

# California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative North Coast Study Region External Proposed MPA Array Definition

*Revised November 5, 2009*

## Definition of a "Marine Protected Area Array"

The Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Initiative includes three rounds of marine protected area (MPA) proposal development. During the first round, proposed MPA arrays – an initial collection of individual MPAs – are developed for the entire study region. In the MLPA North Coast MPA planning process, community groups will be developing this first round of proposed MPA arrays.

These initial ideas are further refined into full MPA proposals in the proceeding rounds by a regional stakeholder group. The MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG), which is yet to be appointed, will design MPA proposals to best meet guidelines, requirements of the MLPA and fulfill the regional component of a statewide network.

## Internal vs. External

**“External” proposed MPA arrays** are developed external to the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group MPA planning process by community groups during Round 1.

**“Internal” MPA proposals** are developed by the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group during Rounds 2 and 3 of the MPA planning process. (Note: the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group has yet to be appointed and is expected to be convened in February 2010 - [www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/ncproject.asp](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/ncproject.asp))

## What is an “External Proposed MPA Array”?

To fully integrate the robust, local knowledge available within the MLPA North Coast Study Region, community groups are invited to develop external proposed MPA arrays as the first round of the MPA planning process. This approach was developed in response to input from local community members and allows the north coast community to build a foundation from which the regional stakeholder group can develop MPA proposals. Complete external MPA arrays that include broad geographic coverage and outline details of MPAs, including specific boundaries and proposed regulations, will be evaluated by the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team, California Department of Fish and Game, California State Parks and MLPA Initiative staff as well as reviewed by the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force and the public.

These external proposed MPA arrays, along with their evaluation results, will be presented to the regional stakeholder group for consideration in MPA planning. Community groups and/or individuals are encouraged to attend MLPA workshops and MarineMap trainings, review the *Summary of MLPA Guidelines and MPA Array Evaluation Approaches* document and other guidance materials and connect with MLPA Initiative staff for ongoing support.

**Become familiar with commonly used acronyms:** <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/defs.asp>