

California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
Statewide Interests Group
Draft Meeting Agenda
(revised November 9, 2009)

November 9, 2009

Via conference call

Meeting Objectives

- *Provide status report on recent MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF), MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT) and MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group meetings*
- *Provide update on planning in the MLPA North Coast Study Region, including BRTF and SAT meetings*
- *Elicit feedback from SIG members on public involvement*

Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome, roll call, and logistics for conference call
2. Status report on MLPA Initiative South Coast Project, scan recent and upcoming meetings
 - SCRSRG: Completion of Round 3 deliberations and final SCRSRG MPA proposals
 - BRTF: Completing recommendations for the south coast
 - SAT: Joint meeting with SAT for north coast and final south coast meeting
 - I-Team: Outreach efforts to effectively manage public comment
3. Status report on MLPA Initiative North Coast Project, scan recent and upcoming workshops and meetings
 - Planning workshops: One in September via webinar (simultaneously at three locations) and three in October (same presentations in Fort Bragg, Eureka and Crescent City)
 - SAT: Joint meeting with SAT for south coast
 - BRTF: First meeting and field trip next week
 - I-Team: Outreach efforts to effectively engage the communities
4. Input from SIG members
 - What went well in recent round of meetings and workshops?
 - Were the opportunities for public involvement clearly identified?
 - Suggestions for improvement?

5. Provide brief update on MLPA North Central Coast Study Region
 - Completion of regulatory and environmental review processes and filing with California Office of Administrative Law

6. Recap and next steps
 - Interest in SIG for north coast?

California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
Statewide Interests Group
Draft Meeting Agenda
(revised August 27, 2009)

August 28, 2009

Via conference call

Meeting Objectives

- *Provide status report on recent and upcoming South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (SCRSG), Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) and Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT) meetings*
- *Provide update on phases of MLPA process*
- *Elicit suggestions from SIG members on opportunities for public involvement*

Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome, roll call, and logistics for conference call
 - Cathy Reheis-Boyd, Chair, BRTF
 - Ken Wiseman, Executive Director, MLPA Initiative
 - Scott McCreary and Rebecca Tuden, Facilitators
2. Follow-up from the previous SIG meeting
 - Distribution of key outcome memos
 - Summary of SCRSG summer open houses
3. Status report on MLPA Initiative process, scan recent and upcoming meetings
 - SCRSG: Evaluation of Round 2 MPA proposals and update on Round 3 deliberations
 - BRTF: Planning for recommendations on MPA proposals for south coast
 - I-Team: Outreach efforts to effectively manage public comment
4. Input from SIG members
 - What went well in recent round of meetings?
 - Were the opportunities for public involvement clearly identified?
 - Suggestions for improvement?
5. Provide brief update on MLPA Initiative study regions
 - North Central Coast Study Region – Completion of regulatory and environmental review processes and California Fish and Game Commission action
 - South Coast Study Region – Open houses & Round 3 MPA proposal deliberations
 - North Coast Study Region – Ecotrust public workshops and public open houses
6. Recap and next steps
 - Scan time frame for next SIG meeting
 - Outline topics to cover at next meeting

Key Outcomes Memorandum

Date: September 4, 2009

To: Members, Marine Life Protection Act Statewide Interests Group (SIG)

From: Scott McCreary, CONCUR, Inc.

Re: Key Outcomes Memorandum – August 28, 2009 SIG Meeting

Cc: BRTF members, MLPA Initiative Staff, California Department of Fish and Game MLPA Staff, and California Department of Parks and Recreation MLPA Staff

Participation

The following Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Statewide Interests Group (SIG) members participated in the August 28, 2009 conference call: Fred Euphrat, Karen Garrison, Angela Haren, Ken Kurtis, Samantha Murray, Shelly Walther, and Guangyu Wang.

Cathy Reheis Boyd participated as chair of the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF).

Ken Wiseman, Melissa Miller-Henson, and Craig Shuman, participated on behalf of the MLPA Initiative staff (I-Team). I-Team member Scott McCreary facilitated the conference call.

The meeting agenda and materials may be found on the MLPA website at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/meetings.asp>

Key Outcomes

Cathy Reheis Boyd opened the call as the newly-appointed chair of the BRTF. She reminded all participants that we are in the home stretch of the MLPA south coast planning process. She discussed both the challenges arising from the uniqueness of southern California and the commitment of MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (SCRSG) members to their charge.

Follow-up from the Past SIG Call

- Melissa Miller-Henson noted that Key Outcomes Memos from the previous two SIG meetings had been sent to the SIG members and apologized for the delay.

Prepared by CONCUR, Inc. (September 4, 2009)

This Key Outcomes Memorandum summarizes the results of the August 28, 2009 Statewide Interest Group meeting. It focuses on key issues discussed, decisions made, and next steps identified. It is not intended to be a transcript of the meetings.

She noted that the MLPA Initiative team will strive to turn around the next Key Outcomes Memo document in about one week.

- Two sets of open houses were convened since the last SIG call: a set in southern California focusing on draft Round 2 MPA proposals, keyed to geographies, and a round of north coast open houses aimed at introducing the MLPA Initiative and the Ecotrust commercial and recreational fisheries project to that study region.

Status Report on the MLPA Initiative

Key comments included the following:

- Ken Wiseman noted the recent, important action of the California Fish and Game Commission (F&GC) to adopt the Integrated Preferred Alternative for the marine protected area design of the MLPA North Central Coast Study Region. This action went forward on a 3-2 vote of the F&GC. The appointment of Don Benninghoven as the newest member of the F&GC, though a loss for the BRTF, was key in sustaining the continuity of work from the north central coast. He also noted the continuing state budget challenges, which pose particular challenges for California Department of Fish and Game staff.
- MLPA Initiative staff gave an update on the progress of work in the MLPA South Coast Study Region. The SCRSG is now hard at work on their Round 3 MPA proposals, working in three groups, Work Group 1, Work Group 2, and Work Group 3. Each group is instructed to meet SAT guidelines, where possible. Per BRTF guidance, each of the respective groups has specific objectives guiding their work. Work on Round 3 proposals began in early August, and has continued through the convening of informal subregional work teams. As noted in earlier SIG discussions, the south coast poses several distinctive challenges: the large population of five counties, large number of stakeholders, large amount of scientific information, and the complications of military closures and water quality considerations.

Key comments included the following:

- Ken Wiseman commented that the SCRSG has showed great focus and determination in moving forward with the Round 3 proposals.
- Initiative staff noted that the discourse between SCRSG members has taken a less polarized, more respectful tone in the past few weeks.

Planning for Recommendations on MPA Proposals for the South Coast

- Chair Reheis Boyd noted that a positive meeting format used at the end of the north coast regional stakeholder group process included a joint discussion between the stakeholders and the BRTF. This dialogue provided the opportunity for stakeholders to directly explain the choices they made and

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considerations in each of the three respective proposals. She noted that the side-by-side display of the maps for all three proposals was especially effective, and underscored the intention to use that format again in the final joint BRTF-SCRSG discussion.

