participate in this process:

Have you contacted your regional stakeholder group members?

Share your questions and concerns with the [MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group \(NCRSG\) members](#). Composed of your local representatives, the NCRSG is charged with drafting marine protected area (MPA) recommendations for the north coast segment of California's statewide MPA network. Contact an NCRSG member today and ensure your voice is included in the MPA planning process.

Stay informed

- Sign up for the [MLPA email list](#)
- [Attend meetings or view live webcasts or archived videos](#) of meetings



- The MLPA Initiative is on Facebook! [Join the MLPA Initiative group on Facebook](#) for the latest MLPA news

Provide feedback

Providing feedback is one of the most important ways to get involved in the MLPA Initiative. Public comment provided at meetings should be concise and focused on specific ideas or suggestions ([click here](#) for suggested guidelines for providing public comment). While the time available for verbal comments at meetings is usually limited, there is no limit on the length of comments submitted in writing. All written comments can be submitted via email, mail or fax ([click here](#) to view north coast written public comments submitted to date):

Email: MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov

Mail: Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
c/o California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Fax: 916.653.8102

All written comments are compiled on a weekly basis and distributed to the I-Team and MLPA Initiative groups (BRTF, NCRSG and SAT as appropriate). Please do not send comments to SAT or BRTF members directly.

Specific opportunities to provide input include:

- View current MPA proposals anytime by clicking the



- [button](#) or visiting [MarineMap](#)
- Submitting feedback on documents open for public comment
- Participating in [workshops, open houses and public information presentations](#)
- Contacting a member of the [north coast regional stakeholder group](#)
- Submitting comments, ideas and suggestions to MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov

Spread the word

- Circulate [North Coast News](#) to help ensure others in your community are aware of the MLPA Initiative, upcoming meetings and opportunities for public involvement
- If you are a leader in your community and/or have access to a large number of constituents, become a "Key Communicator." Contact the Public Outreach and Education Team via [email](#) or call 707-832-4088 to learn more.

[Top](#)

c/o California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814
916.654.1885 office
916.653.8102 fax
MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa>



October
2010

• Executive
Director's
Message

• Meeting
Highlights

BRTF

SAT

RSG

• Meetings &
Events

• FAQs

• Get Involved

Contact Us

Executive Director's Message

During its August 30-31 meeting in Fortuna, the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG) completed a single marine protected area (MPA) proposal for the north coast study region's Round 3 MPA planning process. This significant achievement illustrates the NCRSG members' dedication to working collaboratively and exemplifying a respectful, stakeholder-based process.

The [Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal and accompanying Round 3 NCRSG Special Closures Recommendation](#) are available at the MLPA website and via [MarineMap](#) for review by the public. Over the coming weeks the MPA proposal and special closures recommendation will be evaluated by the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team, California Department of Fish and Game, California Department of Parks and Recreation, and MLPA Initiative staff. The results of these evaluations will help inform the deliberations of the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) at its upcoming meeting in Fortuna on October 25-26.

I encourage each of you to [provide feedback on the MPA proposal and recommendation for special closures](#). In addition to email, mail and fax, you are invited to share your input via an [online form](#). I look forward to seeing many of you the BRTF meeting later this month, where members of the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group will join the task force for presentations and discussion about the Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal, associated evaluation results, and what recommendations will be forwarded to the California Fish and Game Commission.

~Ken Wiseman, Executive Director

Meeting Highlights

North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group

[August 30-31, 2010 – Meeting Agenda and Materials](#)

The sixth meeting of the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG) was held on August 30-31 in Fortuna. During this meeting, the NCRSG completed a single [Round 3 MPA proposal](#) to forward to the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force for consideration. Additionally, the NCRSG produced a recommendation for [seven year-round or seasonal special closures](#). During the meeting, the NCRSG:

- [Adopted a motion](#) supporting the State of California's recognition of a traditional tribal use category within MPAs. The motion received broad, though not unanimous, support.
- Adopted a motion that all proposed MPAs should include language in the state regulations that traditional tribal uses be exercised by

members of California tribes and tribal communities (note that the California Fish and Game Commission has indicated this is legally not possible at this time).

