

**Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
Public Comments Submitted
through June 30, 2010**



**Support Marine Protection on
California's North Coast**

Dear

EUREKA CA 955



The coast and ocean are a critically important part of what makes the North Coast of California such a great place to live and visit. The Marine Life Protection Act provides us with a unique opportunity to map a vision for our coast that will benefit all Californians. A well-informed network of marine protected areas from Point Arena to the Oregon border will ensure a rich legacy of ocean resources, enduring respect for indigenous cultures, and a vibrant fishery for generations to come.

I urge you to support the protection of the North Coast's diverse marine resources and way of life as implementation of the Marine Life Protection Act proceeds in the region.

Sincerely,

Bruce Thompson
 (Name and City) SANTA ROSA, CA

Carey West
 (Name and City)

ESTHER STOKES
 (Name and City) MC Kinleyville, CA

MLPA Initiative - BRTF
 c/o CA Natural Resources Agency
 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
 Sacramento CA 95814

RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA

JUN 25 2010

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 Office of the Secretary

JUN 05 2010

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Support Marine Protection on California's North Coast

Dear

EUREKA CA 955

25 JUN 2010 PM 1 L



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MLPA Initiative - BRTF
c/o CA Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento CA 95814

RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA

JUN 25 2010

Office of the Secretary

RECEIVED BY

Sincerely,

DAVID HAM 95524

Sincerely,

(Name and City) Arcata, CA

JUN 25 2010

Office of the Secretary

RECEIVED BY

(Name and City) Arcata, CA

Office of the Secretary

RECEIVED BY



Support Marine Protection on California's North Coast

Dear

EUREKA CA 955



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JUN 25 2010 PM 1 L

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MLPA Initiative - BRTF
c/o CA Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento CA 95814

Sincerely,

Michael Morse (ARCATA)

(Name and City)

RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA

JUN 25 2010

Office of the Secretary

RECEIVED

From: Abi Queen [mailto:albqueen@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, June 27, 2010 9:56 AM
To: MLPAComments
Subject: Public Comment to BRTF

Please distribute the two attached documents to the NCSR BRTF on behalf of the Petrolia community's MLPA group.

Attachment 1: follow-up to our May 28th request that the Petrolia MPAs be evaluated as a cluster

Attachment 2: Petrolia's input regarding the Round 2 arrays

Thank you,
Abi Queen
768-3643

From: Abi Queen [mailto:albqueen@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, June 27, 2010 9:59 AM
To: MLPAComments
Subject: Public Comment to North Coast RSG

Please distribute the two attached documents to the North Coast RSG on behalf of the Petrolia community's MLPA group.

Attachment 1: follow-up to our May 28th request that the Petrolia MPAs be evaluated as a cluster

Attachment 2: Petrolia's input regarding the Round 2 arrays

Thank you,
Abi Queen
768-3643

From: Abi Queen [mailto:albqueen@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, June 27, 2010 10:00 AM
To: MLPAComments
Subject: Public Comment to SAT

Please distribute the two attached documents to the SAT on behalf of the Petrolia community's MLPA group.

Attachment 1: follow-up to our May 28th request that the Petrolia MPAs be evaluated as a cluster

Attachment 2: Petrolia's input regarding the Round 2 arrays

Thank you,
Abi Queen
768-3643

June 27, 2010

To: Science Advisory Team
Blue Ribbon Task Force
MLPA Initiative Team

From: Petrolia delegation

We are a group of community members who represent the interests of Petrolia since the area was not accorded a Stakeholder in the MLPA process.

Stephen Umbertis: stephenu@gmail.com, (707) 599-9600

Abi & Patrick Queen: albqueen@gmail.com, (707) 768-3643

Cisco Benemann: ciscoslivinthedream@gmail.com, (707) 223-0825

Jeff & Brook Hoalton: brooktrout.h@gmail.com, (707) 629-3607

Re: follow-up to our May 28th request to evaluate the Petrolia MPAs as a backbone high protection cluster

Summary:

This document contains a few important follow-up items relevant to our proposal that the SAT evaluate the Petrolia MPAs as a cluster and a high protection backbone of the North Coast MPA network.

