

California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
Charter of the MLPA Second Phase Blue Ribbon Task Force
March 30, 2007

Official Name: This task force officially is designated as the California Marine Life Protection Act Second Phase Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) to the California Resources Agency.

Background: The California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) was tasked by the 1999 Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) to prepare, or cause to be prepared, a master plan, with recommended alternative networks of marine protected areas within the state's coastal waters, for proposed adoption by the California Fish and Game Commission. Designing and implementing marine protected areas is challenging from a public policy perspective because of numerous scientific, economic and cultural questions, many of which are not definitively answered by the best available science. Therefore, the secretary for resources determined it beneficial to convene a task force to make recommendations for implementing the MLPA and enhance the state's ability to carry out the mandate under the Marine Life Protection Act.

Creation of a BRTF was initially stipulated in a 2004 memorandum of understanding (MOU) to which the California Resources Agency, DFG, and Resources Legacy Fund Foundation were parties. The MOU created a public-private partnership, known as the MLPA Initiative, to help the state implement the MLPA. One element of the initiative was a pilot project along the central coast (Pigeon Point in San Mateo County to Point Conception in Santa Barbara County). The MOU expired in December 2006 and a second MOU was signed for the purpose of continuing the public-private partnership, including a task force, in the north central coast (Alder Creek in Mendocino County to Pigeon Point in San Mateo County).

Membership: The BRTF will be composed of five to seven distinguished, knowledgeable and highly credible public leaders selected by the secretary for resources. The secretary shall have sole discretion to select members of the task force, and may consider persons for their intellect, vision, public policy experience, and diversity of professional expertise. The secretary shall also select one person to serve as chair of the task force.

Term: Each member of the task force shall serve for the duration of the MOU, through December 2008, or until relieved of duties. Each member shall serve at the pleasure of the secretary.

Charge: The charge to the task force is to meet the objectives of the MLPA Initiative, implementing the provisions of the MOU effective January 1, 2007, including to:

- oversee a regional project to develop alternative marine protected area packages in an area along the north central coast to present to the California Fish and Game Commission by March 2008,
- prepare information and recommendations for coordinating management of MPAs with federal agencies, and
- provide direction for expenditure of initiative funds.

The task force will also work to resolve policy disputes and provide direction in the face of uncertainty, while meeting the objectives of the MLPA.

The chair of the BRTF will oversee the work of the executive director to the initiative, work with the director of DFG to convene the MLPA North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group, and serve as the principal link between the BRTF and initiative staff.

Members are also expected to serve as liaisons to the North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group.

Attendance: Members of the BRTF are each expected to attend all regular meetings of the task force, which shall generally be scheduled as two-day working meetings as needed between January 2007 and November 2008. One or more members of the BRTF shall attend each meeting of the North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group.

Remuneration: Members of the BRTF will, upon request, be reimbursed for actual travel expenditures related to the MLPA Initiative, but not for time.

California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
Charter of the MLPA Second Phase Master Plan Science Advisory Team
March 30, 2007

Official Name: This team officially is designated as the California MLPA Second Phase Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT) to the California Department of Fish and Game.

Background: The California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) was tasked by the 1999 Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) to prepare, or cause to be prepared, a master plan, with recommended alternative networks of marine protected areas within the state's coastal waters, for proposed adoption by the California Fish and Game Commission. The MLPA directs DFG to appoint a master plan team to advise and assist in the preparation of the master plan. The statute identifies the composition of the master plan team, but also allows for the contribution of other experts to the master plan development process.

Due to the complexities presented by the task of drafting a master plan, DFG will enhance the scientific expertise required by the MLPA by adding to the master plan team, described in statute, members with biological, fisheries and socioeconomic expertise. In addition, because the policy considerations of the master plan will be addressed by the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) through recommendations to the California Fish and Game Commission, DFG is focusing the charge of the master plan team to the scientific considerations involved in drafting the programmatic portion of the master plan and designing alternative regional proposals for marine protected areas. The master plan team is therefore renamed the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team to reflect this enhanced expertise and scientific focus.