- Agreed to forward its Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal and accompanying Round 3 NCRSG Special Closures Recommendation to the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT), California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) and MLPA Initiative staff for evaluation, and to the BRTF for consideration.

On September 1, 2010, a work session was held with volunteer NCRSG members and MLPA Initiative staff to begin drafting supporting MPA attribute information for the Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal, including site-specific rationale, goals/objectives and other design considerations. A quality control process followed the NCRSG meeting to confirm the accuracy of the proposal. During this process, the NCRSG also finalized the supporting attribute information and drafted NCRSG supporting materials to accompany the Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal, including a [narrative rationale and an overview table](#) to better explain individual MPAs and choices made with regard to meeting various guidelines.

Members of the NCRSG will join the BRTF at its [October 25-26 meeting](#) to help present the Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal.

Upcoming Public Meetings & Events

Public Meetings

All meetings are open to the public and simultaneously webcast on the day of the meeting (field trips not included). Meeting details are available on the [MLPA website](#).

To the extent possible, public participation locations are also set up in at least one other city within the study region (Crescent City, Eureka and/or Fort Bragg) to provide members of the public with a stable Internet connection for the webcast and the opportunity to provide comments during the public comment period(s).

Meeting agendas are posted to the MLPA website at least 10 days in advance of the meeting. Meeting materials are posted as soon as they become available. In addition to the simultaneous webcast of meetings, the video and audio archives are [posted online](#) within two days of each meeting.

Wednesday, October 13 – Thursday, October 14, 2010

October 13, 1:00 p.m.

October 14, 8:00 a.m.

Master Plan Science Advisory Team

Red Lion Hotel

1929 Fourth Street

Eureka, CA 95501

General public comment on subjects related to the work of the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT) will be held on Wednesday, October 13 at approximately 3:30 p.m. The public will also have an opportunity to comment on any SAT action items.

As an alternative to attending the meeting in Eureka, the public is welcome

to attend a “public participation location” to watch a live webcast of the meeting and/or provide public comment:

CV Starr Community Center
300 South Lincoln Street
Fort Bragg, CA 95437

Flynn Center Multipurpose Room
981 H Street
Crescent City, CA 95531

Monday, October 25 – Tuesday October 26, 2010

MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force
River Lodge Conference Center
1800 Riverwalk Drive
Fortuna, CA 95540

A general public comment session will be held, beginning on Monday, October 25 at approximately 3:30 p.m. The public will also have an opportunity to comment on any BRTF action items. [Guidelines to providing public comment.](#)

As an alternative to attending the meeting in Fortuna, the public is welcome to attend a public participation location to watch a live webcast of the meeting and/or provide public comment:

CV Starr Community Center
300 South Lincoln Street
Fort Bragg, CA 95437

Flynn Center Multipurpose Room
981 H Street
Crescent City, CA 95531

[Top](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

Where are we in the north coast planning process?

The MLPA Initiative began the marine protected area (MPA) planning process in the north coast study region in June 2009. Currently, this process is in the final stages, or “Round 3,” of developing MPA proposal alternative(s) to forward to the California Fish and Game Commission for consideration.



At the upcoming October 25-26 meeting, the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) will receive presentations on the Round 3 MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG) MPA Proposal. The BRTF will review science evaluations conducted by the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team as well as analyses conducted by I-Team staff, the California Department of Fish and Game and the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

The meeting will also involve a discussion between the BRTF and members of the NCRSG; this will be an opportunity for BRTF members to gain a better understanding of the key considerations that influenced the MPA proposal design. Using the information obtained from the discussion with NCRSG members, Round 3 evaluation results, and public comment, the BRTF is expected to select a "preferred alternative" MPA proposal. The preferred alternative, along with any other recommendations and/or proposal(s) the BRTF identifies, will be forwarded to the California Fish and Game Commission in early 2011; the commission will then begin regulatory and environmental review processes that are expected to last several months.

What are special closures?