- Melissa Miller Henson noted that the planned 2.5 day format for the BRTF meeting should allow more time for SCRSG presentations, public comments, and BRTF deliberations, compared to the two day format used in the north central coast.

Key comments included the following:

- Samantha Murray noted that after the Round 2 science advisory team evaluations, the tone becomes more of trying to solve a common puzzle rather than one position besting another.
- Guangyu Wang queried whether in future study regions stakeholder group members might be pressed to meet science guidelines earlier in the process so they could then focus more in Round 3 on reducing socioeconomic impacts

Eliciting Advice from SIG Members

MLPA staff asked if there were further suggestions to improve SCRSG, science advisory team and BRTF meetings.

Key comments included the following:

- SIG member Shelly Walther noticed a remarkable improvement in the tone of the public workshops relative to some of the earlier public comment sessions. She noted that presenting maps, organized by study region, in enlarged format helped to allow a more positive and productive form of discussion among members of the public.
- Melissa Miller-Henson noted that many SCRSG members had joined the public workshops and that they were excellent ambassadors for the overall Initiative process.
- Fred Euphrat also noted that the format of the north coast meetings with small break out stations had been useful. He stated that the grumbling people are still grumbling, but they have a better understanding of the MLPA Initiative, and they felt heard.
- Ken Wiseman noted that applications had been solicited for the north coast science advisory team.
- Karen Garrison queried whether there were a sufficient number of scientists from the north coast, and whether there were many names from Humboldt State University.
- Samantha Murray queried whether stipends would be available to MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG) members. Initiative staff

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- indicated that the stipend arrangement would continue for those who needed them.
- Ken Wiseman noted that in the north coast outreach meetings, the MLPA Initiative was fortunate to have two Native American members from past study regions—Nick Tipon (an NCRSG stakeholder) and Roberta Cordero, herself a professional mediator—as ambassadors as they reached out to tribal representatives in the north coast. MLPA Initiative staff acknowledged the challenge of allowing a reasonable level of public comment and still allowing sufficient time for SCRSG members to deliberate. Ken Wiseman noted that he had been working with Kelly Sayce and Craig Shuman to encourage members of the public with like interests to consolidate their time to make well-chosen comments with higher impacts.
 - Ken Kurtis queried about the volume of written public comments, and whether they are used effectively. Melissa Miller-Henson noted that the volume ranges widely from as few as 10 pages per week to 70 to 80 pages, depending on the events that week.
 - Karen Garrison and Samantha Murray, reflecting on their experience as NCRSG members, queried whether the SCRSG would have as much time as possible during the September 9 and 10 meeting to complete their Round 3 proposals. Initiative staff noted that most of the groups were planning extra work sessions on September 8, and that a good part of the time on September 9 and 10 was devoted to final efforts by the work team.
 - SIG member Guangyu Wang raised the question of whether the best data is being made available.

MLPA Initiative staff noted that the guidelines for public comment and the effort to work through key communicators seemed to be beneficial steps in organizing more constructive public comment periods. Ken Kurtis noted that he had been working hard to get his constituents to focus their comments and to really weigh the tradeoffs of the perceived “glory time” of one to two minutes in a public hearing setting versus crafting a well-structured written statement. Craig Shuman and Melissa Miller-Henson noted that this advice closely tracked the advice offered for “effective public comment”.

Next Steps

Upcoming south coast dates include:

- The end of SCRSG Round 3 for draft MPA proposals is September 10, 2009.
- A joint SCRSG-BRTF meeting will occur on October 20-22, 2009.
- More information about the north coast process design will be presented to the BRTF in the next few weeks.

There was some support for trying to convene a SIG meeting in advance of the October BRTF meeting. MLPA Initiative staff will transmit a Doodle poll to coordinate a SIG

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meeting for the period between the SCRSG meeting and the October BRTF meeting (likely between early and mid October).

Cathy Reheis Boyd thanked the SIG for the candid comments and reminded SIG and staff members alike to keep their eye on the upcoming finish line for the SCRSG process.

California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative Statewide Interests Group Draft Meeting Agenda

*Friday, May 29, 2009
10:00 am*

Via conference call

Meeting Objectives

- *Provide status report on recent and upcoming MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (SCRSG), Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) and Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT) meetings*
- *Provide update on phases of MLPA process*
- *Elicit suggestions from MLPA Statewide Interests Group (SIG) members on opportunities for public involvement*

Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome, roll call, and logistics for conference call
 - Don Benninghoven, Chair, BRTF
 - Ken Wiseman, Executive Director, MLPA Initiative
 - Scott McCreary and Rebecca Tuden, Facilitators
2. Follow-up from the previous SIG meeting
 - Highlight key outcomes memo
 - Public comment opportunities
3. Status report on MLPA Initiative, scan recent and upcoming meetings
 - SCRSG: Round 2 options for draft MPA proposals and upcoming public open houses
 - SAT: Evaluation methods and key guidance
 - BRTF: Guidance on military use areas (see Briefing Document A.1, attached)
4. Comments from SIG members
 - What went well in recent round of meetings?
 - Were the opportunities for public involvement clearly identified?
 - Suggestions for improvement?
5. Provide brief update on phases of the MLPA Initiative
 - North Central Coast Study Region – comments on draft EIR
 - South Coast Study Region – completion of Round 2 draft proposals and open houses
 - North Coast Study Region – Ecotrust public workshops slated for next month
6. Recap and Next Steps
 - Scan time frame for next SIG meeting
 - Outline topics to cover at next meeting

Key Outcomes Memorandum

Date: June 8, 2009

To: Members, Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Statewide Interests Group (SIG)

From: Scott McCreary and Rebecca Tuden, CONCUR, Inc.

Re: Key Outcomes Memorandum – May 29, 2009 SIG Meeting

Cc: BRTF members, MLPA Initiative Staff, California Department of Fish and Game MLPA Staff, and California Department of Parks and Recreation MLPA Staff

Participation and Materials

The following Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Statewide Interests Group (SIG) members participated in the May 29, 2009 conference call: Harold Davis, Karen Garrison, Angela Haren, Vivian Helliwell, Ken Kurtis, Jim Martin, Samantha Murray, Shelly Walther, and Dr. Guangyu Wang.

Don Benninghoven participated as a member of the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF).

Melissa Miller-Henson, Craig Shuman, Evan Fox, Eric Poncelet and Susan Ashcraft participated on behalf of the MLPA Initiative staff (I-Team). I-Team members Scott McCreary and Rebecca Tuden facilitated the conference call.

The meeting agenda and materials may be found on the MLPA website at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/meetings.asp>

Key Outcomes

Don Benninghoven, chair of the BRTF, updated the SIG members on the status of recent meetings highlighting the BRTF guidance on military use areas in the MLPA South Coast Study Region and the very active discussions with the MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (SCRSG).

