

## **California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

July 15, 2009

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### **MLPA Initiative Begins Planning Process in California's North Coast Region**

*Members of the public are invited to learn about redesigning California's marine protected areas*

Sacramento - Three public open houses are scheduled in Northern California to provide information about California's Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) planning process. These informal events will introduce members of the public to the planning process to reexamine and redesign marine protected areas (MPAs), provide a forum to ask questions and offer input, and solicit public involvement in the process.

"Public involvement is important to successfully achieve a balance between the protection and use of California's valuable marine environment," said Don Benninghoven, chair of the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force, a policy body that oversees the planning process. "Our goal is to help the state implement the law through an open and transparent planning process where all members of the public are invited to participate."

The open houses will be held in the MLPA North Coast Study Region, the coastline stretching from the California border with Oregon to Alder Creek near Point Arena in Mendocino County. The three public events are scheduled for:

- **Eureka on Monday, July 20, 2009:** 5 - 8:00 p.m., Wharfinger Building, #1 Marina Way
- **Fort Bragg on Tuesday, July 21, 2009:** 5 - 8:00 p.m., Dana Gray Elementary School, 1197 Chestnut St
- **Crescent City on Wednesday, July 22 2009:** 5 - 8:00 p.m., Cultural Center, 1001 Front St

Using an "open house" format, attendees may choose to visit at any time during the three hours and walk through informational stations, including an overview of the MLPA Initiative, a description of existing marine protected areas in the study region, how the science of MPAs is applied in the planning process, and how the public can become involved. Staff will be available at each station so that attendees may ask questions and provide feedback on the process for the north coast.

"This is a stakeholder-driven process that is dependent on local knowledge of the marine environment," said Ken Wiseman, executive director of the MLPA Initiative, a public-private partnership designed to help the State of California implement the MLPA. "We hope to see a large turnout of local residents who want to bring their ideas to the table."

The MLPA, enacted into law in 1999, directs the state to reexamine and redesign California's system of MPAs, which are discrete geographic marine or estuarine areas designed to protect or conserve marine life and habitat. The goals of the act are to increase the coherence and effectiveness at protecting the state's marine life and habitats, marine ecosystems, and marine natural heritage, as well as to improve recreational, educational and study opportunities in marine ecosystems that are subject to minimal human disturbance. MLPA Initiative staff seek to ensure that the planning process includes input from scientists, resource managers, experts, stakeholders and members of the public.

The next steps in the planning process will be to appoint a science advisory team, a panel of highly-distinguished science advisors who will provide scientific support for the MLPA Initiative in the north coast study region process. The science team will be appointed in September by the director of the California Department of Fish and Game.

A regional approach is being used in the MLPA Initiative process, where California's 1,100-mile coastline has been divided into five study regions. In September of 2007, regulations for the first of the five study regions were implemented for the central coast (Pigeon Point in San Mateo County to Point Conception in Santa Barbara County). In the second study region, four proposals for redesigning MPAs in the north central coast (Alder Creek in Mendocino County to Pigeon Point in San Mateo County) were submitted to the California Fish and Game Commission in December 2008 and specific regulations are expected to be adopted by the commission next month.

The MLPA Initiative's south coast study region planning process (Point Conception in Santa Barbara County to the California border with Mexico, including offshore islands) is expected to result in a set of alternative MPA proposals by late 2009. The fifth and final study region, San Francisco Bay (from the Golden Gate Bridge northeast to the Carquinez Bridge), is expected to begin following the north coast process.

The MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force will make a final recommendation regarding north coast MPA proposals to the commission near the end of 2010.

For additional information about the MLPA Initiative, visit [www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa).

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## **California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

UPDATED: Sept. 22, 2009

### **CONTACT:**

**Annie Reisewitz, MLPA Initiative**

858-228-0526

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### **MLPA Initiative Hosts Workshop on North Coast Marine Protected Area Planning**

*Workshop to include review of north coast MPA planning process, MarineMap training*

Sacramento – A public workshop is scheduled for members of the north coast community to learn more about the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) planning process. The MLPA requires the state to reexamine and redesign California's system of marine protected areas (MPAs) in state waters. The event, which is free and open to all interested members of the public, will be hosted by the MLPA Initiative, a public-private partnership dedicated to implementing the 1999 law. Participants will have the opportunity to:

- review the north coast MPA planning process,
- learn about the necessary components of an MPA proposal,
- be introduced to science and feasibility guidelines, and
- receive basic training in MarineMap, the MLPA Initiative's online mapping tool.