Special closures are designated in the marine environment to provide geographically-specific protection of resources from human activities. In some instances special closures may offer protection, such as to breeding seabird and marine mammal populations, from geographically-specific threats that are not necessarily addressed by marine protected areas (MPAs), including disturbance. Proposed special closures have been developed by the NCRSG separately from the MPA proposal, but are intended to be considered in conjunction with the proposal.

At its August 30-31 meeting, the NCRSG recommended seven year-round or seasonal special closures for consideration by the BRTF. Members of the public are encouraged to review the [Round 3 NCRSG Special Closures Recommendation](#) and provide feedback on what has been proposed.

How were tribal uses considered in the Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal?

Members of the NCRSG indicated general support for traditional tribal uses in marine protected areas by [adopting two motions at their August 30-31 meeting](#): (1) a motion recommending that the State of California's recognize a special category for traditional tribal use (beyond "commercial" and "recreational" types of uses) within MPAs, and (2) a motion that all proposed MPAs include language in the regulations that traditional tribal uses be exercised by members of California tribes and tribal communities. With regard to specific MPAs in the NCRSG MPA Proposal, the NCRSG considered tribal uses in a couple of different ways.

First, the NCRSG was provided guidance that, under current state law, the California Fish and Game Commission does not have the authority to allow only tribal uses in an MPA. Rather, any proposed non-commercial uses intended to accommodate tribal uses in marine waters must be identified by species and gear type and must apply to all non-commercial (termed "recreational") users. During its August 30-31 meeting, the NCRSG included a number of MPAs intended to accommodate non-commercial tribal uses. To determine which species and gear types should be allowed to accommodate tribal uses for each MPA, the NCRSG requested that MLPA staff use input from north coast tribes and tribal communities gathered during review of the Round 2 draft MPA proposals ([Briefing Document C1](#); [Briefing Document C2](#)). The proposed uses to accommodate tribal uses are

listed under "Proposed Allowed Uses (Take Regulations)" in the ["Description of MPAs"](#) document and the Round 3 geographic cluster maps.

Second, a few MPAs were intended to accommodate tribal uses only when it becomes possible within California legal authority to limit allowed activities to tribes and tribal communities; therefore, at this time these MPAs do not include proposed allowed uses to accommodate tribal activities

How do I provide feedback on the Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal?

Members of the public are invited to provide both written and/or verbal comments to the BRTF on the Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal and Round 3 NCRSG Special Closures Recommendation. Feedback on specific MPAs or special closures, including boundaries, designation type, proposed allowed uses (take regulations) and general location is valuable. The public is invited to share comments the following ways:

WRITTEN COMMENTS

Written comments are encouraged to be submitted by October 18, 2010 so that BRTF members receive and have an opportunity to review them prior to the October 25-26 meeting. Written comments received between October 19 and 21 will be provided to the BRTF at the October meeting; after October 21, written comments must be received at the BRTF meeting in Fortuna. Written comments can be submitted via:

Online: http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/round3comments_nc.asp (through October 18 only)

Email: MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov

Mail: Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
c/o California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Fax: 916.653.8102, Attn: MLPA Initiative

VERBAL COMMENTS

MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force Meeting
October 25-26, 2010
River Lodge Conference Center
1800 Riverwalk Drive
Fortuna, CA 95540

The public is invited to provide verbal comments at the upcoming BRTF meeting in Fortuna. Wall maps of the Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal and Round 3 NCRSG Special Closures Recommendation will be available for public viewing at the meeting location.

Public comment will begin at approximately 3:00 p.m. on Monday, October 25, 2010. Helpful public comment includes:

- Feedback on specific MPAs or special closures, including boundaries, designation type, proposed allowed uses (take regulations) and general location. Do you support what is being proposed? If not, can you suggest a specific change to the MPA boundaries, designation type, proposed allowed uses and/or general location that would make

it more acceptable to you?

- Feedback on the complete proposal.