Follow-up from previous SIG meeting

In summarizing the key discussion points from the previous SIG meeting, Scott McCreary highlighted the additional public comment opportunity provided at the May 19-21 SCRSG meeting. It was noted that over 200 members of the public attended the meeting. The goal was to give the public an opportunity to provide focused comments

to SCRSG members so that the public's interests could be folded into the SCRSG's deliberations on Round 2 MPA proposals.

- Melissa Miller-Henson noted that the public comment opportunity was very well received, although some individuals expressed concern that the comments were not videotaped or webcast. She explained that only full SCRSG meetings are videotaped (at some expense) and this public comment opportunity was during an SCRSG work session.

Scan of Recent MLPA Meetings

MLPA Initiative staff gave an update on the SCRSG's May 19-21 work session/meeting. The SCRSG started with multiple arrays at the beginning of the May meeting (including three external proposals and six internal proposals). In their work groups, two of the gems groups reached convergence on a single proposal and the third gems group produced two proposals. Based on the efforts to implement the BRTF guidance to forward no more than six proposals for Round 2 evaluation, the I-Team used a straw voting process to allow the SCRSG to identify which external and non-converged internal proposals were to move forward for Round 2 evaluation. Chair Benninghoven and Melissa Miller-Henson reported that the current recommendation is to forward all proposals for evaluation.

Key comments included the following:

- Melissa Miller-Henson noted that Ken Wiseman had contacted over half of the SCRSG and concerns raised about the process included: limited opportunity for adequate representation, failure to combine duplicative proposals, concerns about proposals not meeting SAT guidelines, and stakeholders feeling "bullied" into accepting certain decisions.
- Chair Benninghoven noted that two external proposals (External B and External C) were close runners for last place and in the interest of keeping all interests at the table, thought it best to forward all proposals for Round 3.
- A number of SIG members indicated that they had received numerous calls and e-mails from SCRSG members expressing concern about the decision to move all of the proposals forward.
- Some SIG members also expressed support for the decision suggesting that retaining External Proposal C allowed all interests to have an opportunity to be fairly represented in the negotiations, addressed the concerns regarding duplicative proposals, and noted that a similar decision was made in the MLPA North Central Coast Project to retain a fishermen's proposal in the mix.
- Another SIG member asked for further clarification on why some stakeholders had felt they didn't have the opportunity to weigh in. The facilitation team staff noted that while personal attacks were addressed during meetings, there were examples of behavior out of the meeting rooms that were considered offensive. Additionally, time limitations coupled with the complexity of the study region and entrenched behavior from a subset of the interests supportive of an external proposal created an obstacle to more open and

effective dialogue. Facilitators also noted examples where real efforts to find mutual gains were made.

MLPA staff summarized the key analyses produced by the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT). Key products included a memo on hard and soft substrate data, completion of the marine birds and mammals evaluation, finalized water quality evaluation document for Round 2, completion of the assigned levels of protection for activities in Round 1 proposals, discussion of adaptive management issues and analysis of military use activities and their ecological considerations. The analysis of military use activities was a key document used to help frame the categories and frequency of activities in military areas and estimate their impact on the ecosystem.

Chair Benninghoven summarized the recent BRTF deliberations with the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD), California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and SAT on the classification of military use areas and explained the BRTF's decisions on how such areas should be considered in designing MPA proposals for Round 2 deliberations. He also noted that a written agreement with DoD on monitoring and enforcement of these areas is pending.

Comments from SIG Members

SIG members were invited to comment on the recent round of SAT, BRTF and SCRSG meetings and offer comments and suggestions on how public comment was handled.

- SIG member Ken Kurtis expressed concern that in recent e-mails and listserv messages, it appears as if some external players and even SCRSG members seem to be intent on derailing and defeating the process rather than exploring how to meet the guidelines of the MLPA with options they can support.
- SIG Member Samantha Murray noted that certain offensive behaviors of the audience in recent MLPA meetings were dissuading some members of the public from speaking.
- Ideas for streamlining public comment were considered. Among the ideas suggested were including asking speakers to identify "pro" or "con" on a particular topic; allowing individuals who have not yet spoken to be given priority or; encouraging use of a designated spokesperson to represent individuals on a particular issue. These suggestions were taken under consideration by MLPA staff for future events.

Updates on MLPA Phases

Susan Ashcraft of DFG summarized the status of the environmental impact report (EIR) for the MLPA North Central Coast Study Region. At the California Fish and Game Commission's last meeting, it was agreed that adding a new option to include/not include Sea Lion Cove did not constitute a new project. Certification of the EIR is expected at the August 2009 commission meeting.

I-Team staff discussed the upcoming open houses in the south coast study region scheduled for late June and early July 2009. The primary focus will be for the public to

provide input on the draft MPA proposals put forth by the SCRSG. An announcement will be distributed in the near term.

In the MLPA North Coast Study Region, Ecotrust workshops are tentatively scheduled for mid-June and open houses introducing the MLPA effort are anticipated for late July.

- SIG member Shelley Walther suggested that the open houses be structured so that the public could give suggestions directly to the I-Team. Staff noted that the stations at the open houses are designed to give the public ample opportunity to talk directly with I-Team staff.

Next Steps

The timeframe for the next SIG meeting was suggested for sometime after the open houses or sometime before the July BRTF meeting.

Chair Benninghoven and I-Team staff thanked the SIG for their honest comments and suggestions for improving the process.

California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
Statewide Interests Group
Draft Meeting Agenda
Revised April 9, 2009

April 10, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.

Via conference call

Meeting Objectives

- *Provide status report on recent and upcoming MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (SCRSG), Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) and Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT) meetings*
- *Provide update on phases of the MLPA Initiative process*
- *Receive comments and advice from Statewide Interests Group (SIG) members*

Meeting Agenda

- I. Welcome, roll call and logistics for meeting
 - Don Benninghoven, Chair, BRTF
 - Ken Wiseman, Executive Director, MLPA Initiative
 - Scott McCreary, Facilitator
- II. Follow-up from the SIG Introductory Meeting
 - Highlight Key Outcomes Memo
 - Budget Status Concerns for MLPA
 - Review the SIG Charge
- III. Status report on MLPA Initiative process; scan recent and upcoming meetings
 - South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group – round 1 options for draft MPA arrays
 - Master Plan Science Advisory Team – evaluation methods
 - Blue Ribbon Task Force – guidance
- IV. Comments from SIG Members
 - What went well in recent round of meetings?
 - Were the opportunities for public involvement clearly identified?
 - Suggestions for improvement?
- V. Provide brief update on phases of MLPA Initiative process
 - North Central Coast Study Region – release of draft environmental impact report (EIR)
 - South Coast Study Region – moving into round 2 development of draft proposals
 - North Coast Study Region – public workshops this summer
- VI. Recap and Next Steps
 - Scan time frame for next SIG meeting
 - Outline topics to cover at next meeting

Key Outcomes Memorandum

Date: April 17, 2009

To: Members, Marine Life Protection Act Statewide Interests Group

From: Scott McCreary, CONCUR, Inc.