"We invite all interested members of the public to participate in the upcoming educational workshop," said Ken Wiseman, executive director of the MLPA Initiative. "It is our hope to incorporate the tremendous amount of local knowledge in the north coast community into the science-based, public process to redesign California's marine protected areas."

The workshop is scheduled for **Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2009 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.** and the public can participate in person, by teleconference and webinar from two staffed locations, or from their home or office if they have a phone line and Internet access. The three public in-person locations are:

- **Eureka, Red Lion Inn**, 1929 Fourth Street
- **Crescent City, Best Western Northwoods Inn**, 655 US Highway 101 S (staffed, teleconference/webinar location)
- **Fort Bragg, CV Starr Community Center**, 300 South Lincoln Street (staffed, teleconference/webinar location)

The workshop presentations will be made in Eureka and simultaneously webcast to the Fort Bragg and Crescent City satellite locations as well as available for viewing on the Internet. Participants at the satellite locations will be able to interact directly with the Eureka workshop. The public can also participate from their home or office through the teleconference or by using

an online webinar tool that allows questions to be submitted via the Internet. Audio and video archives of the workshop will be available online and on CD.

RSVPs are requested for in-person participation to ensure adequate food, beverages and seating. RSVP by calling 916- 654-1885 or by emailing [dga\\_mlp@sbglobal.net](mailto:dga_mlp@sbglobal.net).

At the workshop, MLPA Initiative staff will provide an overview of the MPA planning process for the north coast, a description of existing marine protected areas in the study region, how the science of MPAs is applied, and how the public can become involved. Staff will also provide an introduction to MarineMap and the guidelines for MPA proposal development.

In addition, on **Wednesday, Sept. 30 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.** at the same three locations, MLPA Initiative staff will be available to answer more specific, detailed questions about the north coast planning process and how MPA proposals will initially be developed through an “external” design process in Fall 2009.

MPA proposals generated through the “external” MPA design process may potentially be used by the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG) as a starting point to develop cross-interest MPA proposals in the MLPA Initiative planning process. Under the guidance of a blue ribbon task force, the NCRSG is responsible for working with a science advisory team and MLPA staff to help California improve the design and management of the north coast portion of a statewide network of marine protected areas. A public announcement for nominations to the NCRSG is expected in November 2009, with members to be appointed by late January 2010.

The MLPA, enacted into law in 1999, directs the state to reexamine and redesign California’s system of MPAs, which are discrete geographic marine or estuarine areas designed to protect or conserve marine life and habitat. The goals of the act are to increase the coherence and effectiveness at protecting the state’s marine life and habitats, marine ecosystems, and marine natural heritage, as well as to improve recreational, educational and study opportunities in marine ecosystems that are subject to minimal human disturbance.

The state identifies three types of MPAs – marine conservation areas, marine parks and marine reserves - that range from limiting certain types of commercial and recreational activities to establishing no-take zones. Public access is allowed in all three.

The California Resources Agency and DFG have partnered with the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation to create a planning process to help achieve the MLPA goals; this public-private partnership, the MLPA Initiative, is guided by the advice of scientists, resource managers, experts, stakeholders and members of the public.

A regional approach is being used in the MLPA Initiative, where California’s 1,100- mile coastline has been divided into five study regions. The planning process is just now beginning in the MLPA North Coast Study Region, from the California border with Oregon to Alder Creek near Point Arena in Mendocino County. In September of 2007, regulations for the first of the five study regions were implemented for the central coast (Pigeon Point in San Mateo County to Point Conception in Santa Barbara County). In July of 2009, regulations for the north central coast (Alder Creek near Point Arena in Mendocino County to Pigeon Point in San Mateo County, including the Farallon Islands) were adopted by the California Fish and Game Commission.

The planning process for the MLPA South Coast Study Region (Point Conception in Santa Barbara County to the California border with Mexico, including offshore islands) is expected to result in a set of alternative MPA proposals by late 2009. The fifth and final study region

planning process, San Francisco Bay (from the Golden Gate Bridge northeast to the Carquinez Bridge), is expected to begin following the north coast.

The MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force will make a final recommendation regarding north coast MPA proposals to the California Fish and Game Commission near the end of 2010.

For additional information about the MLPA Initiative, visit [www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa).

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# Media Advisory: September 28, 2009

## Marine Life Protection Act North Coast Workshop to be Held Tuesday

*Note Location Change for Fort Bragg*

*Contacts: Annelore Reisewitz, Strategic Ocean Solutions, (858) 228-0526  
Kirsten Macintyre, DFG Communications, (916) 322-8988*

**WHO:** The Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Initiative, a public-private partnership dedicated to implementing the 1999 law mandating the redesign of the state's marine protected areas (MPAs).

**WHAT:** This free educational workshop will provide an overview of the community-based MPA planning process for the north coast, a description of existing marine protected areas in the study region, how the science of MPAs is applied, and how the public can become involved. Staff will also provide an introduction to MarineMap and the guidelines for MPA proposal development.

**WHY:** The MLPA Initiative planning process both encourages and requires public involvement. The MLPA Initiative is committed to working directly with the ocean community to ensure a science- and stakeholder-driven process and open lines of communication every step of the way.

**WHEN:** Tuesday, September 29, 2009 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Members of the public can participate in person, by teleconference and Webinar from two staffed locations, or from their home or office if they have a phone line and Internet access. The three public in-person locations are:

- Eureka, Red Lion Inn, 1929 Fourth Street (main workshop location)
- Crescent City, Best Western Northwoods Inn, 655 US Highway 101 S (staffed teleconference/Webinar location)
- Fort Bragg, CV Starr Community Center, 300 South Lincoln Street (staffed teleconference/Webinar location)

Please note that the Fort Bragg venue is a new location; it has been moved from the previously advertised Town Hall location.

Interview opportunities: DFG biologists and other subject-matter experts will be available for interviews at all three locations.



# DFG News Release

## Public Input Sought on Draft Proposals for North Coast Marine Protected Areas

Jun. 23, 2010

**Media Contact(s):**

**Annie Reisewitz, MLPA Initiative, (858) 228-0526**

**Kirsten Macintyre, Department of Fish and Game, (916) 322-8988**

SACRAMENTO – Open houses have been scheduled in Northern California for the public to review and provide input on four draft proposals developed through the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Initiative. The open houses will focus on draft marine protected area (MPA) proposals for the MLPA North Coast Study Region, which covers state waters from the California/Oregon border to Alder Creek near Point Arena in Mendocino County. Members of the public are invited to attend at any time during the day and evening sessions – in five locations throughout the study region – to visit informational stations and offer input.

Members of the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group developed the draft MPA proposals during Round 2 of a three-round planning process. They will be on hand to answer questions and discuss how these ideas will help meet the goals of improved marine life, habitats and overall ecosystem health. MLPA Initiative staff, California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) staff, California State Parks staff and members of the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force will also be available.

“We are seeking additional input from the local community to help redesign California’s marine protected areas into a cohesive coastal network that adequately protects diverse marine life and their habitats,” said Ken Wiseman, executive director the MLPA Initiative. “These events offer members of the public one-on-one conversation opportunities with stakeholders and staff with regard to the draft MPA proposals and to directly provide their input.”

The five open houses are scheduled for:

- Tuesday, July 6, 2010: 5:00-7:30 p.m., C.V. Starr Community Center, 300 South Lincoln Street, Fort Bragg, CA
- Wednesday, July 7, 2010: 8:00-10:00 a.m., The Octagon/Beginnings, 5 Cemetery Road, Briceland, CA
- Wednesday, July 7, 2010: 5:00-7:30 p.m., Humboldt Bay Aquatic Center, 921 Waterfront Drive, Room 211, Eureka, CA
- Thursday, July 8, 2010: 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Redwood National and State Parks, South Operations Center, 121200 Hwy. 101, Orick, CA
- Thursday, July 8, 2010: 5:00-7:30 p.m., Elk Valley Rancheria Community Center, 2332 Howland Hill Road, Crescent City, CA

At each open house the public will receive information about the four draft MPA proposals currently under consideration, as well as the various evaluations conducted by the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team, DFG, California State Parks and MLPA Initiative staff.