As an alternative to attending the meeting in Fortuna, the public is welcome to attend a public participation location to view the meeting and/or provide public comment:

CV Starr Community Center
300 South Lincoln Street
Fort Bragg, CA 95437

Flynn Center Multipurpose Room
981 H Street
Crescent City, CA 95531

The public will also have an opportunity to comment on any BRTF action items. [Guidelines for providing public comment.](#)

[Top](#)

Get Involved

The success of the MLPA largely depends on the continued involvement of the public. There are a number of ways that members of the public can participate in this process:

Stay informed

- Sign up for the [MLPA email list](#)
- [Attend meetings or view live webcasts or archived videos](#) of meetings
-  The MLPA Initiative is on Facebook! [Join the MLPA Initiative group on Facebook](#) for the latest MLPA news
- Visit the [Key Resources](#) page on the MLPA website, a one-stop informational resource

Provide feedback

Providing feedback is one of the most important ways to get involved in the MLPA Initiative. Public comment provided at meetings should be concise and focused on specific ideas or suggestions. [Guidelines for providing public comment.](#) While the time available for verbal comments at meetings is usually limited, there is no limit on the length of comments submitted in writing. All written comments can be submitted via email, mail or fax ([click here](#) to view north coast written public comments submitted to date):

Email: MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov

Mail: Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
c/o California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Fax: 916.653.8102

All written comments are compiled on a weekly basis and distributed to the I-Team and MLPA Initiative groups (BRTF, NCRSG and SAT as appropriate). Please do not send comments to SAT or BRTF members directly.

Specific opportunities to provide input include:

- View the current Round 3 MPA proposal anytime by clicking the



button or visiting [MarineMap](#)

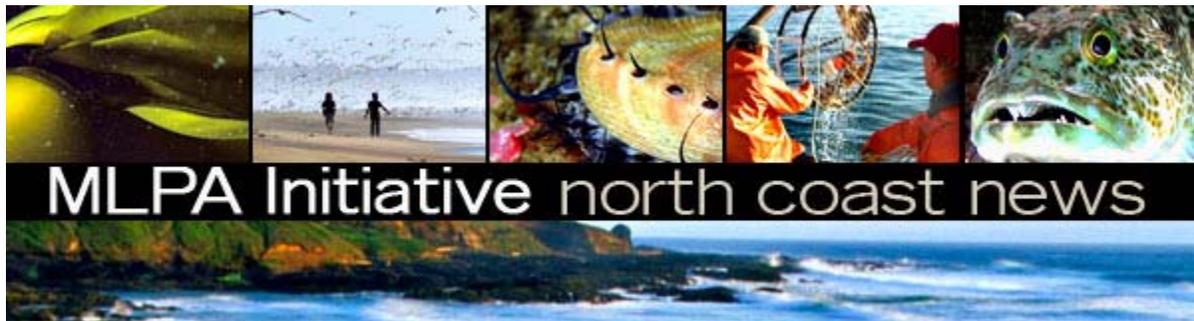
- Participate in [workshops, open houses and public information presentations](#)
- Contact a member of the [north coast regional stakeholder group](#)
- Submit comments, ideas and suggestions to MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov

Spread the word

- Circulate [North Coast News](#) to help ensure others in your community are aware of the MLPA Initiative, upcoming meetings and opportunities for public involvement
- If you are a leader in your community and/or have access to a large number of constituents, become a "Key Communicator." Contact the Public Outreach and Education Team via [email](#) or call 707-832-4088 to learn more.

[Top](#)

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
c/o California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814
916.654.1885 office
916.653.8102 fax
MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa>



December
2010

• Executive
Director's
Message

• Meeting
Highlights

BRTF
SAT

• Meetings &
Events

• FAQs

Contact Us

Executive Director's Message

During its October 25-26 meeting, the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) unanimously voted to forward the north coast's community-based marine protected area (MPA) proposal to the California Fish and Game Commission. This decision honors the hard work and comprise made by the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG) and recognizes the value of this cross-interest proposal.

The BRTF also recommended an alternative MPA proposal that maintains the placement of MPAs developed by the stakeholders, but strengthens the level of protection to more closely follow science guidelines while considering the unique environmental conditions and important cultural and socioeconomic interests specific to the north coast. Additionally, the BRTF adopted several other recommendations, once of which is focused on respecting and honoring traditional uses by California tribes and tribal communities. All of these recommendations will be presented to the California Fish and Game Commission on February 2, 2011 in Sacramento ([BRTF motions](#)).