Re: Key Outcomes Memorandum – April 10, 2009 SIG Meeting

Cc: BRTF members, MLPA Initiative Staff, California Department of Fish and Game MLPA Staff, and California Department of Parks and Recreation MLPA Staff

Participation and Materials

The following Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Statewide Interests Group (SIG) members participated in the April 10, 2009 conference call: Harold Davis, Fred Euphrat, Karen Garrison, Jonathan Hardy, Vivian Helliwell, Ken Kurtis, Jim Martin, Jere Melo, Shelly Walther, and Guangyu Wang.

Don Benninghoven participated as a member of the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF).

Ken Wiseman, Melissa Miller-Henson, Craig Shuman, and Dominique Monie participated on behalf of the MLPA Initiative staff (I-Team). I-Team member Scott McCreary facilitated the conference call.

The meeting agenda and materials may be found on the MLPA website at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/meetings.asp>

Key Outcomes

Don Benninghoven, chair of the BRTF, updated the SIG members on the status of recent and upcoming MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (SCRSG), Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF), and Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT) meetings. Nine proposals (six SCRSG and three external) were submitted to the SAT for review and were slated for review by the BRTF at its April 15-16 meeting. The SCRSG will be encouraged to 'reach across' the aisle during Round 2 to expand areas of convergence and then winnow the number of proposals at the end of Round 2, before SAT review.

Key comments included the following:

- Ken Wiseman, executive director for the MLPA Initiative, noted the great improvements in this region from the central coast, including the availability of more extensive data earlier in the process and the addition of MarineMap.

Ken Wiseman discussed his presentation at the California Fish and Game Commission meeting to share progress of MLPA implementation and discuss the budget, which was estimated to be anywhere from \$9 to \$43 million. The California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) has not been funded for hiring additional wardens, and there needs to be continuing lobbying for enforcement and monitoring funds. SIG members agreed that the SCRSG and BRTF should keep budgeting in mind when considering the scope and sizing of MPAs

Key comments included the following:

- SIG member Karen Garrison explained that the Channel Islands MPA budget has been \$400-800K per year for monitoring and enforcement, but this does not include the cost of outside monitoring assistance by other programs. The figure \$9 million for the MLPA includes all the costs for MLPA monitoring.
- Don Benninghoven commented that we will have to rely on volunteers and other state agencies to provide extra enforcement. Debating over the dollar amount will not be helpful at this stage.
- Melissa Miller-Henson commented that funding has consistently been a concern and recommendations should continue to be made to the BRTF regarding potential funding and potential partnerships for management.

Melissa Miller-Henson highlighted the charge of the SIG. The SIG was developed as a result of the pilot program in order to provide a statewide perspective and give input to the BRTF about statewide communication with stakeholders and the public, potential speakers for meetings, and ways to improve the overall process. The body has an opportunity to engage in conversation with the chair of the BRTF without making formal recommendations.

MLPA Initiative staff gave an update on the progress of the MLPA Initiative's work in the MLPA South Coast Study Region. The first stage for drafting options for arrays was primarily an information gathering opportunity. The next round will use and apply this information for the draft proposals, requiring much more compromise to reduce the number. The south coast is distinctive because of the large population of five counties, large number of stakeholders, large amount of scientific information, and information gaps that need to be filled with local knowledge by stakeholders. New components being brought to this region include water quality considerations and potential military closures and are currently being evaluated by staff and BRTF.

Key comments included the following:

- Ken Wiseman commented that the SAT has much diversity and experience, but would like more detailed scientific analysis of the region. However, we must use the best readily-available science. Including the BRTF in the

- process sooner will allow alternative solutions and common ground to be found earlier.
- Melissa Miller-Henson explained that, at the April 15-16 BRTF meeting, the first day will be spent understanding proposals, then a panel of stakeholders will explain the proposals and their strategies. The panel will include co-leads from gems groups and representatives of external proposals, who will interact with the BRTF and learn about water quality and military closure issues and how to address them.
 - SIG member Harold Davis asked how the BRTF can pick and choose from proposals when they don't know the areas any better than the stakeholders. How can the BRTF take the compromises made by the SCRSG into account when creating an integrated preferred alternative?
 - Ken Wiseman responded that not only does the BRTF forward the three SCRSG proposals to the California Fish and Game Commission, but the SCRSG has the opportunity to advocate their ideas in front of the BRTF, which will possibly craft a preferred alternative by blending the tradeoffs. The environmental review process calls for at least two alternatives, so if the SCRSG can narrow down the proposals to one, that's for the better.
 - A proposal was made by the Fisheries Information Network to use locals to fill in gaps in knowledge with studies by fishermen volunteers, but it was decided that neutral analysts should be used for such activity. Melissa Miller-Henson also pointed out that there is a minimum of 6-8 weeks for processing of data, so fine scale data will become more available as the process moves forward. The stakeholders can contribute to gaps in scientific knowledge with anecdotal information, which proved to be helpful in the MLPA North Central Coast Study Region.

MLPA staff asked for suggestions to improve RSG, SAT and BRTF meetings.

Key comments included the following:

- SIG member Guangyu Wang raised the question of whether the best data is being made available. Stakeholders would like a timeline for data completion rather than following a moving target as maps are continually updated.
- SIG member Shelly Walther noticed a remarkable improvement in availability in preparation for meetings and the process has been overall very positive. She suggested that the website be updated to make documents easier to find and that documents be released earlier for meetings, especially if it critical to decision making. She also raised the question of when MarineMap will be available to the public. Melissa Miller-Henson explained that the website is being updated and that the current priority for MarineMap is to make it available and functional to the SCRSG members.
- SIG members Shelly Walther and Jim Martin agreed that the limit of one minute for public comments is too short for explaining issues in detail. It was suggested that people consolidate similar comments to highlight a handful of issues and avoid repetition by using a common spokespersons. It was also

suggested that the deadline for public comment submission should be more transparent.

- The MLPA Initiative staff agreed that public commenting time is very limited, but there is a hard balancing act between public comments and important SCRSG deliberation time. The BRTF takes public comments very seriously and takes time to discuss both spoken and written comments. There is also a guideline sheet for making effective public comments.

The issue of legal challenges to the MLPA Initiative process has been settled, with the public-private partnership declared legal.

Next Steps

The north central coast draft environmental impact report public comment period ends on May 4. The California Fish and Game Commission will take comments on alternative proposals at the May and August 2009 meetings.

Upcoming south coast dates include:

- A BRTF meeting will occur in mid-May (probably May 12-13)
- The end of SCRSG Round 2 for draft MPA proposals is May 21
- MPA proposals will be finalized in Round 3, from August to September

The planning process for the MLPA North Coast Study Region will likely follow a similar timeline as the south coast, just one year later. Currently, Ecotrust is finalizing its contract and preparing for outreach workshops to start gathering data. The public education process will start in summer of 2009 and will include information on applying for the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group.

MLPA Initiative staff will send out a Doodle poll to coordinate a SIG meeting for May (likely between May 13-20).