Contents:

1. Illustration of the Petrolia petition's widespread regional support
2. Two brief e-mails in support of our May 28th proposal
3. Corrections to the May 28th "cluster" proposal
 - a) add language on tribal rights
 - b) switch labels on Cooskie and Randall Creeks
4. Attachments
 - a) Map of Petrolia's MPAs
 - b) Petrolia's limits to adjusting our MPA borders

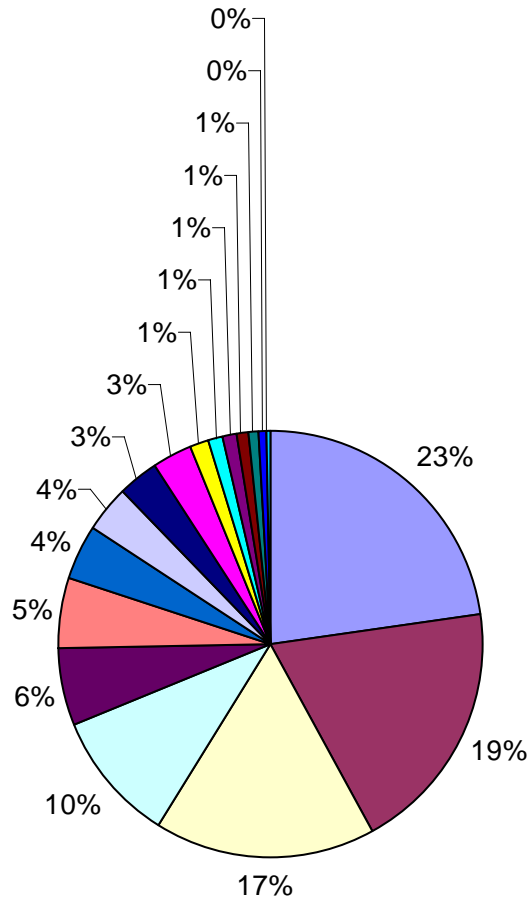
Thank you for considering this public input.

1. Illustration of the Petrolia petition's widespread regional support

This chart reflects the home addresses of the 716 people who signed the Petrolia petition in April and May 2010.

The distribution shows that our petition is supported by citizens from a wide range of Humboldt County locations, not just residents of the Mattole Valley.

The Petrolia community has shown its support with cash donations as well. A donation jar for our travel expenses etc. was left at the Petrolia store in April and has since collected well over \$300.