As I reflect on the last year and the incredible work exhibited by the north coast community, BRTF, NCRSG, and science team, I am humbled by the dedication and perseverance of all involved in the planning of MPAs for the north coast study region. Throughout the planning process, we relied heavily on local knowledge provided by you, the public, to help guide the development of the MPA proposals. On behalf of the MLPA Initiative Team, I wish to thank you for your dedication to our shared coastal resources and for your tremendous contribution to the MPA planning process in the north coast. May you and yours have a very happy holiday season.

~Ken Wiseman, Executive Director

Meeting Highlights

Master Plan Science Advisory Team

[October 13-14, 2010 – Meeting Agenda and Materials](#)

During its ninth meeting, the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT) focused on the evaluation results for the Round 3 MLPA NCRSG MPA Proposal (NCP). The SAT approved:

- all Round 3 evaluation results;
- responses to science questions; and
- additions to the water quality chapter of the SAT draft evaluation methods document.

Additionally, the SAT reviewed [existing and new potential levels of protection \(LOP\)](#) and approved a number of new LOPs. The evaluation results were presented to the BRTF during its October 25-26, 2010 meeting in Fortuna.

November 17, 2010 – Meeting Agenda and Materials

On November 17, 2010, the tenth SAT meeting was held via teleconference and webinar. During the meeting, the SAT:

- Received an update on the north coast planning process, which summarized the [seven motions adopted at the October 25-26, 2010 BRTF meeting](#), including sending forward two MPA proposals to the California Fish and Game Commission.
- Reviewed draft responses to science questions. The SAT agreed to postpone a vote on this agenda item until its next meeting to allow SAT members and members of the public to review the revised responses to questions.
- Continued discussions from its October 13-14 meeting regarding proposed LOPs and the language used in the LOP decision tree. For the SAT's upcoming meeting, the SAT LOP Work Group will clarify the wording in the decision tree, add information to some LOP supporting text, and complete Appendix C of the LOP chapter in the evaluation methods document for review and potential approval.

The SAT will next meet on January 13, 2011 via webinar/teleconference to review and potentially approve final evaluations of the [Revised Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal \(RNCP\)](#) and the [North Coast Enhanced Compliance Alternative MPA Proposal \(ECA\)](#).

Blue Ribbon Task Force

October 25-26, 2010 – Meeting Agenda and Materials

The BRTF held its eighth meeting on October 25-26, 2010 in Fortuna. During this meeting, the BRTF reviewed the Round 3 MLPA NCRSG MPA Proposal (NCP) and Round 3 NCRSG Special Closures Recommendation, and considered what to include in its recommendations to the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission).

The BRTF received analyses and evaluations of the NCP from the SAT, California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks), and MLPA Initiative staff. Members of the NCRSG also provided the BRTF with background and process information regarding the development of the NCP; the [NCRSG also recommended changes to the proposal](#). Members of the public participated in providing comments to the BRTF, both in-person and via the public participation locations in Fort Bragg and Crescent City; this input was supplemented by written comment received prior to the meeting.

After two days of discussion and deliberations, the task force unanimously voted to forward the Revised Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal (RNCP) to the Commission and North Coast Special Closures Recommendations, together with the North Coast Enhanced Compliance Alternative MPA Proposal (ECA). In addition to the [RNCP and ECA](#), the BRTF adopted a number of additional recommendations, including a recommendation to recognize tribal uses within MPAs, a recommendation for the state to seek co-management partnerships between sister agencies and California tribes and tribal communities, and a recommendation to retain existing MPAs at MacKerricher, Russian Gulch and Van Damme state parks ([BRTF motions](#)).

The BRTF adopted a total of seven recommendations that will be presented to the Commission on February 2, 2011.

At the conclusion of the BRTF's October meeting, MLPA Initiative staff initiated an extensive quality control process to ensure that the motions accurately reflected the BRTF's intent and to ensure that staff had accurately translated the intent into action items. Based on feedback from BRTF members, it became clear that some individuals had different understandings about [Motion 4 related to the ECA](#).

