

**California MLPA North Coast Project
February 1, 2010**

External Proposal Title: “Conservation Coalition Array”

List of Contributors:

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- **Ocean Conservancy**
- **Northcoast Environmental Center**
 - **California Native Plant Society, Northcoast Chapter**
 - **North Group, Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club**
 - **Redwood Region Audubon Society**
 - **EPIC - Environmental Protection Information Center**
 - **Safe Alternatives for our Forest Environment (SAFE)**

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California MLPA North Coast Project
Narrative Rationale for the North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG)
Marine Protected Area (MPA)
External Proposal — “Conservation Coalition”
February 1, 2010

Proposal Rationale:

The “Conservation Coalition” proposal is intended to provide a credible MPA Proposal that conserves and protects marine resources, minimizes potential adverse socioeconomic impacts on our community and maximizes benefits, and protects the traditional customary uses and cultural activities of the many tribes in our region.

The Conservation Coalition proposal contributors also worked in the Tri-County Working Group to collaborate on areas of consensus for protection by a wide range of stakeholders.

This proposal is a supplementary array that attempts to improve compliance with science guidelines while illustrating the initial areas of agreement achieved through the Tri-County Working Group.

Given the information currently available on Marine Map, information shared during the Tri-County Working Group as well as extensive meetings and interviews with commercial and recreational fishermen and Tribal citizens, the array proposed here constitutes our best effort at meeting the science guidelines with minimal socioeconomic impact.

Specifically, the key objectives of this proposal are to:

- Include areas discussed and agreed to by a range of stakeholders in the Tri-County Working Group process.
- Improve compliance with the science guidelines and MLPA goals by focusing on supplemental areas with high conservation value.
- Respect “Safety Zones”: a 10 mile buffer zone around ports and harbors.
- Minimize socio-economic impacts through careful siting.
- Protect the traditional customary uses and cultural activities in our region.

We are committed to protection of the traditional customary uses and cultural activities of the tribes in our region. We have proposed a number of backbone high protection MPAs that we intend to function as State Marine Reserves:

- Pyramid Point
- Reading Rock (exterior MPA)
- Punta Gorda
- Vizcaino (interior MPA)
- Ten Mile
- Ten Mile Estuary
- Point Cabrillo
- Navarro Estuary

However, out of respect for Tribal uses and following the request of Tribal representatives, we have proposed these areas as “Tribal Use Only State Marine Conservation Areas.”

These Tribal Use Only State Marine Conservation Areas” will act as reserves for all extractive take excluding traditional cultural take by Tribal citizens.

We strongly believe that the goals of the MLPA and protection of Tribal customary use and cultural activities are not only compatible but mutually beneficial and we hope these issues can be addressed fully as the MLPA process moves forward.

In addition to the above MPAs, we have proposed SMCAs allowing for various commercial and recreational uses at Reading Rock, Vizcaino and Russian Gulch.

We would also like to point out that there are several high value conservation areas that would likely benefit from MPAs that we have not included in our MPA Proposal such as: Point St. George, Trinidad Head, the lee of Patrick’s Point, Castle Rock and Mendocino Bay and Headlands.

We recognize that many of these sites are also of high economic value to human users and therefore, in balancing the goals of the Act with the needs of consumptive ocean users and as a show of good faith with other stakeholders in our region, we did not include these sites in our proposal.

We believe this proposal represents a credible effort to ensure the conservation goals of the Marine Life Protection Act are met, while accounting for the socioeconomic needs of the North Coast community.

We look forward to its evaluation.