California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
Community Guide to Developing an
External Proposed Marine Protected Area Array

This document and checklist is designed as a preliminary guide for those desiring to develop a marine protected area (MPA) array to be submitted to the California Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Initiative North Coast Project. This guide provides community groups and individuals with an initial checklist of key information needed to develop a MPA array. Additional details will be provided by the MLPA Initiative to supplement the information contained in this guide.

LEARN

☐ Visit MLPA Initiative website to learn more about the MLPA, the marine protected area planning process, and upcoming events – www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/northcoast.asp

☐ Sign up for the MLPA Initiative listserv; it is a great way to stay informed about the process, upcoming meetings, and documents available for review – www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/mailinglist_n.asp

☐ Attend MLPA Initiative events in your area or watch live or archived meetings – www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/meetings_n.asp

☐ Review the draft north coast regional profile when it is released in early December

☐ Visit the MLPA Initiative north coast MarineMap website[1] – http://northcoast.marinemap.org/marinemap/

☐ Sign up for a MarineMap account by sending a request to help@marinemap.org

☐ Check out MPA proposals developed in other regions of the California coast for an idea of the type of information included in a proposal and how an MPA array is designed. All MPA arrays and proposals from previous study regions are posted on the MLPA website. Proposals from the MLPA South Coast Study Region can be viewed on the south coast MarineMap website (http://www.marinemap.org/marinemap/)

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[1] *The performance of the MarineMap application is primarily dependent on three things: Your computer, connection speed, and choice of browser. The easiest of those three that you can change is your browser. On Windows, Mozilla Firefox and Google Chrome are both excellent choices. While Internet Explorer 7 is supported, it is not a very good performer for web applications like MarineMap. On the Mac, Safari is fastest followed by Firefox.*

ORGANIZE

❒ Reach out to members of your community

❒ Inform your community about the MLPA Initiative and the upcoming north coast MPA planning process

❒ Prepare a plan for developing an external proposed MPA array

SHARE

❒ Share information about the local marine environment, such as habitats and unique features, with those working on your array and with the MLPA Initiative

❒ Share information about local social and economic considerations with those working on your proposal and with the MLPA Initiative

❒ Review and submit comments on the north coast regional profile in late November and early December

GET STARTED

❒ Complete an *Intent to Submit an MPA Array* form and send it to the MLPA Initiative's Principal Planner, Evan Fox (evanwfox@gmail.com)

❒ Collaborate across interest groups and work together toward solutions that participants can live with

❒ Learn about the MLPA North Coast Study Region, including information on ecological setting, socioeconomics, and jurisdiction and management available in the regional profile, anticipated to be released in late November, and in MarineMap

❒ Consider policy guidance provided by the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF)

❒ Learn about science guidelines from the *California Marine Life Protection Act Master Plan for Marine Protected Areas* and MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team

❒ Learn about feasibility guidelines from the California Department of Fish and Game and California State Parks

❒ Learn about the information needed to develop an MPA array

❒ Begin developing draft arrays in MarineMap