

California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group
July 17, 2009

Providing local expertise and knowledge of the north coast study region, the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG) is charged with developing alternative proposals for local marine protected areas that meet the requirements of the MLPA. The NCRSG will also provide a forum for:

- Refining a regional profile and informing the MLPA planning process;
- Evaluating existing marine protected areas within the North coast study region with relation to the goals of the MLPA;
- Conducting outreach to constituent groups for involvement in the MLPA North Coast Project;
- Identifying potential speakers to present regional stakeholder group recommendations and commentary at MLPA public meetings; and
- Striving for a high degree of cross-interest involvement and support in crafting marine protected area proposals.

To address these and other issues in a collaborative manner, the NCRSG will work with a facilitation team, a science advisory team, and staff from the MLPA Initiative, California Department of Fish and Game and California State Parks. The primary focus of deliberations will be the public sessions of the group. The NCRSG will not finalize any proposals outside the public sessions of the group.

Most NCRSG meetings will be held in centrally located areas, including Crescent City, Eureka and Fort Bragg, in an effort to accommodate all stakeholder group members and the public. The time commitment necessary to prepare for and actively participate in the meetings and on work teams is likely to be substantial. Upon request, NCRSG members will be reimbursed for travel expenses.

Criteria for Selection

Members of the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group are expected to have the following attributes:

1. Able to bring first-hand knowledge and perspective to bear on the marine resources of the MLPA North Coast Study Region,
2. Able to balance a North coast regional perspective with localized knowledge,
3. Willing to express fundamental interests (as opposed to fixed positions) and to clearly convey the interests of one or more stakeholder groups,
4. Capable of working collaboratively, seeking to integrate the interests of the full range of constituencies,
5. Able to access and use an effective communication network to reach stakeholders not attending the public meetings, and
6. Committed to completing all aspects of the charge of the regional stakeholder group.

Taken together, selections will be made to achieve a diversity of stakeholder perspectives, expertise, and geography. Efforts by multiple stakeholder groups to nominate a single individual are encouraged. The chair of the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force and director of the California Department of Fish and Game will appoint members to the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group.

The MLPA Initiative expects to begin accepting nominations for appointments to the NCRSG in Fall 2009. The MLPA North Coast Study Region extends from California/Oregon border to Alder Creek near Point Arena in Mendocino County. The MLPA Initiative seeks individuals committed to successfully completing the regional stakeholder group process in the North coast by December 2010.