Don thanked the SIG for the candid comments and will talk to the BRTF about the issues raised during this meeting.

California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
Statewide Interests Group
Draft Meeting Agenda
(revised February 11, 2009)

Friday, February 13, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.

Via conference call

Meeting Objectives

- *Members of the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Statewide Interests Group (SIG), MLPA staff and MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) introduce themselves to one another and become better acquainted*
- *Review charge of the SIG and confirm operating protocols*
- *Provide update on the MLPA Initiative process and participants*
- *Provide status report on the MLPA South Coast Project*
- *Discuss frequency and timing of future Statewide Interest Group conference calls*
- *Summarize next steps*

Meeting Agenda

A. Welcome, Roll Call, and Logistics for Conference Call

B. Introductions

- Name, organization, constituency
- Past involvement with MLPA

BRIEFING DOCUMENT B.1: Members of the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (December 2008)

BRIEFING DOCUMENT B.2: Members of the MLPA Statewide Interests Group (February 11, 2009)

BRIEFING DOCUMENT B.3: MLPA Staff and Their Roles in the MLPA Initiative (revised January 13, 2009)

C. Charge to the MLPA Statewide Interests Group

BRIEFING DOCUMENT C.1: Charter of the MLPA Statewide Interests Group (January 26, 2009)

D. MLPA Initiative Process and Participants

BRIEFING DOCUMENT D.1: Amendment to the MLPA Initiative Phase 2 memorandum of understanding (July 25, 2008)

BRIEFING DOCUMENT D.2: Key Players and Information Flow in the California MLPA Initiative (June 22, 2008)

BRIEFING DOCUMENT D.3: Members of the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team (September 15, 2008)

BRIEFING DOCUMENT D.4: Members of the MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (November 17, 2008)

BRIEFING DOCUMENT D.5: California Marine Life Protection Act (as amended July 2004)

BRIEFING DOCUMENT D.6: California Marine Managed Areas Improvement Act (as amended through January 2006)

E. MLPA South Coast Project

- Blue Ribbon Task Force
- Master Plan Science Advisory Team
- South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group
- Comments from SIG on what went well with meetings and suggestions for change

BRIEFING DOCUMENT E.1: California MLPA Initiative South Coast Project Overview (September 30, 2008)

BRIEFING DOCUMENT E.2: California MLPA Initiative South Coast Study Region Process Outline (June 20, 2008)

BRIEFING DOCUMENT E.3: Opportunities for Public Involvement in the MLPA South Coast Study Region (June 20, 2008)

BRIEFING DOCUMENT E.4: "Get Involved" brochure for the MLPA Initiative South Coast Project (November 13, 2008)

F. Future Statewide Interests Group Meetings

- Frequency, timing of meetings
- Future meeting topics

BRIEFING DOCUMENT F.1: Future Meetings Scheduled for the MLPA South Coast Study Region (February 6, 2009)

G. Recap and Next Steps

- Plan next SIG meeting

DRAFT Key Outcomes Memorandum

Date: March 26, 2009

To: Members, Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Statewide Interests Group (SIG)

From: Scott McCreary and Rebecca Tuden, CONCUR, Inc.

Re: Key Outcomes Memorandum – February 13, 2009 SIG Meeting

cc: BRTF members, MLPA Initiative Staff, California Department of Fish and Game MLPA Staff, California Department of Parks and Recreation MLPA Staff

Participation and Materials

The following Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Statewide Interest Group (SIG) members participated in the February 13, 2009 meeting via conference call: Benjamin Acker, Dave Bitts, Harold Davis, Fred Euphrat, Karen Garrison, Jonathan Hardy, Angela Haren, Vivian Helliwell, Kenyon Hensel, Ken Kurtis, Jim Martin, Jere Melo, Samantha Murray, Shelly Walther, and Guangyu Wang.

Don Benninghoven participated as chair of the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF).

Ken Wiseman, Melissa Miller-Henson and Craig Shuman participated on behalf of the MLPA Initiative staff (I-Team). Additional I-Team members Scott McCreary and Rebecca Tuden facilitated the meeting.

The meeting agenda and materials may be found on the MLPA website at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/meetings.asp>

Key Outcomes

Chair of the BRTF, Don Bennighoven, welcomed the newly appointed SIG members to the first SIG meeting of the MLPA Initiative's South Coast Study Region. Ken Wiseman, Executive Director for the MLPA Initiative summarized the charge of the SIG (Briefing Document C.1) emphasizing its role of providing a forum for enhanced communication and to assist with improved implementation and participation. It was explained that all of the SIG meetings are expected to take place by conference call. The SIG members then introduced themselves.

Key SIG comments included the following:

- SIG member Guangyu Wang raised a clarifying question about the SIG charge. I-Team staff noted that the language should be corrected to read, "...how to improve the progress in implementing, and to identify statewide issues that relate to and may affect, the MLPA Initiative".

- SIG Member Jim Martin noted that the SIG did not have any representation from charter boat operators. MLPA staff clarified that the SIG is different from the regional stakeholder groups in that the membership is not intended to represent every interest group in such a fine grained fashion. Rather, SIG discussions are intended to focus on a higher, statewide, level. Chair Benninghoven further commented that additional appointments may be entertained, as needed.

SIG members received an overview describing the genesis of the MLPA, its six goals and the background on the public-private partnership that led to the formation of the MLPA Initiative. I-Team staff member Melissa Miller-Henson also provided a description of the respective entities that are involved in the MLPA Initiative and the active public involvement component underway to involve members of the public in the MLPA effort. Key outreach efforts discussed included the public workshops, monthly newsletters, MLPA brochure and the upcoming tribal forum.

Key comments included the following:

- SIG member Ken Kurtis asked what information was available to SIG members who wished to conduct outreach to their constituents or interest groups. I-Team staff committed to transmit the existing PowerPoint presentation that has been made available to SCRSG members to assist with general talking points for public presentations.
- SIG member Shelly Walther raised the issue of the lengthy delay before meeting materials were available on the website. I-Team staff noted that a new software package, IQM2, is poised to be used by the MLPA Initiative and will allow for meeting materials to be available on the web simultaneously with the meetings rather than waiting for manual posting of documents to the website.
- SIG Member Ben Ackerman asked whether the California budget concerns affect the MLPA timeline. Ken Wiseman responded that the unique public-private partnership made it possible for the MLPA Initiative to continue with its planned timeline and, while some cost-cutting measures are in order, the planning process was generally unaffected. I-Team staff agreed to distribute the news release and letter from Secretary Chrisman explaining that budget implications were not directly affecting the MLPA Initiative.

MLPA Initiative staff gave a status report on the progress and status of the MLPA South Coast Project.

Key comments included:

- SIG member Jonathan Hardy asked about the timing of SAT research and whether it was causing any delay in the SCRSG's process. I-Team staff clarified that the SAT does not conduct new research but relies on the best readily available science and information to develop methods to support the MLPA Initiative planning process. Many of the SAT's determinations about finalizing analytical methods based upon data for the south coast study region have

already been provided in preliminary form to the SCRSG and the final determinations were expected imminently.

