

California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative

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Statement from MLPA Initiative Executive Director Ken Wiseman Regarding Completion of Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal Development

This week in Fortuna the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG) completed a single marine protected area (MPA) proposal for the north coast study region. This significant achievement marks the first time a regional stakeholder group has arrived at a single proposal, and I applaud the NCRSG members' dedication to designing a proposal that they believe balances the needs and concerns of the north coast community with the requirements of the MLPA and guidelines of the master plan for MPAs.

Currently, MLPA Initiative staff is working with the NCRSG to review the MPA proposal to confirm it accurately reflects the NCRSG's decisions; the NCRSG is also busy developing supporting documents to describe the rationale behind the approach to develop its single MPA proposal. The proposal and supporting materials will be posted on the MLPA website and MarineMap by Thursday, September 16 for public review and comment; a message will be shared via the MLPA Initiative listserv when it is available. Between now and then, I encourage anyone eager to view the NCRSG's recommendations to watch the [archived webcast](#).

It has truly been an honor to watch the NCRSG's progress and efforts to incorporate the interests of north coast communities into the MPA planning process. Many NCRSG members began this journey over a year ago through the community external array process. Collectively the NCRSG members have worked together to achieve this goal in honor of their former colleague, Skip Wollenberg, who passed away in August and supported a unified, community-based proposal.

I look forward to the upcoming MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force meeting in Fortuna on October 25-27, when the NCRSG will present its single proposal for consideration. Congratulations to the members of the NCRSG for their determination and hard work – and, perhaps most importantly, for exemplifying a respectful, stakeholder-based, collaborative process.