A teleconference/webinar meeting was scheduled for December 9, 2010 to better understand the original intent of the motion that led to the ECA, and to explore the need for potential additional action.

December 9, 2010 – Meeting Agenda and Materials

The BRTF held its ninth meeting via teleconference/webinar on December 9, 2010. During this meeting, the BRTF:

- reviewed the north coast recommendations adopted by the BRTF in October, and
- discussed the original intent of Motion 4 (related to the ECA) and the potential need for additional action.

BRTF members each provided their perspective on the potential action, many reiterating the desire to meet the science and feasibility guidelines, support the community MPA proposal, and not interrupt traditional tribal activities. BRTF members acknowledged that the Commission is likely to have to make modifications to what is being forwarded in order to ensure that the goals of the MLPA are being met, further emphasizing the need for state administrative or legislative action in a timely manner to address traditional tribal activities. At the end of the discussion the BRTF chose not to take any additional action since a solution is outside the authority of the BRTF.

The task force is scheduled to present its final recommendations at a joint meeting with the Commission on February 2, 2011 in Sacramento.

Upcoming Public Meetings & Events

Public Meetings

All meetings are open to the public and simultaneously webcast on the day of the meeting (field trips not included). Meeting details are available on the [MLPA website](#).

To the extent possible, public participation locations are also set up in at least one other city within the study region (Crescent City, Eureka and/or Fort Bragg) to provide members of the public with a stable Internet connection for the webcast and the opportunity to provide comments during the public comment period(s).

Meeting agendas are posted to the MLPA website at least 10 days in advance of the meeting. Meeting materials are posted as soon as they become available. In addition to the simultaneous webcast of meetings, the video and audio archives are [posted online](#) within two days of each meeting.

Thursday, January 13, 2010

Master Plan Science Advisory Team

Teleconference/webinar

Meeting agenda and details regarding remote meeting locations will be posted on the [MLPA Initiative website](#) and circulated via the MLPA Initiative listserv.

[Top](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

What changes were made to the Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal (NCP) to create a revised version (RNCP)?

During its October 25-26 meeting, the task force recommended forwarding the Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal in its entirety, but with modifications recommended by the NCRSG, as well as changes by staff regarding proposed tribal uses. The "[Revised Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal](#)," or RNCP, includes the following modifications:

- Three MPA names (Ten Mile State Marine Reserve, Ten Mile Beach State Marine Conservation Area, and Ten Mile Estuary State Marine Recreational Management Area) were modified to add "Skip Wollenberg/..." to the names per the NCRSG's recommendation.
- The proposed allowed uses intended to accommodate tribal uses were updated based on staff review and recommendations to ensure that legally appropriate species and gear types were included; the findings from this review were presented at the October BRTF meeting. [Summary document](#).

What are the next steps in the north coast MPA planning process?

On January 13, 2010 the SAT will meet via webinar/teleconference to review and potentially adopt evaluations of the [RNCP and ECA](#).

On February 2, 2011, the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) will hold a joint meeting with the BRTF. During this meeting, the BRTF will present to the Commission its recommendations for the north coast, which will mark the transition from the north coast MPA planning process to the state regulatory and environmental review processes. As has occurred in past study regions, on February 2, 2011 the Commission may identify one of the task force's recommendations as the "proposed project" to allow staff to initiate the regulatory process under the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) and the environmental review process under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

As required by the APA, the Commission will hold at least two hearings to receive public comment on the proposed MPA regulations in the north coast to help inform a final decision; these hearings are anticipated to take place in the spring of 2011. Members of the public are also invited to provide general comments via the following:

Email: fgc@fgc.ca.gov

Fax: (916) 653-5040

Mail: California Fish and Game Commission

P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

There will also be an opportunity for members of the public to comment on the draft environmental impact report developed under CEQA that is expected to be released for public review in 2011. Information about the commission meeting schedule, draft agendas, proposed regulations, and how to provide public comment can be found on the Commission website at www.fgc.ca.gov.

[Top](#)

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
c/o California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814
916.654.1885 office
916.653.8102 fax
MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa>