- SIG Member Harold Davis asked about the expected timing to complete mapping of the substrate data for the study region. I-Team staff took the opportunity to discuss the newest MPA planning tool, MarineMap, and encourage the SIG members to explore the website and its usefulness in assisting with MPA planning. The final installment of the substrate data is expected to be delivered to MLPA staff by the end of February 2009.

MLPA Initiative staff raised a question about the SIG members' preferred option for the timing and sequencing of future meetings. In previous study regions, the SIG has met after BRTF meetings to discuss emerging topics. It was determined that the next steps in the planning process in the south coast study region, including submittal of external proposals and initial draft arrays from the SCRSG merited a meeting in the near future. The facilitators also asked whether there were any key topics or items the SIG members would like to discuss at the upcoming meeting.

Key comments included:

- A number of SIG members expressed their preference for meeting more frequently and, as needed, having shorter calls.
- SIG Member Jim Martin mentioned wave energy analysis as a potential topic for future SIG meetings with particular relevance in the north coast study region. Of potential consideration is how siting of future wave energy projects will affect the designation of marine protected areas.
- SIG member Ken Kurtis raised the issue of public access to the process and how best to enable the public to weigh in and provide input to the SCRSG process.

Next Steps

Facilitator Scott McCreary and Executive Director Ken Wiseman thanked everyone for their participation in the SIG conference call and said that a formal date for the next SIG call has not been set but would be held sometime after the SCRSG meeting in early March. Staff will send out a "doodle poll" on preferred meeting dates.

Attachments:

MLPA Public Education and Outreach Powerpoint Presentation for Stakeholders
MLPA News Release and letter from Secretary Mike Chrisman regarding the MLPA Initiative response on budget concerns
MLPA Statewide Interests Group charter

Marine Life Protection Act

- Signed into California state law in 1999
 - Improve the design and management of marine protected areas (MPAs) in state waters
 - Focuses on marine ecosystems and habitats rather than single species
- Requires
 - Master plan for MPAs
 - Use of “best readily available science”
 - Involvement of stakeholders and other interested parties

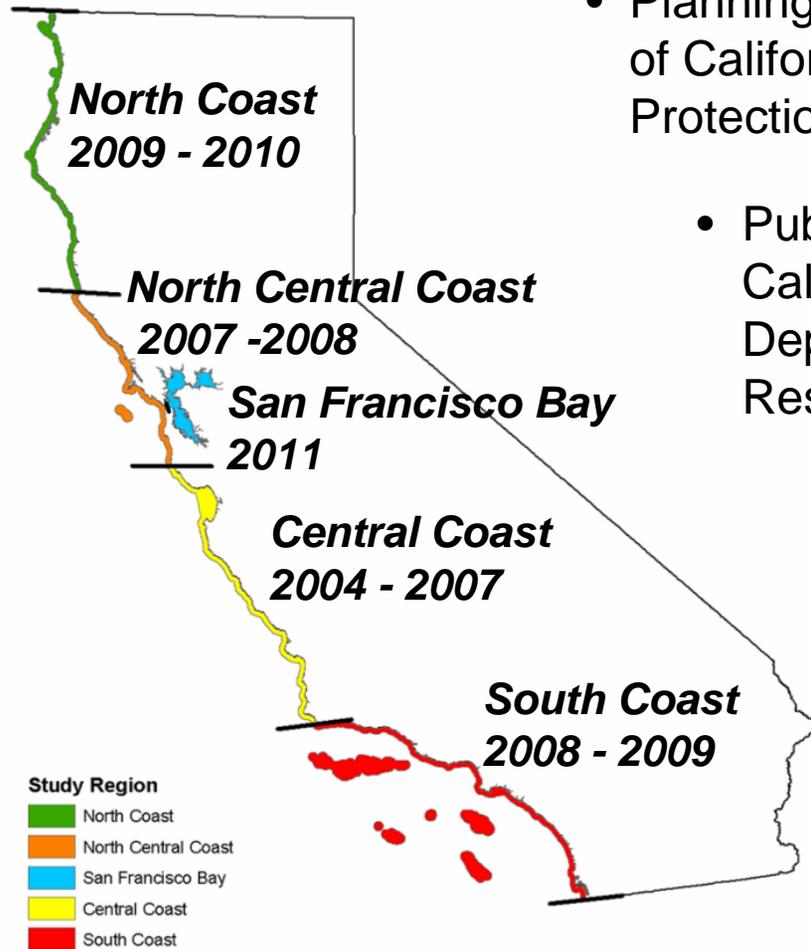
Six Goals of MLPA

1. To protect the natural diversity and abundance of marine life, and the structure, function and integrity of marine ecosystems
2. To help sustain, conserve, and protect marine life populations, including those of economic value, and rebuild those that are depleted
3. To improve recreational, educational and study opportunities provided by marine ecosystems that are subject to minimal human disturbance, and to manage these uses in a manner consistent with protecting biodiversity

Six Goals of MLPA (cont'd)

4. To protect marine natural heritage, including protection of representative and unique marine life habitats in California waters for their intrinsic value
5. To ensure that California's MPAs have clearly defined objectives, effective management measures, and adequate enforcement, and are based on sound scientific guidelines
6. To ensure that the state's MPAs are designed and managed, to the extent possible, as a network

The MLPA Initiative



- Planning process designed to help the State of California implement the Marine Life Protection Act
- Public-private partnership among California Resources Agency, California Department of Fish and Game, and Resources Legacy Fund Foundation
- California divided into five study regions
- Stakeholder-driven, transparent process with public input at every stage

MLPA Initiative Participants

- Institutional partners
- MLPA Initiative groups and contractors
- Stakeholders
- General public