Creation of the SAT was initially stipulated in a 2004 memorandum of understanding (MOU) to which the California Resources Agency, DFG, and Resources Legacy Fund Foundation were parties. The MOU created a public-private partnership, known as the MLPA Initiative, to help the state implement the MLPA. One element of the initiative was a pilot project along the central coast (Pigeon Point in San Mateo County to Point Conception in Santa Barbara County). The MOU expired in December 2006 and a second MOU was signed for the purpose of continuing the public-private partnership in the north central coast (Alder Creek in Mendocino County to Pigeon Point in San Mateo County).

Membership: The MLPA requires that the master plan team include staff from DFG, the California Department of Parks and Recreation, the State Water Resources Control Board, one member appointed from a list provided by Sea Grant, and five to seven scientists, one of whom may have expertise in the economics and culture of California coastal communities. The SAT will include those members identified in statute and additional scientists knowledgeable in marine ecology, fisheries, marine protected areas, economics and the social sciences. The director of DFG will appoint the members of the SAT. In considering members for the SAT, the director may consult with the secretary for resources, the chair of the BRTF, and the president of the California Fish and Game Commission. The SAT shall designate one member to serve as chair of the SAT or two to serve as co-chairs. The chair(s) shall assign four to six members to serve as the Science Sub-Team to the MLPA North Central Coast Project.

Term: Each member shall serve for the duration of the MOU, through December 2008, or until relieved of duties. Each member shall serve at the pleasure of the director of DFG.

Charge: The charge to the SAT is to provide the scientific knowledge and judgment necessary to assist the DFG with: (1) meeting the objectives of the MLPA Initiative, (2) providing input to the BRTF, and (3) completing the California Master Plan for MPAs. Principally, the SAT is charged with reviewing and commenting on scientific papers, reviewing draft master plan documents, addressing scientific issues presented by those documents, and reviewing alternative MPA packages. In the course of assisting DFG, members shall refrain from making policy judgments; rather, where available science presents options or uncertainty, the SAT shall frame and refer those policy questions to DFG or, if appropriate, the BRTF.

The SAT will be supported by the principal planner for the MLPA Initiative, DFG's statewide technical advisor, and other DFG staff.

The SAT will convene regular, open meetings that may be attended by interested members of the public. The SAT reports to the director of DFG and DFG, with the assistance of SAT members, will report SAT findings and recommendations to the BRTF at the BRTF's regular, open meetings. The SAT chair(s) may convene sub-teams of the members as necessary to address specific scientific issues; sub-teams will report the results of their work to the full SAT at regularly scheduled, open meetings.

Guidance from the SAT on the design of an improved system of marine protected areas, as required in the MLPA, becomes effective through adoption by the California Fish and Game Commission of the California Master Plan for MPAs. Guidance developed by the SAT in 2005 was adopted by the commission in August 2005. The SAT may propose revisions or augmentations to that guidance for consideration by DFG, which may in turn transmit the proposed revisions with recommendations to the BRTF and commission.

Attendance: The members of the SAT are each expected to attend all regularly scheduled meetings of the SAT. The chair(s) of the SAT, or designees, is/are expected to attend all regular meetings of the BRTF, which shall be scheduled as needed from March 2007 through November 2008. Other members of the SAT may attend BRTF meetings. The chair(s) of the SAT may also assign members to sub-teams, and those members are expected to fulfill all assignments of those sub-teams including attending any additional scheduled meetings. A member of the Science Sub-Team to the MLPA North Central Coast Project shall also attend regularly scheduled meetings of the MLPA North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group to provide scientific summaries, answer scientific questions, and advise on relevant scientific merits of various MPA proposals. Members will be responsible for reviewing all relevant materials in advance of each meeting.

