

**California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
Roles and Responsibilities**

(from pages 13-14 of the draft Master Plan Framework submitted on May 23, 2005 to the California Fish and Game Commission by the California Department of Fish and Game)

Organizational Partners

The [Fish and Game] Commission is the ultimate decision-making authority for implementation of the MLPA. Specifically, the Commission will make all final decisions on the Master Plan, the proposed regional marine protected area proposals, and supporting CEQA documentation, all after completing its own process of public reviews. The principal mission of the other partners is to support the Commission in making sound policy decisions required by the MLPA. Although the Commission will not be involved in the day-to-day work of the Initiative, the Initiative will include regular opportunities for informational meetings and strategic consultation with the Commission.

The California Resources Agency provides general oversight and public leadership for the initiative and implementation of the MLPA. Besides providing policy direction for coordinating funding and staffing, the agency made critical decisions in shaping the initiative. The secretary of the California Resources Agency selected the chair and other members of the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force. The secretary convened and charged the members of the task force with meeting the objectives identified in the task force description below. The California Resources Agency will also seek adequate current and future funding for agency and Department personnel committed to the initiative and for completing future phases of the MLPA.

The [California] Department [of Fish and Game] serves as the lead agency for the design and implementation of the MLPA master plan and a statewide network of marine protected areas. The Department will continue its traditional support of the Resources Agency and the Commission. In consultation with the secretary of the agency, the president of the Commission, and the chair of the task force, the director of the Department will select the members of the science team. Through the initiative's Steering Committee (described below), the Department assisted the development of the draft master plan framework and proposals for marine protected areas along the central coast, and is ultimately responsible for presenting a final draft master plan and alternatives for marine protected areas, including a preferred alternative, to the Commission. The Department will also provide biological, enforcement and other relevant information, participate in meetings as appropriate, review working documents, and act as lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act, among other activities.

The MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force is composed of distinguished, knowledgeable and highly credible public leaders selected by the secretary of the California Resources Agency. The charge to the task force is to oversee the preparation of the draft master plan framework, and the development of alternative proposals for marine protected areas in an area along the central coast for the Department to present to the Commission; to prepare a comprehensive strategy for long-term funding of planning, management and enforcement of marine protected areas; and to develop recommendations for improved coordination of managing marine protected areas with federal agencies involved in ocean management. 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 task force selected the executive director, senior MLPA project manager, operations & communications manager, and central coast MLPA project manager to the initiative; worked with the director of the Department to convene and direct the science team; and serves as the principal link between the task force and initiative staff. At least one member of the task force serves as liaison to the central coast project.

The Resources Legacy Fund Foundation uses its best efforts to obtain, coordinate and administer philanthropic investments to supplement public funding for the Initiative, provides strategic advice to the California Resources Agency on public-private funding, and supports the operations & communications manager in managing private contracts for staffing the initiative.

Other state and federal agencies play a variety of roles in the initiative. For instance, federal agencies such as NOAA Fisheries, the National Ocean Service, and the National Marine Sanctuaries Program may be sources of valuable information and may have programs that the MLPA Initiative should take into account in designing regional MPAs. State agencies may play a similar role. The California Coastal Commission may review some aspects of establishing MPAs, such as coastal zone access and facilities development.

Committees and Teams

The director of the Department, in consultation with the chair of the task force, the secretary of the agency, and the president of the Commission, convened the science team. The science team includes the members required by the MLPA, including staff from the Department, the Department of Parks and Recreation, the State Water Resources Control Board, one member appointed from a list provided by Sea Grant, and an expanded group of scientists knowledgeable in marine ecology, fisheries science, marine protected areas, economics and the social sciences. The role of the science team is to assist the task force in developing the draft master plan framework by reviewing supporting and draft documents, addressing scientific issues, and framing and referring policy challenges to the task force. The science team reports to the task force and the director of the Department, and will be supported by the senior MLPA project manager.

A sub-team of the science team serves the central coast project. The Central Coast Science Advisory Sub-Team is composed of members of the science team, and works with the central coast project manager and central coast stakeholder group to develop alternative marine protected area proposals by reviewing supporting and draft documents, addressing scientific issues and information provided by the central coast stakeholder group, and framing and referring policy challenges to the task force. At least one member of the science sub-team attends each central coast stakeholder group meeting.

The Central Coast MLPA Stakeholder Group includes key, affected members of the central coast region who are able and willing to provide information that will assist in the development of the proposed alternative networks of marine protected areas along the central coast. The director of the Department and the central coast liaison of the task force solicited nominations,

and selected from the nominees a representative group that will meet regularly over the course of the central coast process to provide input to the central coast project manager, provide information and other input for framing key scientific questions to be addressed by the science advisory sub-team, and work as a group to develop alternative proposals for MPAs. The Department will provide enforcement staff support to the group for information and input on enforcement issues.

The MLPA Statewide Interests Group is composed of members from key interest groups who advise the task force and staff on the overall process to develop a draft master plan framework and network of marine protected areas along the California coast. The group does not vote or otherwise take formal positions on any procedural or substantive issues, but instead alerts the task force and staff to issues and opportunities that may improve public involvement in the process.

The MLPA Steering Committee is chaired by the task force's executive director, and includes the task force's senior project manager, operations & communications manager, and central coast project manager, and the Department's policy advisor, statewide technical advisor, MPA mandate coordinator, and central coast regional coordinator. The committee is responsible for coordinating all work necessary to achieve each of the objectives of the initiative.