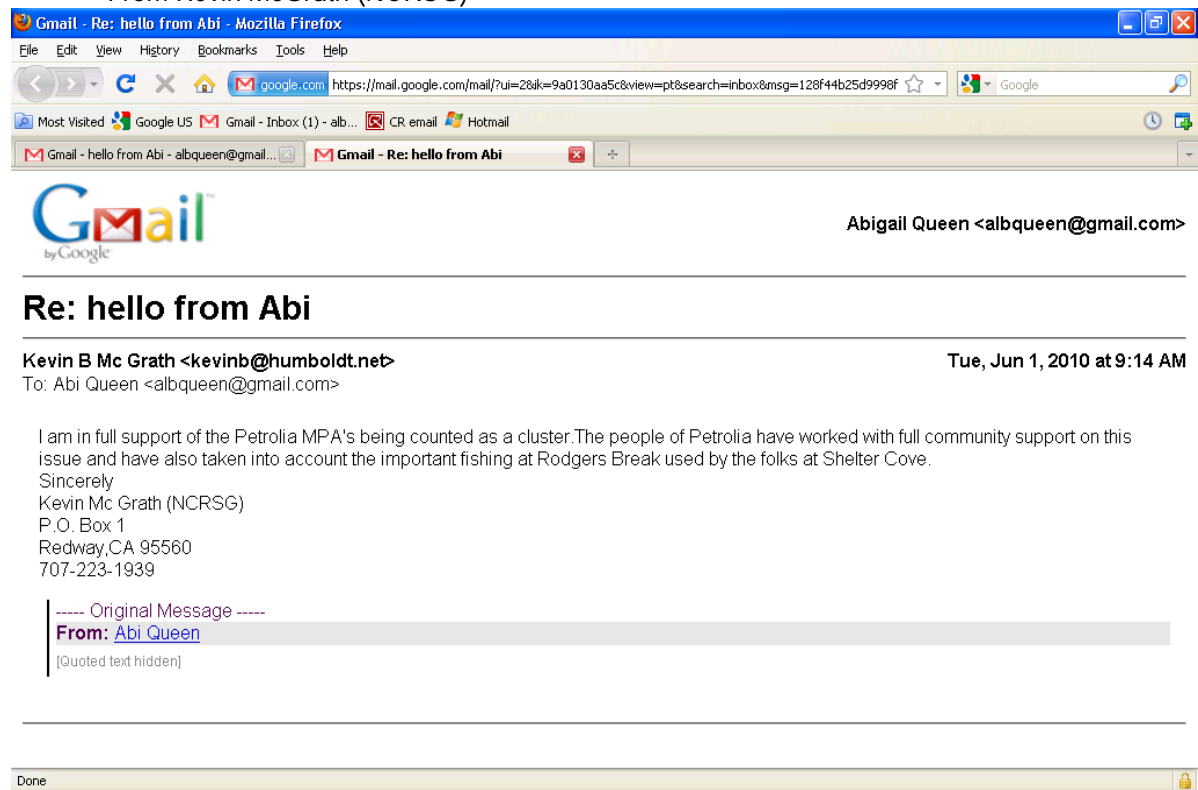


Locations of Petrolia petition signatories

- Petrolia
- Ferndale
- Fortuna
- Eureka/Cutten/Samoa
- Honeydew/Wilder Ridge
- Carlotta
- Hydesville
- Rio Dell/Scotia
- other southern Humboldt
- Arcata/McKinleyville/Fieldbrook
- Garberville/Redway
- other Hwy. 36
- undisclosed address
- out of Humboldt
- Loleta
- Willow Creek
- Blue Lake

2. Two brief emails in support of our May 28th proposal

- From Kevin McGrath (NCRSG)



Gmail - Re: hello from Abi - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

google.com https://mail.google.com/mail/?ui=2&ik=9a0130aa5c&view=pt&search=inbox&msg=128f44b25d9998f

Most Visited Google US Gmail - Inbox (1) - alb... CR email Hotmail

Gmail - hello from Abi - albqueen@gmail... Gmail - Re: hello from Abi

Gmail
by Google

Abigail Queen <albqueen@gmail.com>

Re: hello from Abi

Kevin B Mc Grath <kevinb@humboldt.net> Tue, Jun 1, 2010 at 9:14 AM
To: Abi Queen <albqueen@gmail.com>

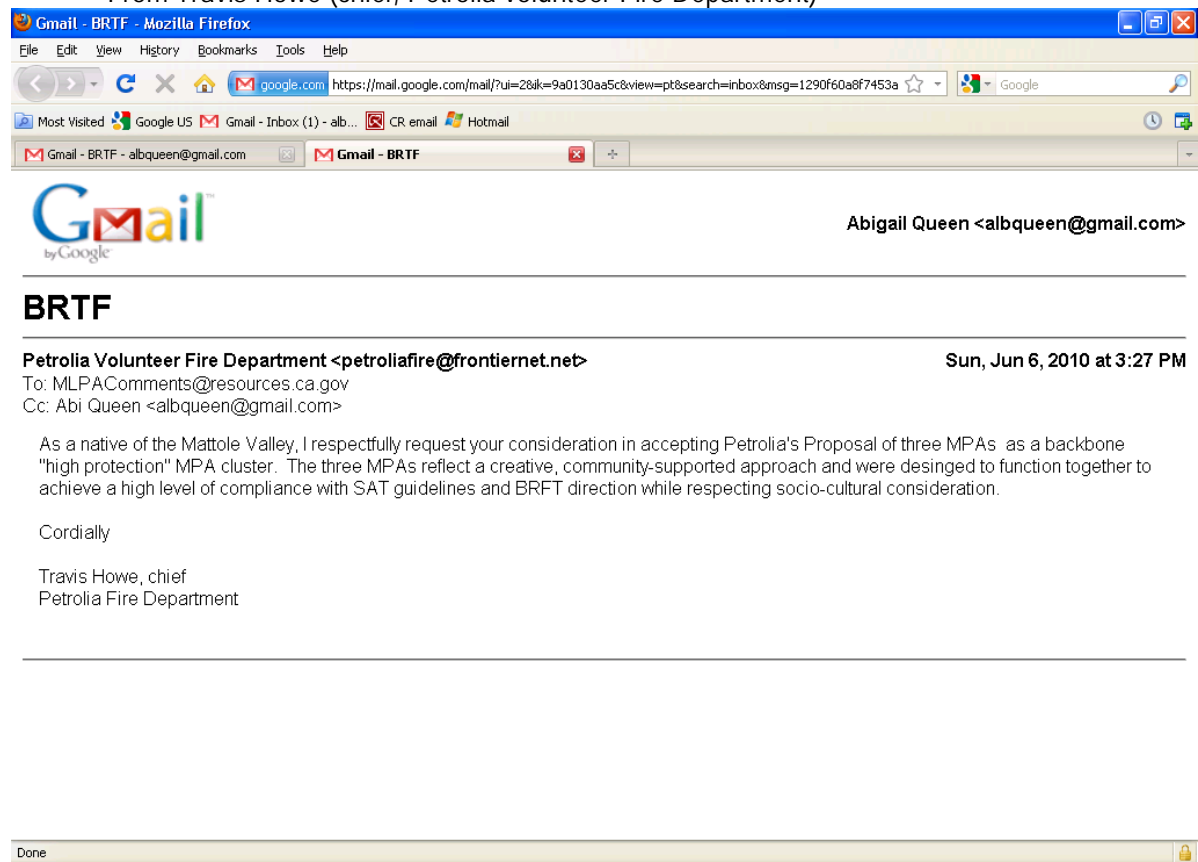
I am in full support of the Petrolia MPA's being counted as a cluster. The people of Petrolia have worked with full community support on this issue and have also taken into account the important fishing at Rodgers Break used by the folks at Shelter Cove.

