

North Coast Project Open House Materials July 20-22, 2009

1. Open House Guide for North Coast Public Open House and Existing MPAs
2. Marine Life Protection Act Goals
3. What are Marine Protected Areas?
4. Overview of the California MLPA Initiative North Coast Project
5. Commonly Used Acronyms and Abbreviated Terms
6. Frequently Asked Questions Regarding MPAs
7. North Coast Participants for the MLPA Initiative
8. Opportunities for Public Involvement
9. North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group Nomination Information
10. South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group Members
11. MLPA Initiative Funders
12. Public Comment Form

These materials are available on the MLPA website at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/ncworkshopmaterials.asp>.

California's Marine Life Protection Act Initiative presents...



North Coast Public Open Houses

*July 20, 21 and 22
5:00 - 8:00 p.m.*

The Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) requires the state to examine and redesign California's system of marine protected areas (MPAs). The success of this effort depends on the participation and input of stakeholders and the general public.

A series of public open houses will provide an introduction to the MLPA Initiative's North Coast Project, which will cover state waters from the California border with Oregon to Alder Creek near Point Arena in Mendocino County.

Each open house will provide an opportunity for you to learn more about the MLPA Initiative process and how you can get involved. Questions are welcome!

All are welcome to attend. Drop by anytime between 5:00 and 8:00 p.m.

Monday, July 20
Wharfinger Building
#1 Marina Way
Eureka, CA 95501

Tuesday, July 21
Dana Gray Elementary School
1197 Chestnut Street
Fort Bragg, CA 95437

Wednesday, July 22
Cultural Center
1001 Front Street
Crescent City, CA 95531

***For more information, please contact the MLPA Initiative at
916-654-1885 or visit www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa***



California's Marine Life Protection Act Initiative North Coast Project (2009-2011)

What is the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Initiative? The MLPA Initiative is a public-private partnership designed to help the State of California implement the MLPA by using the best readily available science and the advice and assistance of scientists, resource managers, experts, stakeholders and members of the public.

Why this project? The MLPA, which was signed into law in 1999, directs the state to redesign California's system of marine protected areas to increase its coherence and effectiveness in 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.

What are marine protected areas? Marine protected areas (MPAs) are named, discrete geographic marine or estuarine areas designed to protect or conserve marine life and habitat. Existing examples of MPAs on the north coast of California include Punta Gorda State Marine Reserve, Point Cabrillo State Marine Conservation Area and Van Damme State Marine Conservation Area.

What can I do in a marine protected area? There are three types of MPAs: state marine reserve, state marine park, and state marine conservation area. Each type has different rules about what activities can or cannot occur within its boundaries. In general, marine reserves do not allow any type of extractive activities (including fishing or kelp harvesting); marine parks do not allow any commercial extraction; and marine conservation areas do not allow some combination of commercial and/or recreational extraction.

When and where did the MLPA Initiative start? Because California has 1,100 miles of coastline to consider, five individual geographic areas, called study regions, were defined. Though the planning processes for each study region are separate, all are conducted in the same way, with an emphasis on public involvement. To date, MPA redesign efforts have begun in three of the five regions: the central coast (from Pigeon Point in San Mateo County to Point Conception in Santa Barbara County), the north central coast (from Alder Creek/Point Arena in Mendocino County to Pigeon Point, including the Farallon Islands), and the south coast (Point Conception in Santa Barbara County to the California border with Mexico in San Diego County, including offshore islands); all are now in various stages of the planning process. The north coast is the fourth study region to be examined.

What are the basic steps in the MLPA Initiative process? An appointed, regional stakeholder group makes proposals for MPAs with advice and guidance from other groups and the public; these proposals are reviewed by a science advisory team, and then by a policy level blue ribbon task force that makes recommendations to the California Fish and Game Commission, the decision-making body under the MLPA.

When will the MLPA Initiative be in my area? The MLPA Initiative is just beginning the planning process in the north coast study region. Following the north coast, the MLPA Initiative will focus on San Francisco Bay (Golden Gate Bridge northeast to the Carquinez Bridge).

How do I get involved in the process? The success of the MLPA Initiative is dependent upon the active involvement of stakeholders and the general public in a variety of ways. Opportunities for involvement include participating in a regional stakeholder group, attending workshops and public meetings, and providing input on MPA proposals and supporting documents as they are developed. The MLPA North Coast Project will afford many opportunities for public involvement in the months to come. For more information, visit www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa.

SAMPLE HANDOUT #1 FOR PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES IN JULY 2009

California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative Open House Guide for North Coast Public Open House

Welcome! Please visit stations at your own pace and in any order you wish.

Station 1: WELCOME

- **Sign in.** We'd love to know who you are!
- **Subscribe!** Join the MLPA Initiative email list to receive our regular announcements

Station 2: INTRODUCTION to MLPA

- **Types of MPAs:** Learn about the three types of marine protected areas (MPAs)
- **MLPA and its goals:** Background on the creation of the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA)
- **MLPA in the north coast:** An introduction to the MLPA North Coast Project

Station 3: CALIFORNIA'S MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

- **Frequently Asked Questions:** We help clarify important issues about MPAs
- **Existing MPAs:** Learn what MPAs are already in place along the north coast
- **Other Regions:** Find out what's happened in the central, north central, and south coasts

Station 4: OVERVIEW of the PLANNING PROCESS

- **Participants and Players:** Learn about the people and groups involved in the MPA planning process
- **North Coast Process:** Understand the steps for the MLPA North Coast Project

Station 5: OPPORTUNITIES for PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- **Public Comments:** Understand all the ways you can comment in the process
- **Accessing Information:** Learn how you can keep abreast of the MLPA Initiative process through an email list, website, meetings, webcasts, etc.
- **Regional Stakeholder Group:** Learn about this important group of citizen-participants, including responsibilities and criteria for nominations
- **Volunteer Opportunities:** Serve as a local outreach volunteer in your community and help others become more informed about the MLPA Initiative and MPAs

Station 6: SCIENCE and the MLPA

- **The role of science:** Learn how the MLPA integrates science into the planning process
- **Science Advisory Team:** Learn about the SAT and the nomination process

Station 7: QUESTIONS, COMMENTS and SUGGESTIONS

- **Share:** Your interests, concerns and ideas for the MLPA North Coast Study Region

*For additional information about the Marine Life Protection Act Initiative, visit
www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa*

SAMPLE HANDOUT #2 FOR PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES IN JULY 2009

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.

SAMPLE HANDOUT #3 FOR PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES IN JULY 2009

California MLPA North Coast Project Public Outreach Workshops (July 20, 21 and 22)

Comment Form

Members of the public are invited to share their views and ideas on the upcoming planning process for the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) North Coast Study Region (ranging from the California/Oregon border to Alder Creek near Point Arena in Mendocino County).

How this information will be used: MLPA Initiative staff will compile these comments and use them to inform ongoing planning for the MLPA North Coast Study Region.

Name (optional): _____

Town or city where you reside: _____

Organizational affiliation, if any: _____

1. What in your view are the key issues to think about for marine protected area planning in the MLPA North Coast Study Region?

2. What do you see as the key challenges and opportunities for this project?

a. Information gathering challenges/opportunities:

b. Communication challenges/opportunities:

3. What suggestions about the overall MLPA Initiative process would you offer to improve the likelihood of success?

4. What are the best strategies for informing people about the MLPA Initiative's North Coast Project and in gaining their involvement?

5. Any other comments or advice?