The open houses will also include information about the north coast MPA planning process, next steps in developing MPA proposals and opportunities for public feedback on the draft proposals. To view the Round 2 draft MPA proposals, please see [www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/mpaproposals\\_nc.asp](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/mpaproposals_nc.asp).

Members of the public do not have to attend an open house to provide input on the Round 2 draft MPA proposals; they may also provide input by completing an online form at

[www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/mpaproposals\\_nc.asp](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/mpaproposals_nc.asp). Print copies of the form may be obtained at a number of local libraries and government offices (for a list of locations, please see [www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/pdfs/libraries.pdf](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/pdfs/libraries.pdf)). Comments on the Round 2 draft MPA proposals will be most helpful if submitted no later than July 14, 2010, in order for the information to be distributed to regional stakeholder group and task force members prior to the start of Round 3.

Under the guidelines of a master plan for MPAs, the process to develop a recommendation for north coast MPAs involves, among other things, identifying marine species that may benefit from MPAs, considering existing marine protected areas, and developing MPAs that include a variety of habitats and water depths.

The MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force is overseeing the north coast MPA planning process and will make a final recommendation to the California Fish and Game Commission in December of this year.

Enacted in 1999, the MLPA directs the state to design and manage a system of marine protected areas in order to, among other things, protect marine life and habitats, marine ecosystems and marine natural heritage, as well as improve recreational, education and study opportunities provided by marine ecosystems. The California Natural Resources Agency and DFG have partnered with the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation in an initiative to help redesign the statewide system of MPAs to achieve these goals. The advice of scientists, resource managers, experts, stakeholders and members of the public guide this public-private partnership.

For additional information about the MLPA Initiative, please see [www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa).

# DFG News Release

## MLPA Public Meeting, Information Session to be Held in Shelter Cove

Aug. 24, 2010

**Media Contact(s):**

**Kelly Sayce, MLPA Initiative, (707) 832-4088**

**Kirsten Macintyre, DFG Communications, (916) 322-8988**

North coast residents are invited to attend a public information session about the effort to create new Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) along California's northern coastline.

The meeting will be held on Sunday, Aug. 29, from 3 to 4 p.m., at the Shelter Cove Fire Station Meeting Hall, 9126 Shelter Cove Road. Staffed by members of the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Initiative, the meeting will provide interested members of the public with information about the scope and process of the effort. Questions and public input are welcome.

Adopted into California state law in 1999, the MLPA requires all existing state marine protected areas to be reevaluated, and a statewide system to be created to protect marine life, habitat and ecosystems. The MLPA Initiative is currently in the planning stages for the north coast study region, which includes state waters from the California-Oregon border to Alder Creek near Point Arena.



# **California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative**

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Sept. 3, 2010

**CONTACT:** Annie Reisewitz, MLPA Initiative  
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## **Statement from MLPA Initiative Executive Director Ken Wiseman Regarding Completion of Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal Development**

This week in Fortuna the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG) completed a single marine protected area (MPA) proposal for the north coast study region. This significant achievement marks the first time a regional stakeholder group has arrived at a single proposal, and I applaud the NCRSG members' dedication to designing a proposal that they believe balances the needs and concerns of the north coast community with the requirements of the MLPA and guidelines of the master plan for MPAs.

Currently, MLPA Initiative staff is working with the NCRSG to review the MPA proposal to confirm it accurately reflects the NCRSG's decisions; the NCRSG is also busy developing supporting documents to describe the rationale behind the approach to develop its single MPA proposal. The proposal and supporting materials will be posted on the MLPA website and MarineMap by Thursday, September 16 for public review and comment; a message will be shared via the MLPA Initiative listserv when it is available. Between now and then, I encourage anyone eager to view the NCRSG's recommendations to watch the [archived webcast](#).

It has truly been an honor to watch the NCRSG's progress and efforts to incorporate the interests of north coast communities into the MPA planning process. Many NCRSG members began this journey over a year ago through the community external array process. Collectively the NCRSG members have worked together to achieve this goal in honor of their former colleague, Skip Wollenberg, who passed away in August and supported a unified, community-based proposal.

I look forward to the upcoming MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force meeting in Fortuna on October 25-27, when the NCRSG will present its single proposal for consideration. Congratulations to the members of the NCRSG for their determination and hard work – and, perhaps most importantly, for exemplifying a respectful, stakeholder-based, collaborative process.