Sincerely
Kevin Mc Grath (NCRSG)
P.O. Box 1
Redway, CA 95560
707-223-1939

----- Original Message -----
From: Abi Queen
[Quoted text hidden]

Done

- From Travis Howe (chief, Petrolia volunteer Fire Department)



Gmail - BRTF - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

google.com https://mail.google.com/mail/?ui=2&ik=9a0130aa5c&view=pt&search=inbox&msg=1290f60a8f7453a

Most Visited Google US Gmail - Inbox (1) - alb... CR email Hotmail

Gmail - BRTF - albqueen@gmail.com Gmail - BRTF

Gmail
by Google

Abigail Queen <albqueen@gmail.com>

BRTF

Petrolia Volunteer Fire Department <petroliafire@frontiernet.net> Sun, Jun 6, 2010 at 3:27 PM
To: MLPACComments@resources.ca.gov
Cc: Abi Queen <albqueen@gmail.com>

As a native of the Mattole Valley, I respectfully request your consideration in accepting Petrolia's Proposal of three MPAs as a backbone "high protection" MPA cluster. The three MPAs reflect a creative, community-supported approach and were designed to function together to achieve a high level of compliance with SAT guidelines and BRTF direction while respecting socio-cultural consideration.

Cordially

Travis Howe, chief
Petrolia Fire Department

Done

3. Corrections to the May 28th proposal

Please note the following corrections to our May proposal about evaluating the Petrolia MPAs' cluster-like function.

a) add language on tribal rights

It is important that no tribal uses are prohibited in the three Petrolia MPAs. Obviously the State of California has no more right than the US Federal Government to limit tribal peoples' traditional marine gathering activities. DFG and MLPAI need to solve this policy problem. Until a solution is found, however, we would like to be sure that tribal peoples are *not* restricted in any way by our community proposal. Our intention is to allow all tribal activities in the Petrolia MPAs.

b) switch labels on Cooskie and Randall Creeks

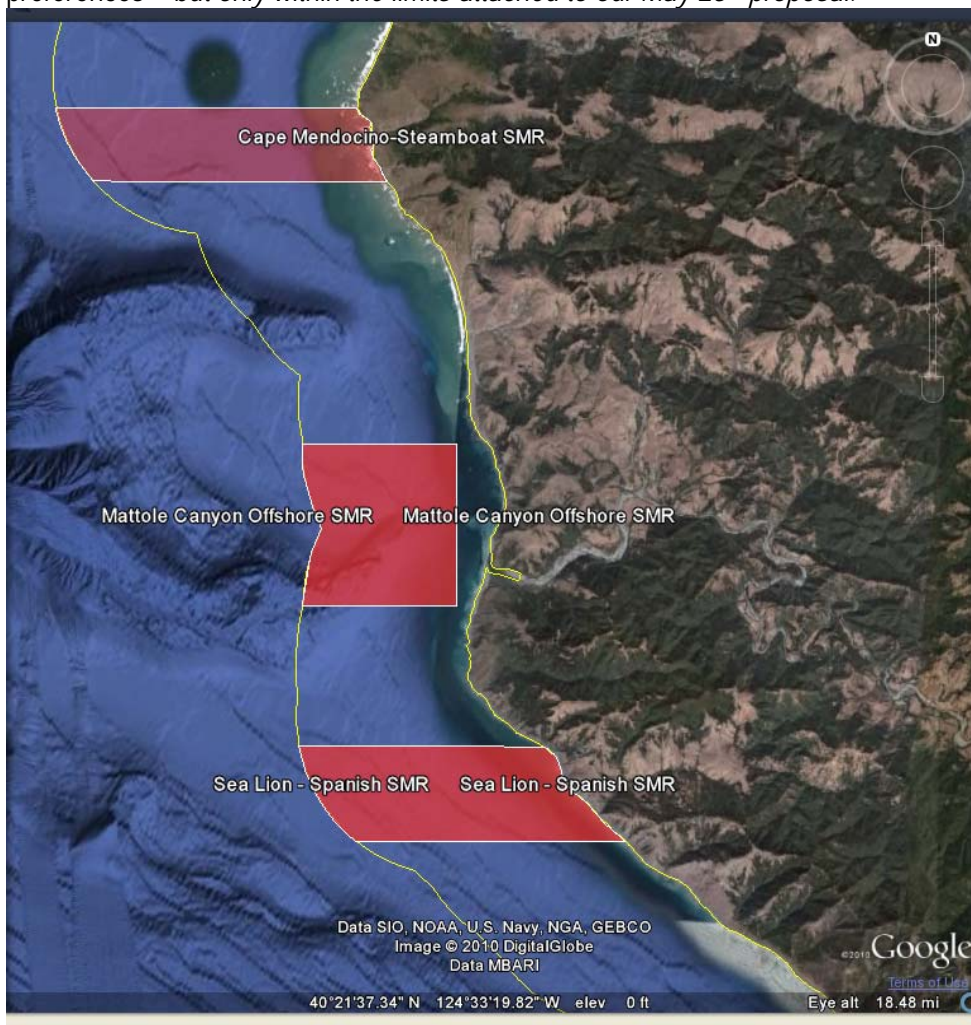
In some places in the proposal, the name Randall Creek should read "Cooskie Creek". The maps do not change at all – it was just a name switch resulting from an editorial error. Sorry.