Institutional Partners



California Natural Resources Agency



California Department of Fish and Game

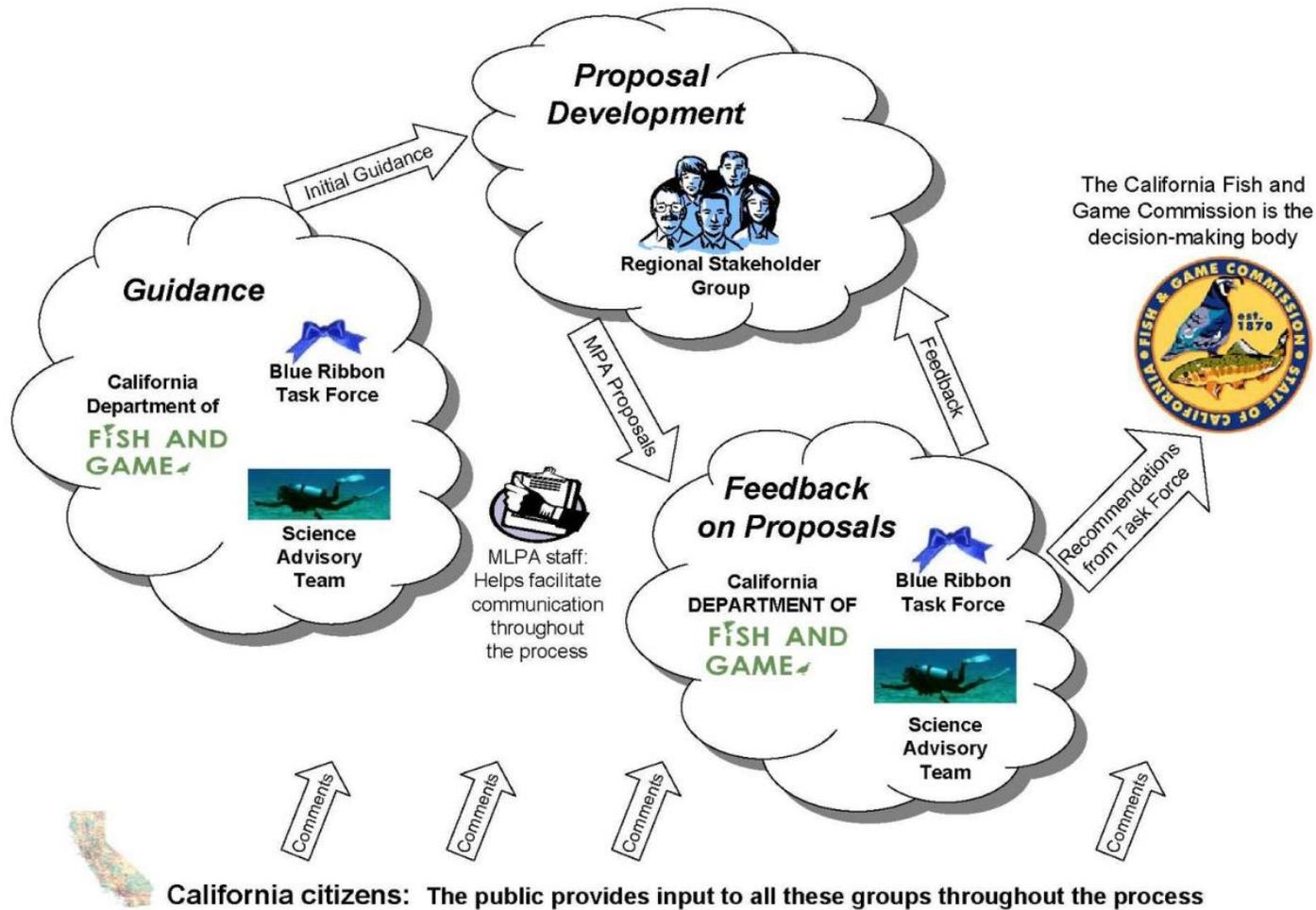


Resources Legacy Fund Foundation

MLPA Initiative Groups

- Blue ribbon task force
- Statewide interests group
- Regional stakeholder group
- Master plan science advisory team
- Staff and contractors

Information Flow



Existing Marine Protected Areas



Map 2.0 - 1 South Coast Study Region
Existing Marine Protected Areas

- Study Region Boundary
- Existing State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA)
- Existing State Marine Park (SMP)
- Existing State Marine Reserve (SMR = No Take)
- Existing Special Closure

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative

Jul 01, 2008



Projection: California Teale Albers NAD 83

Scale 1:1,394,775

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

- **SMCA** - State Marine Conservation Area
- **SMP** - State Marine Park
- **SMR** - State Marine Reserve

Common Concerns

- There is **NOT** a minimum area in each study region that needs to be set aside as MPAs
- The science team does **NOT** “draws lines” for MPA proposals
- Private foundations do **NOT** direct the development or adoption of MPA proposals
- There is **NOT** a dearth of scientific data that MPAs are a useful management tool
- All human activities do **NOT** end after an area is designated as an MPA

Learn More, Become Involved!

- Visit the MLPA website or contact staff
- Contact a member of the stakeholder group to express your interests and views
- Attend public meetings, or watch them (live and archived) on the MLPA website
- Add yourself to the mailing list
- Comment on draft documents and proposals
- Send comments (e-mail, fax or postal)

Contact Information

- **Email:** MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov
- **Website:** www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/
- **Fax:** 916-653-8102 Attn: MLPA Initiative
- **Phone:** 916-654-1885
- **Mail:** MLPA Initiative
c/o California Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative

1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311 Sacramento, CA 95814 916.653.5656

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Jan. 29, 2009

CONTACT:

Annie Reisewitz, California MLPA Initiative

858-228-0526

Jordan Traverso, Department of Fish and Game

916-654-9937

CALIFORNIA'S MLPA INITIATIVE CONTINUES PUBLIC PROCESS TO COMPLETE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

Public-private partnership provides bridge funding for mapping project

SACRAMENTO – California's Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Initiative will continue its public process to complete recommendations for a statewide network of marine protected areas. The MLPA's planning budget has not been impacted by the state's current fiscal issues.

In response to the state's temporary freeze of bond funds, the MLPA Initiative has secured private funding through its public-private partnership to complete a habitat-mapping project that will support the marine protected area (MPA) planning process in Southern California. The initiative is also seeking additional private support for scientific monitoring along the central coast and north central coast, as well as to supplement public funding as necessary to successfully achieve the goals of the MLPA.

"The task force is charged with developing recommendations for MPAs in the south coast, as well as identifying ways to improve state and federal coordination," said Don Benninghoven, chair of the MLPA Initiative Blue Ribbon Task Force. "I am confident that we will continue to meet the objectives of the public-private partnership during these tough economic times."

The California Natural Resources Agency and California Department of Fish and Game have partnered with the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation and others to achieve the MLPA goals. This public-private partnership combines both state and private funding to conduct the planning work leading up to implementation. The planning process is guided by the advice of scientists, resource managers, experts, stakeholders and by members of the public.

"We owe it to our stakeholders, scientists and members of the public who have dedicated their valuable time and energy to carry this public process forward," said MLPA Initiative Executive Director Ken Wiseman. "Today Secretary for Natural Resources Mike Chrisman confirmed the Governor's commitment to meeting the statutory goals of the MLPA, and working together we will ensure that this stakeholder-driven process is successfully completed."

Secretary Chrisman appoints the members of the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force, which is charged with overseeing the MLPA Initiative. In a letter to members of the Partnership for Sustainable Oceans, he made it clear that public-private partnerships will continue to be key in implementing the MLPA and other natural resource management statutes.

"California already has numerous partners engaged in the long-term management of our natural resources, whether it is enforcement and outreach or research and on-site

management, and those essential relationships will continue to be the foundation of our management strategy,” said Secretary Chrisman. [The secretary’s letter is attached.]

The MLPA, enacted in 1999, directs the state to design and manage a system of MPAs in order to, among other things, protect marine life and habitats, marine ecosystems, and marine natural heritage, as well as improve recreational, educational and study opportunities provided by marine ecosystems. MPAs are discrete geographic marine or estuarine areas designed to protect or conserve marine life and habitat.

A regional approach is being used in the MLPA Initiative, where California’s 1,100- mile coastline has been divided into five study regions. In September of 2007, regulations for the first of the five study regions were implemented for the central coast (Pigeon Point in San Mateo County to Point Conception in Santa Barbara County). In the second study region, four proposals for redesigning MPAs in the north central coast (Alder Creek in Mendocino County to Pigeon Point) are under consideration by the California Fish and Game Commission; regulations are expected to be adopted by the commission in 2009.

The MLPA Initiative is currently in the planning process in the MLPA South Coast Study Region (Point Conception to the California border with Mexico in San Diego County, including offshore islands); recommendations for this study region are expected to be presented to the California Fish and Game Commission in late 2009.

The MLPA requires the California Fish and Game Commission to adopt a master plan, based on the best readily available science, that will guide the adoption and implementation of a Marine Life Protection Program within the California Department of Fish and Game. In addition to the MLPA South Coast Study Region planning process, two other study region planning processes (north coast and San Francisco Bay) will take place between 2009 and 2011.

For more information about the MLPA Initiative, please visit <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa>.



January 29, 2009

Gordon Robertson, Vice President
American Sportfishing Association

Bob Franko, Chairman
Coastside Fishing Club

Jim Klark, Government Affairs
Southern California Marine Association

Bob Fletcher, President
Sportfishing Association of California

Dear Gordon, Bob, Jim and Bob,

Thank you for your January 14, 2009, letter to Governor Schwarzenegger regarding implementation of the California Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA). The Governor has asked me to respond on his behalf. Specifically, you raised concerns about the availability of funds necessary to implement the MLPA going forward and the cost of implementing marine protected areas (MPAs) during the state's fiscal crisis. Be assured that the current MLPA process is appropriately funded and will continue, as you agree in your letter that it should.

The most recent budget the Governor sent to the Legislature, and in fact every budget he has sent to the Legislature since taking office, has included funding for the MLPA process. As you know, the Schwarzenegger Administration has been tireless in our commitment to protect California's oceans and coasts. While the Pooled Money Investment Board has suspended bond funding for certain MLPA-related research and monitoring activities, bond funds will become available again once the Legislature is able to pass a budget that the Governor can sign. In at least one case, alternative funding has already been solicited and approved to continue the work; we have advised all projects impacted by the bond freeze to take similar actions to ensure minimal disruption. The public-private partnership, established to ensure the success of MLPA Initiative, has continued to assist California in identifying other sources of funding for these important projects.

The MLPA planning process is currently unaffected by the state's fiscal issues and our public-private partnership is strong, enabling us to continue the good work of redesigning and implementing California's system of marine protected areas.

1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311, Sacramento, CA 95814 Ph. 916.653.5656 Fax 916.653.8102 <http://resources.ca.gov>



Members of Partnership for Sustainable Oceans

January 29, 2009

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I share your concerns regarding enforcement, public outreach and education, and scientific research and monitoring. The truth is that having complete funding to manage alone manage all of California's natural resources is an insurmountable task. This is why public-private partnerships, like the MLPA Initiative, are so important, not only for planning purposes, but also for long-term management.

California already has numerous partners engaged in the long-term management of our natural resources, whether it is enforcement and outreach or research and on-site management, and those essential relationships will continue to be the foundation of our management strategy. In ocean resource management, we will continue to work with our government and not-for-profit partners, such as the National Marine Sanctuary Program, National Marine Protected Areas Center, and Marine Conservation Biology Institute, to help ensure long-term stewardship for current and future generations.

Currently there are more than 60 MPAs along California's coast that were established outside of the current MLPA Initiative and without any coherent plan or with a basis in sound scientific guidelines. Many of these MPAs even lack clearly defined purposes. As a result, the existing array of MPAs falls far short of its potential to protect and conserve living marine resources. Modifying the existing collection of MPAs to ensure that they are designed in accordance with sound science and clear, ecosystem-based goals and guidelines allows us to take greater advantage of the multiple benefits that can be derived from a system of marine protected areas.

We appreciate that fisheries management in California has improved in recent years and that some of those management activities may help meet the goals of the MLPA. In fact, the MLPA expressly states that MPAs and fisheries management are complementary. California's primary state fisheries management statute, the Marine Life Management Act, acknowledges that conservation and management programs (such as that being developed under the MLPA) help ensure conservation and facilitate long-term protection of fishery resources.

Although MPAs and fisheries management are complementary, they are not equivalent. The purpose of habitat protection in the MLMA is to advance the "primary fishery management goal" of sustainability and so may only provide limited protection of a particular habitat. Conversely, although the MLPA considers fishery habitat, it also encompasses broader, ecosystem-based objectives that are not limited to *only*

Members of Partnership for Sustainable Oceans

January 29, 2009

Page 2

Managing fisheries; the MLPA is intended to improve our system of MPAs in order to protect marine life, habitat and ecosystems. In short, some goals of the MLPA simply cannot be achieved with traditional fisheries management.

Thank you again for your attention to the MLPA process and for expressing your concerns that we all share and will continue to address. On behalf of Governor Schwarzenegger, thank you too for your continued support of the MLPA process. It is only by working together that we will ensure the healthy future of California's ocean and coast.

Sincerely,



Mike Chrisman
Secretary for Natural Resources

cc: Vickie Bradshaw, Cabinet Secretary
David Crane, Senior Advisor to Governor Schwarzenegger
Donald Koch, Director, California Department of Fish and Game
Members, California Fish and Game Commission
John Carlson, Executive Director, California Fish and Game Commission
Members, MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force
Ken Wiseman, Executive Director, MLPA Initiative
Members, California State Senate
Members, California State Assembly

California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
Charter of the MLPA Statewide Interests Group, 2009
Revised February 17, 2009

Official Name: This group officially is designated as the MLPA Statewide Interests Group (SIG) to the MLPA 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. 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 the blue ribbon task force, in the north central coast (Alder Creek in Mendocino County to Pigeon Point in San Mateo County). The second MOU was amended in July 2008 to continue the public-private partnership in the remaining study regions (south coast, north coast and San Francisco Bay).

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 has been created again under the second phase MOU.

Membership: The SIG will consist of approximately 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.

Term: Each member of the SIG shall serve through December 2009, or until relieved of duties, at the pleasure of the chair of the BRTF.

Charge: The SIG is intended to provide a forum for enhanced communication between the task force and stakeholders during the MLPA South Coast Project. To that end, the SIG will advise the chair of the task force and MLPA staff regarding:

- how to improve the progress in implementing, and to identify statewide issues that relate to or may affect, the MLPA Initiative,
- ways to increase public and stakeholder participation in the MLPA Initiative,
- strategies for outreach to constituent groups,
- potential panel speakers for task force and other meetings, and
- other issues as identified by the task force.

The SIG's role is not to negotiate or decide issues for the task force, and participants are not expected 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 February and December 2009. 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.