

California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
Draft Proposed Text for Potential Alternative MPA Proposal for the
MLPA North Coast Study Region
November 30, 2010 Draft

Background

At its meeting on October 25-26, 2010, the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) adopted seven motions with recommendations related to marine protected areas (MPAs) and special closures in the MLPA North Coast Study Region; the fourth of those motions was related to the development of the “North Coast Enhanced Compliance Alternative MPA Proposal.”

On December 9, 2010, the BRTF will meet via teleconference/webinar to clarify the intent of Motion 4, which was put forward in order to create a “book-end” alternative for coming closer to meeting science guidelines while maintaining the placement of MPAs as developed by the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group, and to discuss the need for an additional recommendation to adequately address the original intent; the draft proposed text in this document for a potential new alternative MPA proposal is designed to address the original intent of Motion 4.

All recommendations (motions 1-7) made during the October BRTF meeting, together with any additional recommendations approved by the BRTF during its December 9, 2010 meeting, will be forwarded to the California Fish and Game Commission in February 2011.

Draft Proposed Text

Revised Round 3 North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG) Marine Protected Area (MPA) Proposal at Moderate-High Level of Protection (modified uses within existing geographies)

The Revised Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal modified to:

- only include proposed allowed uses with a moderate-high or high level of protection for any MPA or SMRMA (affects Pyramid Point SMCA, Reading Rock SMCA, Samoa SMCA, South Humboldt Bay SMRMA, Big Flat SMCA, Vizcaino SMCA, Skip Wollenberg/Ten Mile Beach SMCA, Big River Estuary SMP, and Navarro River Estuary SMRMA); all proposed uses with a moderate, moderate-low or low level of protection would not be included; and
- include an accompanying statement indicating that traditional, non-commercial tribal uses are intended within MPAs and SMRMAs when there is a legislative or administrative change that allows tribes and tribal communities to engage in traditional tribal uses within MPAs and SMRMAs; and
- add pelagic finfish (recreational take by spearfishing) to all SMCAs.