4. Attachments

FYI

a) Map of Petrolia's MPAs

These maps are readily viewable by anyone with a NCSR Marine Map account: under "shared with me > share with all north coast marine map users > Abi Queen". Please keep in mind that the Petrolia community will accept adjustments to these proposed borders in order to meet SAT and RSG preferences – *but only within the limits attached to our May 28th proposal.*



b) Petrolia's limits to adjusting our MPA borders

The following points are a summary of the Petrolia community's "bottom line" with respect to the borders of the MPAs developed at the May 19th Crescent City work session. Whenever the RSG, SAT, or BRTF adjusts the borders of the three Petrolia MPAs, we hope that you will keep in mind the limits below.

- Cape Mendocino – Steamboat SMR
 - must not capture the rocks around Devil's Gate:
A number of Petrolia folks gather mussels, seaweed, and abs there. We launch our Zodiacs at Zanoni's beach to rockfish near Devil's Gate. Also, non-Petrolia kayak fishermen and divers use this area. A huge number of Petrolia people, and others who have signed our petition, would be seriously impacted by the loss of shore and rock fishing area south of Steamboat Rock around Devil's Gate. Moving the boundary south of Steamboat Rock / Dry Creek may also compromise DFG enforcement feasibility.

- Mattole Canyon Offshore SMR
 - must be feasible for Fish & Game enforcement:
DFG has been supportive of this offshore shape because it captures a unique habitat (the only canyon in the northern bioregion). However, this support is contingent on enforcement feasibility. Currently the boundaries are on full minutes of latitude, and a longitudinal line clearly demarcated by Gorda Rock (40°14'58N, 124°22'05W); DFG seems happy with this. The road up Windy Point provides easy access for wardens. This MPA area can extend as far north and south as necessary, but it must not touch the shore (for enforcement feasibility reasons). The downside of extending it south is that it would reduce the halibut grounds that will be opened up when the old offshore Gorda SMR goes away (*if it goes away* – in which case we win a round from a skeptical Petrolian).
 - no hybrid shape with SMCA on shore:
An onshore SMCA that allows any shore harvest would have an LOP below "moderate-high", so it wouldn't "count" toward meeting the science guidelines; such an SMCA would serve no purpose whatsoever in the NCSR MPA network. In addition, at the Petrolia community meetings (and elsewhere), people have been very clear that they do not want any kind of protected area along the shore. From a conservation point of view, the mouth of the Mattole is already protected under several designations. The beach itself south of the mouth is already protected by BLM as a wilderness area (no vehicles, etc.). Furthermore, the human participation in the shore ecology here is minimal, even compared to what it was during the floruit of the tribal settlements (as evinced by the large mussel shell midden heaps on the beach). The need for a protected area along the shore is negligible compared to the significant need to allow subsistence marine harvest to local people.

- Sea Lion – Spanish SMR
 - must not extend north of Sea Lion Gulch (Sea Lion Rock on northern end of the gulch, 40°14'20.50N, 124°20'03.50W):
A high percentage of the Petrolia population ab dives, gathers seaweed and mussels, and rock fishes in the area from Punta Gorda to Sea Lion Gulch. We are already giving up Sea Lion, a favorite spot. Petrolia is not willing to give up ground north of Sea Lion Gulch.

- Other considerations
 - trade False Cape MPA for Cape Mendocino MPA:
Out of consideration for the needs of other Humboldt County fishing interests, our intention with proposing the Cape Mendocino – Steamboat SMR was to use it as a replacement for a proposed False Cape MPA. We advocate the removal of the False Cape MPA and its replacement with

Petrolia's Cape Mendocino – Steamboat SMR. A special closure would protect Sugarloaf itself. The safety of the fishermen would be at risk if, to avoid a False Cape MPA, they faced a choice of slogging 15 miles back home empty or plunging into the often capricious maelstrom of Cape Mendocino. Human marine life should be preserved too.

- rehabilitation of abs around Steamboat and Sugarloaf:

Some of us have noticed that the abs around Steamboat and Sugarloaf are depleted and small. It would be fine with us to close this area.

- Sea Lion – Spanish SMR should not extend south into Rogers Break (located at around 40°12'20N to 40°11'50N):

Shelter Cove fishermen are adamant that Rogers Break is crucial to their fishing industry, and they do not want Roger's Break to be captured by this MPA. Petrolia supports this view; we would like to see Roger's Break left open to fishing. However, if it is a question of moving the Sea Lion – Spanish MPA borders north beyond Sea Lion Gulch or south beyond Roger's Break, Petrolia must vote to sacrifice Roger's Break. The ground between Punta Gorda and Sea Lion is *very* important to the community.

June 27, 2010

To: North Coast Regional Stakeholders
Blue Ribbon Task Force

From: Petrolia delegation

We are a group of community members who represent the interests of Petrolia since the area was not accorded a Stakeholder in the MLPA process.

Stephen Umbertis: stephenu@gmail.com, (707) 599-9600

Abi & Patrick Queen: albqueen@gmail.com, (707) 768-3643

Cisco Benemann: ciscoslivinthedream@gmail.com, (707) 223-0825

Jeff & Brook Hoalton: brooktrout.h@gmail.com, (707) 629-3607

Re: Petrolia's input regarding the RSG Round 2 arrays

Thank you for considering this public input.

Dear NCRSG,

Below is a summary of Petrolia's input regarding the three MPAs around Petrolia in the Round 2 arrays that are currently up on Marine Map.

- **South Cape Mendocino SMR**
 - Ruby 1 & 2, Sapphire 1 & 2
too far south toward Devil's Gate

- **Mattole Canyon Offshore SMR**
 - Ruby 1 & 2
fine
 - Sapphire 1 & 2
fine; but for some reason the eastern border is not anchored in line with the permanent, visible landmark of Gorda Rock, which may compromise DFG enforcement feasibility.

- **Petrolia Lighthouse SMR/SMCA**

This one should really be called something else, since it is well south of the Gorda lighthouse. For example, "Sea Lion SMR" might be appropriate since it captures Sea Lion Gulch.

 - Ruby 1
too far south
 - Ruby 2
too far north
 - Sapphire 1
too far north and south
 - Sapphire 2
too far north and south; Also, an SMCA here is pointless from Petrolia's point of view because allowing shore harvest (most of what we do here) would drop the LOP below medium-high, so that whatever habitat is captured will not count toward meeting the science guidelines.

The adjustments requested above may seem petty and wheedling. Really though, what would be petty would be to push our community's limits by fractions of a mile, while there are no other MPAs to the north or south for over 30 miles (Humboldt Bay and Vizcaino), and no full closure SMRs for 100 miles north (Pyramid Point) or 50 miles south (Ten Mile). It seems right to accept our version of these three shapes, which are very close to those adopted on the Round 2 arrays. These shapes are readily viewable on Marine Map (under "share with me > share with all north coast marine map users > Abi Queen"). Adjustments to their borders can be made within the "limits" attached to this document.

A few weeks ago, we drove around the valley asking people if they care about the differences between the shapes on the four Round 2 arrays and our own community-supported shapes. The clear consensus was that people do feel that the differences are important enough to fight over. Small distances have the potential to significantly impact our activities because this stretch of coast is our only coastal access: it's a long drive around all the private land and wilderness areas to get to another location.

Thank you for including our input in your deliberations. We really appreciate the courtesy, and we look forward to seeing you next month (or sooner). Please do not hesitate to call or email us with any questions, ideas, requests, etc.

Sincerely,
the unofficial Petrolia delegates

Please find attached:

1) A copy of the Petrolia community's limitations to adjusting the borders of these three MPAs. You have probably (hopefully) received a copy of this before.

2) A map summary of our community-supported "Petrolia complex" shapes with labels and close-ups of the Cape Mendocino and Sea Lion MPAs.