## DFG News Release

### **Task Force Approves Recommendations to Complete California's Open Coast Marine Protected Areas**

#### ***A unanimous recommendation forwards a community-based marine protected area proposal to the California Fish and Game Commission***

Oct. 28, 2010

**Contact(s):**

**Annie Reisewitz, MLPA Initiative, (858) 228-0526**

Fortuna - The Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) unanimously voted this week to forward a community-based marine protected area (MPA) proposal for the north coast. The MPA proposal, developed by the 33-member north coast regional stakeholder group (NCRSG), will be presented to the California Fish and Game Commission (FGC) together with a modified enhanced compliance alternative MPA proposal and other recommendations on February 2, 2011 in Sacramento.

"The task force decision honors the hard work and compromises made by the regional stakeholder group," said Cindy Gustafson, chair of the BRTF. "We also adopted an alternative proposal that does not alter the placement of MPAs developed by the stakeholders, but strengthens the level of ocean protection to be consistent with other regions in the state while considering the unique environmental conditions and important cultural and socioeconomic interests specific to the north coast."

The MPA proposal and modified enhanced compliance alternative are based on the efforts of the NCRSG, a group composed of individuals representing a broad range of interest and in-depth knowledge about local resources. The NCRSG was tasked with evaluating existing MPAs and developing alternative MPA proposals in the north coast study region, from the California-Oregon border to Alder Creek near Point Arena in Mendocino County. Members of the NCRSG help ensure that multiple perspectives are heard in the MLPA Initiative's MPA planning process. Maps and descriptions of the MPA proposal and modified enhanced compliance alternative will be posted to the MLPA website in the coming weeks.

In August the NCRSG forwarded a single MPA proposal for the north coast, identified as the Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal, to the BRTF. The Round 3 Proposal was developed after more than a year of formal meetings, numerous informal meetings, public input, and evaluations and analyses from a science advisory team, the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), the California Department of Parks and Recreation, and MLPA Initiative staff.

"I'm extremely proud of the stakeholder group for accomplishing their task with great integrity and consideration for the entire north coast region and all ocean users," said Ken Wiseman, executive director of the MLPA Initiative. "The stakeholders did a tremendous job of working together as a community in this science-based public process."

In addition to the NCRSG MPA proposal and modified enhanced compliance alternative MPA proposal, the BRTF adopted two additional recommendations related to traditional tribal uses in the north coast region and recognizing a tribal use category 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.

Led by Chair Cindy Gustafson, the eight-member BRTF comprises public leaders with experience in addressing complex public policy issues. Appointed by the Secretary for Natural Resources, members of the BRTF were charged with overseeing the north coast study region planning process and providing its recommendations to the FGC.

Proposal 0, which is the existing MPAs in the study region, was also used as a baseline. The FGC and DFG will include Proposal 0 as the “no project” alternative during the state regulatory and environmental review processes. The commission’s process to adopt north coast MPAs is expected to take about one year and includes numerous opportunities for public input.

California has three types of MPAs - marine conservation areas, marine parks and marine reserves - that are utilized in the proposals as part of an ecosystem-based approach to protecting valuable marine life and critical habitats. In addition, several state marine recreational management areas (SMRMAs) are proposed along with the MPAs. Allowed activities vary greatly among the three types of MPAs and SMRMAs, ranging from limiting certain types of commercial and recreational activities to establishing no-take areas; public access is allowed in all four. The proposed MPAs and SMRMAs do not restrict public access or non-consumptive recreational enjoyment, such as boating, swimming, diving or kayaking.

In 1999 the state enacted the MLPA, which directs the state to reexamine and redesign California’s system of marine protected areas with the goal of increasing its coherence and effectiveness at protecting the state’s marine life and habitats, marine ecosystems and marine natural heritage, as well as to improve recreational, educational and study opportunities provided by marine ecosystems.

Making recommendations for MPAs along the north coast, utilizing the best readily available science and the advice of stakeholders, is one of a number of steps being taken in California to implement the MLPA, which is part of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger’s Ocean Action Plan. To achieve this goal, the California Natural Resources Agency and DFG partnered with the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation to establish the MLPA Initiative, a public-private partnership designed to help the state implement the MLPA, guided by the advice of scientists, resource managers, experts, stakeholders and members of the public.

For more information about the MLPA Initiative, please visit [www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa).