

**DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

http://www.dfg.ca.gov  
Marine Region  
20 Lower Ragsdale Drive, Suite 100  
Monterey, California 93940



March 09, 2007

**Re: Notice of Completion and Availability of Final Environmental Impact Report for proposed Marine Protected Areas within the Central California Coast**

To Interested Parties:

The California Fish and Game Commission (Commission), as lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), is pleased to provide the public with this final environmental impact report (Final EIR) for the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Initiative Central Coast Marine Protected Areas Project. The final EIR provides details on potential environmental impacts of a range of proposed alternative marine protected areas (MPAs) in State waters within the central California coast region [State waters between Pigeon Point (San Mateo County) and Point Conception (Santa Barbara County)]. The Final EIR contains changes to the Draft EIR as well as the public comments received regarding the Draft and the Department of Fish and Game's (Department's) response to those comments.

The project objectives are to help protect, maintain, restore, enhance, and manage living marine resources by developing this portion of the MLPA required network of MPAs. Take of finfish, marine plants and/or invertebrates may be prohibited or restricted in several areas by regulations established by the Commission and implemented by the California Department of Fish and Game (Department). In addition to the Proposed Project, the Final EIR analyzes two project alternatives, which were developed by the Blue Ribbon Task Force and regional stakeholders. The Commission is currently considering these proposed alternatives for potential new regulations and will make a decision on the alternatives on April 13, 2007 in Bodega Bay. Additional information on the Proposed Project, project alternatives, and the development process is available at [www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/mlpa](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/mlpa).

**Document Availability:** A copy of the Final EIR and all reference documents are available for review during Department business hours at the Department Marine Region office identified above, as well as other Department Marine Region offices and various public libraries (call 831-649-2893 for a full list of locations).

Sincerely,

Gary Stacey  
Regional Manager  
Marine Region