Limitations to adjusting the Petrolia MPA borders

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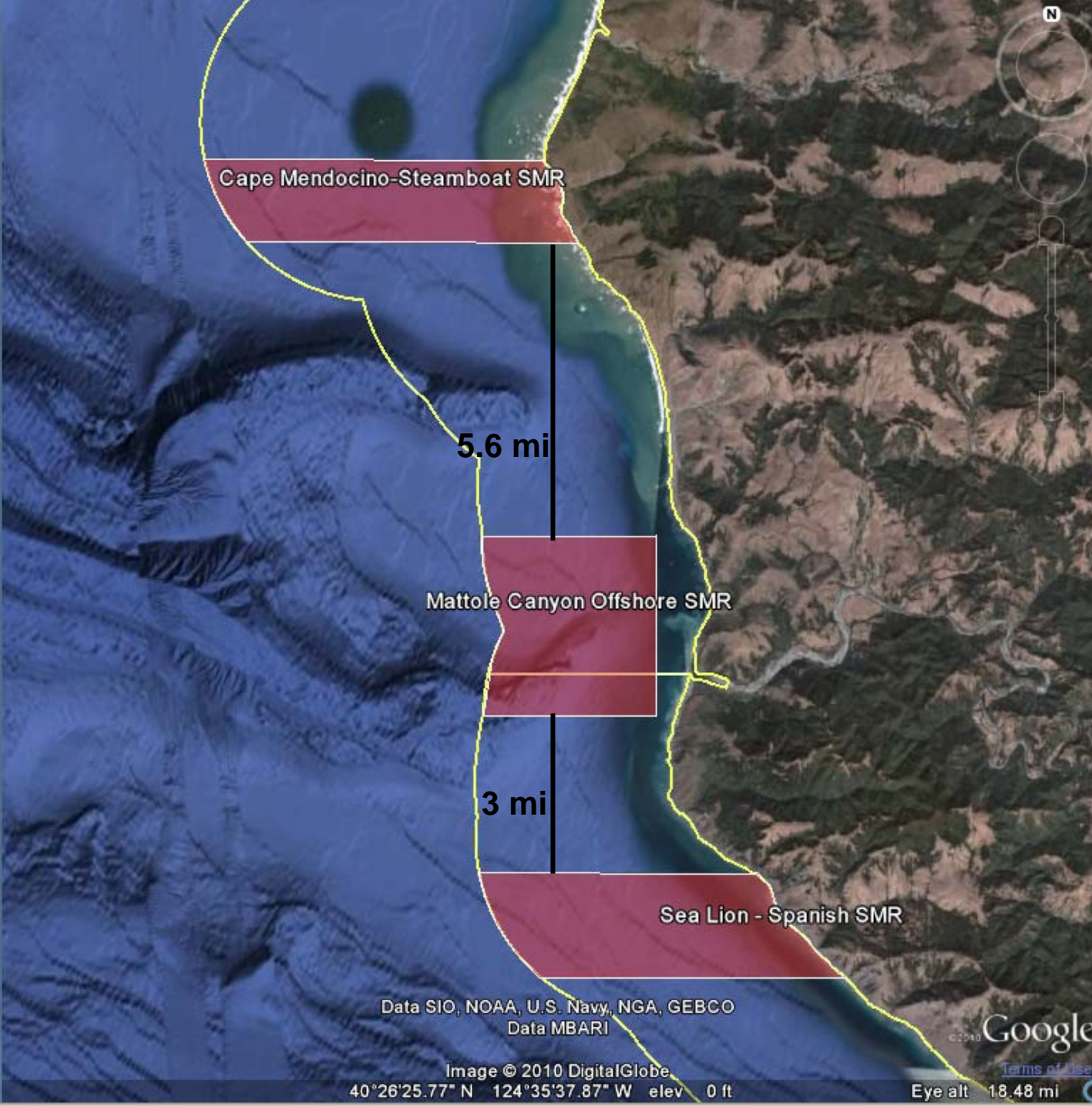
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Map summary of “Petrolia complex” MPAs

(remaining pages)



Petrolia MPA Complex

3 MPAs =
32.8 sq. mi.
total



Sugarloaf

Steamboat

Devil's Gate

“Cape Mendocino –
Steamboat SMR”
(10.3 sq. mi.)

from just below
Sugarloaf
to
Steamboat Rock

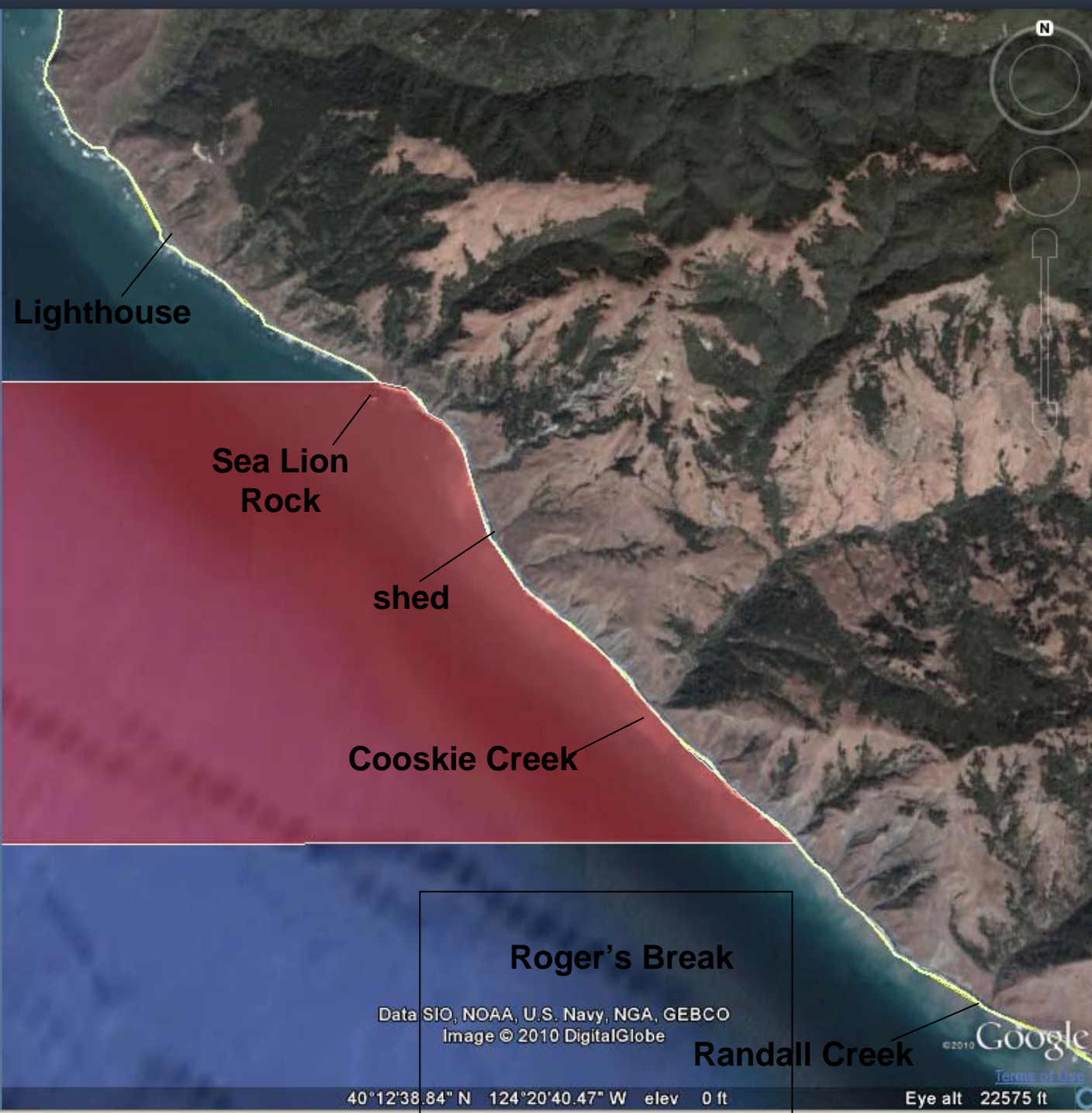
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO

Image © 2010 DigitalGlobe

40°26'06.79" N 124°26'17.93" W elev 0 ft

Eye alt 16599 ft

Google
© 2010
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“Sea Lion – Spanish SMR” (11 sq. mi.)

from Sea Lion Rock to the Lake Hill watershed (40.12.37 N)

From: Tom Wodetzki
Sent: Tuesday, June 29, 2010 9:13 AM
To: MLPAComments
Subject: MLPA Comments

Dear MLPA folks;

As a 35-year resident and tourist-dependent business owner on the Mendocino Coast, I favor strong protections for our most valuable asset, the coastal environment, on & off shore, and our fisheries. Therefore, I urge you to pick the most ocean-protective option, and to include especially these areas in your conservation area planning: Ten Mile, Cape Vizcaino, Cape Mendocino, Humboldt Bay, Reading Rock and False Klamath Cove.

Thank you for your work on this important issue and for considering my input.

Tom Wodetzki, Albion