



1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
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July 20 , 2009

Re: Nominations for the 2009-2011 Marine Life Protection Act Master Plan Science Advisory Team

Dear Interested Parties:

Planning for the fourth study region of the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Initiative process is beginning, and I am seeking nominations for members of the 2009-2011 Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT) for the north coast study region.

Background

As you may know, the MLPA directs the Department of Fish and Game (Department) to review the State's existing array of marine protected areas (MPAs) and improve upon it in order to, among other things, protect marine life and habitats, marine ecosystems, and marine natural heritage and ensure that MPAs are designed and managed, to the extent possible, as a network. In 2004, the California Resources Agency, the Department, and the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation formed the MLPA Initiative to achieve the goals of the MLPA.

The MLPA Initiative is being implemented over five regional phases. The first phase was completed in September 2007 with implementation of new and revised MPAs in the central coast region (between Pigeon Point in San Mateo County and Point Conception in Santa Barbara County). Phase 2, the north central coast region (between Alder Creek, near Point Arena in Mendocino County and Pigeon Point in San Mateo County), is near completion and MPA regulations will be considered for possible adoption by the Fish and Game Commission (Commission) in August of 2009. The third phase, the south coast region (Point Conception in Santa Barbara County southward to the U.S./Mexico international border) is currently in the planning stages. It is anticipated that proposals for the south coast region will be presented to the Commission later this year.

In 2009-2011, the fourth phase of the MLPA Initiative will focus on developing alternative MPA proposals in the north coast study region from Alder Creek, near Point Arena in Mendocino County to the California/Oregon border. As in the other study regions, a Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) composed of respected public policy leaders will be established to oversee the public involvement process and recommend alternative MPA proposals for the north coast study region to the Commission. A regional stakeholder group will provide detailed input and develop draft proposals to be reviewed by the SAT and BRTF.

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Charge

In the course of assisting the BRTF and the Department, the SAT will not be making policy judgments. Instead, the SAT shall frame and refer policy questions to the BRTF whenever the available science presents options or uncertainty. The SAT will work closely with the stakeholder group to guide stakeholder development of draft MPA proposals but will not create a separate SAT proposal for specific MPAs. Guidance from the SAT on the design of an improved system of MPAs becomes effective through adoption by the Commission of the California Master Plan for MPAs, as required in the MLPA.

Membership and Duties

After considering all nominations, and in consultation with the Natural Resources Secretary, the Commission President, and BRTF Chairman, I will appoint the SAT members. The SAT will include members knowledgeable in marine ecology, marine fisheries, marine habitats, marine protected areas, economics, social sciences and other applicable areas of expertise. A subset of these members will form the statutorily defined "Master Plan Team" and will be identified as such.

SAT members will designate a chair or co-chairs, and assign four to six members to serve as the SAT Sub-Team to the north coast project. The SAT members are expected to attend the regularly scheduled public meetings and assist as needed through July 2011. Meetings are expected to be held every four to six weeks in locations within the north coast study region. Occasional meetings may require multi-day formats. In addition to regularly scheduled SAT meetings, the north coast Sub-Team will be expected to attend stakeholder group meetings as representatives of the full SAT. Members of the SAT will, upon request, be reimbursed for actual travel expenditures related to the MLPA Initiative, but not for time.

Criteria for Selection

Membership will be selected based on the needed representation, areas of expertise, and the following set of selection criteria:

- Willingness and availability to participate throughout the process and attend meetings in person approximately every six weeks until July 2011
- Knowledge of the scientific issues and information available with relation to MPAs and the fields of study listed above
- At least four members with specific knowledge of northern California marine ecosystems
- Documented recognition as an expert in one or more of the fields of study above
- Past experience and participation in similar groups that have provided advice to government agencies and ability to use science to advise public policy making

- Ability to relate complex scientific issues to lay people in public venues
- A comprehensive working understanding of the MLPA process and the role of the SAT relative to the other member bodies of the MLPA Initiative

First Meeting

The first meeting of the north coast SAT will be held via teleconference in late September or early October 2009 to review administrative matters. This initial meeting will be followed by a second meeting held in conjunction with the final meeting of the south coast SAT to allow for a discussion of crossover issues and lessons learned. The date and location of this joint south coast and north coast SAT meeting will be announced.

Instructions

To submit a nomination(s), please send a letter not longer than two pages explaining the qualifications of your nomination(s) with the full contact information for your nomination(s) and yourself. Please indicate their interest/availability and attach their curriculum vitae or resume, if possible. **All nominations must be received at the addresses below by close of business on August 14, 2009.** Electronic submission of nominations is encouraged.

Mail: Jason Vasques, Associate Marine Biologist
Attn: MLPA Science Advisory Team Nominations
350 Harbor Blvd.
Belmont, CA 94002

Email: jvasques@dfg.ca.gov
Subject: MLPA Science Team Nominations

Thank you for considering this request. I look forward to receiving your nominations for the MLPA Science Advisory Team.

Sincerely,



Donald Koch
Director

cc: Jason Vasques, Department of Fish and Game, Belmont, CA