Remuneration: Members of the SAT will, upon request, be reimbursed for actual travel expenditures related to the MLPA Initiative, but not for time.

California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
Charter of the MLPA Second Phase Statewide Interests Group
March 30, 2007

Official Name: This group officially is designated as the MLPA Second Phase Statewide Interests Group (SIG) to the MLPA Second Phase Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF).

Background: The California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) was tasked by the 1999 Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) to prepare, or cause to be prepared, a master plan, with recommended alternative networks of marine protected areas within the state's coastal waters, for proposed adoption by the California Fish and Game Commission. Designing and implementing marine protected areas is challenging from a public policy perspective. Therefore, the secretary for resources determined it beneficial to convene an MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) to enhance the state's ability to carry out the mandate under the Marine Life Protection Act.

Creation of a BRTF was initially stipulated in a 2004 memorandum of understanding (MOU) to which the California Resources Agency, DFG, and Resources Legacy Fund Foundation were parties. The MOU created a public-private partnership, known as the MLPA Initiative, to help the state implement the MLPA. One element of the initiative was a pilot project along the central coast (Pigeon Point in San Mateo County to Point Conception in Santa Barbara County). The MOU expired in December 2006 and a second MOU was signed for the purpose of continuing the public-private partnership, including a second phase task force, in the north central coast (Alder Creek in Mendocino County to Pigeon Point in San Mateo County).

To assist the task force in communicating with stakeholders and the public on a statewide basis regarding implementation of the MLPA and recommendations of the BRTF, the MLPA Statewide Interests Group was created under the first phase MOU and will be created again under the second phase MOU.

Membership: The SIG will consist of 10 to 15 individuals with the willingness and capacity to communicate with as broad a constituency as possible. The individuals selected will achieve a diversity of perspectives, constituencies and geography. Members are appointed by the MLPA Initiative executive director in consultation with the chair of the BRTF, secretary of the California Resources Agency, and director of DFG.

Term: Each member of the SIG shall serve through December 2008, or until relieved of duties, at the pleasure of the chair of the BRTF.

Charge: The charge to the SIG shall be to consult with the chair and staff to the BRTF and provide a forum for enhanced communication between the task force and stakeholders regarding:

- the MLPA Initiative and statewide policy issues,
- outreach to constituent groups regarding opportunities for involvement in the MLPA Initiative,
- panel speakers for task force meetings, and
- other issues as identified.

The SIG will not negotiate or decide issues outside the public sessions of the BRTF and the BRTF will not expect any members to make commitments on behalf of their constituencies.

Attendance: The members of the SIG are expected to participate in all regular meetings of the group, which shall generally be scheduled by teleconference before or after BRTF meetings between March 2007 and December 2008. The chair of the BRTF, or her/his designee, shall participate in all regular meetings of the SIG.

Remuneration: Members of the SIG will, upon request, be reimbursed for any travel expenditures related to the MLPA Initiative, but not for time. All meetings are expected to be conducted via conference call through a toll-free number, so participation costs to SIG members are not anticipated.

California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
Charter of the MLPA North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group
March 30, 2007

Official Name: This group officially will be designated as the MLPA North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCCRSG) to the MLPA Second Phase Blue Ribbon Task Force.

Background: The California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) was tasked by the 1999 Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) to prepare, or cause to be prepared, a master plan, with recommended alternative networks of marine protected areas within the state's coastal waters, for proposed adoption by the California Fish and Game Commission. The MLPA requires DFG to engage other interested parties to contribute to the master plan, including scientists, geographic information system experts, commercial and recreational fishermen, divers, and other individuals knowledgeable about the state's underwater ecosystems, the history of fishing effort or marine protected area management, or other relevant subjects. DFG is also required to take into account relevant information from local communities and solicit comments and advice from interested parties.

Developing a statewide master plan for marine protected areas (MPAs), while engaging the various interested parties, requires considerable work and analysis that is too complex to implement along the entire California coast at once. Through a 2004 memorandum of understanding (MOU), the California Resources Agency, DFG, and Resources Legacy Fund Foundation created a public-private partnership, known as the MLPA Initiative, to help the state implement the MLPA. One element of the initiative was a pilot project along the central coast (Pigeon Point in San Mateo County to Point Conception in Santa Barbara County) where a combination of the efforts of prior working groups, available scientific resources and potential partnerships provided a sound foundation for beginning implementation of the MLPA. The MOU expired in December 2006 and a second MOU was signed for the purpose of continuing the public-private partnership in the north central coast (Alder Creek in Mendocino County to Pigeon Point in San Mateo County).

Consistent with the MLPA and MOU continuing the MLPA Initiative, the NCCRSG will be convened to enhance the state's ability to carry out the mandates of the Marine Life Protection Act, and to ensure that regional knowledge and interests are reflected in alternative proposals for MPAs along the north central coast.

Membership: The NCCRSG is composed of individuals who are able and willing to provide information that will assist in developing alternative proposals for MPAs along the north central coast. The chair of the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) and the director of DFG shall have sole discretion to select members of the group. In selecting members, the chair and director may consider professional expertise or experience, diversity of perspectives, geographic location, willingness to express fundamental interests as opposed to fixed positions, access to and effective use of a communication network, willingness to convey the interests of one or more important stakeholder groups, capacity to work with diverse viewpoints, ability to work collaboratively and seek to integrate the interests of a broad range of constituencies, ability to balance a north central coast regional perspective with localized knowledge, and commitment to completing all aspects of the charge of the group by June 2008.

Term: Each member of the NCCRSG shall serve for the duration of the MOU, through December 2008, or until relieved of duties. Each member shall serve at the pleasure of the chair of the BRTF and the director of DFG.

Charge: In cooperation with a facilitation team, a science advisory team, DFG staff, and MLPA Initiative staff, the NCCRSG will provide assistance in the following key tasks:

- Provide local knowledge of the north central coast region for refining a regional profile and informing the MLPA planning process;
- Evaluate existing marine protected areas within the MLPA North Central Coast Study Region in relation to the goals of the MLPA, guidance provided in the draft California Master Plan for MPAs, and a statement of feasibility criteria from DFG;
- Provide information to other members of the NCCRSG that may be helpful in designing alternative MPA packages;
- Developing alternative proposals for packages of marine protected areas within the MLPA North Central Coast Study Region, that meet the requirements of the MLPA, for consideration by the BRTF and the California Fish and Game Commission;
- Conduct outreach to constituent groups for involvement in the MLPA North Central Coast Project; and
- Identify potential panel speakers to present stakeholder group recommendations and commentary at meetings of the BRTF and other public meetings.

The NCCRSG will work with a facilitation team, a science advisory team, and MLPA Initiative and DFG staff. The primary focus of deliberations will be public sessions of the group. The NCCRSG will not finalize any proposals outside the public sessions of the group.

Note that the charge of the NCCRSG is not to:

- Debate the virtues of the Marine Life Protection Act or whether MPAs should be established,
- Debate the validity of MPAs as a fisheries management tool (fisheries management is not the main goal of the MLPA), or
- Debate the detailed guidance of the draft California Master Plan for MPAs (it is guidance adopted and/or under consideration by the commission)

Attendance: The members of the NCCRSG, or their alternates, are expected to attend all regular meetings of the group, which shall generally be scheduled as needed from May 2007 through June 2008. These meetings will move throughout the region. The NCCRSG may have “sub-group” meetings, where geographically defined sub-groups meet separately for one-day meetings. NCCRSG members are invited to participate in any sub-group meetings.

Remuneration: Members and alternates of the NCCRSG, upon request, will be reimbursed for actual travel expenditures related to the MLPA Initiative, but not for time.