

**California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative  
Statewide Interests Group (SIG)  
January 27, 2005 Conference Call Meeting Summary**

**Welcome, Roll Call, and Logistics for Conference Call**

The meeting began with a brief welcome by Phil Isenberg, chair of the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force. The facilitator, Gail Bingham from RESOLVE, called the roll with 22 members and alternates initially present. MLPA Initiative staff participated in the call, including John Kirlin, Melissa Miller-Henson and Mike Weber. Also present on the call were California Department of Fish and Game MLPA staff Paul Reilly and John Ugoretz. Susan Golding, a member of the Blue Ribbon Task Force, also participated.

**Stakeholder Involvement at January Task Force Meeting**

SIG members were asked about stakeholder involvement at the January Task Force meeting, including what went well, suggestions for changes, and comments on the website. Several participants remarked that the meeting went very well. Other member comments (followed by responses from the initiative staff, where appropriate) included the following:

- It would help to be notified by email when pre-meeting material becomes available on the Web.
- It was good that the task force allowed an opportunity for the public to speak, but it would be helpful to have a better idea of when that opportunity would happen so that working people interested in commenting can time their participation efficiently. Chair Isenberg noted that those who wanted to have input in the process should take advantage of their stakeholder representatives on the SIG as much as possible (otherwise the task force would be overwhelmed trying to hear everyone's concerns in person), that the task force's first obligation was to complete the work before it at each meeting, and that the timing of public comments would have to be subject to that obligation.
- The field trip was an excellent opportunity for interaction with the task force members, but the substance of the interactions was a bit too general (non-specific). It was observed that the discussion would likely become more focused as the task force delves into "the guts" of its work over the next few weeks and months.
- Participants inquired about the audio and video coverage, particularly of the field trip, that was supposed to be on the web. The video portion is important in order to be able to clearly understand who was talking and what was being discussed at the meeting. Initiative staff responded that most of the video should be up on the web now, except the video for the field trip which would take longer because it was more time-consuming to prepare.
- It can be difficult to piece together MLPA information on the Web to create a clear understanding of what is supposed to happen and when. It would be helpful to add a detailed timeline to the MLPA Initiative website.

- The remote locations for live viewing of the meeting were a good idea, but next time, if there are technical difficulties, they should not be permitted to interfere with the flow of the meeting itself.

Thanks were expressed to Chair Isenberg and Fish and Game Director Ryan Brodrick, who took the time to visit the Fred Hall Fishing Tackle and Boat Show in San Francisco.

### **February Task Force Meeting**

John Kirlin provided an overview of the upcoming February task force meeting. Key objectives for the meeting include: (1) selection of central coast project area based on the criteria adopted at the January task force meeting, and (2) review of initial draft language for the master plan framework on design and evaluation of MPAs and MPA networks, and on monitoring and evaluation. Initial thoughts are to have a panel of experts and a panel of stakeholders at the meeting to offer advice to the task force as they consider these issues. These major items would be first on the agenda for the two-day meeting, and additional “housekeeping” items (including budget setting and timelines) would be reserved for the second day.

Staff noted that they were still in the early phases of setting the meeting agenda and that they wanted SIG input as soon as possible, both on the concept of the two panels and on the composition of the panels. Regarding the expert panel, staff specifically asked whether stakeholders would want the task force to hear from scientists in addition to those who might be invited from the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team. General and specific suggestions regarding the make-up of the panel included the following:

- A recent set of recommendations were published and this might be a good source for experts.
- The expert panel should have members that can speak to the status and condition of the resource in the central coast area, as well as management and regulation in the area.
- The panel should have representation from the Monterey Bay Area.
- Specific nominations (from the science team): Rick Starr, Mark Carr, Steven Palumbi, and one of the two economists.
- Specific nominations (not from the science team): John Pearse (Monterey Bay), Dan Pondella, Larry Allen, Rebecca Lent, Richard Parrish, Ralph Larson, Steve Ralston, and Pete Raimondi.

Acknowledging that it was difficult to make recommendations having only received the agenda the night before this call, the initiative staff said it would take additional suggestions by email over the next few days. There was also a brief discussion of nominees for additional members of the science team, in the context of suggesting them also for the expert panel. It was noted that additional nominations had been received and that they were under consideration; a decision on additional members would be announced soon. Chair Isenberg urged the initiative staff to accommodate some of the stakeholders’ suggestions.

SIG members were also asked about the approach to the stakeholder panel – how it should be structured and who should be on it. Many on the call were comfortable with structuring the panel as was done at

the first task force meeting, selecting a single representative to represent five broad categories of perspectives: commercial fishing, recreational fishing, diving, conservation, and ports/harbors. Comments about the categories included the suggestion to add municipal government/stormwater perspectives and to be careful to find representatives who appreciate all aspects of these diverse communities. (The point was made about the diving community, but others echoed the sentiment.)

Specific suggestions included:

- Jesus Ruiz
- Someone from the Tidepool Coalition
- Howard Egan (on the MPA working group of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary)
- Mike Ricketts, Tom Capen (fishermen)
- Kaitilin Gaffney (conservation)
- Tom Raftican or Ben Sleeter (recreational fishing)

Offers to identify people in specific categories included:

- Someone representing harbors (from Steve Scheiblauber)
- A representative of municipal governments with responsibility for stormwater discharges (from Bobbi Larson)
- A local businessperson (from Karen Garrison, Steve Scheiblauber)

Finally, members were asked for suggestions for a field trip. Members agreed to send their suggestions by email for review by the initiative staff. Steve Scheiblauber extended an invitation to the task force members attending the February 22 meeting to attend a Monday celebration of Monterey Bay (a more formal invitation would be forthcoming).

### **Process for Stakeholder Comments on the Draft Master Plan Framework**

Mike Weber provided a brief overview of the status and timetable for development of, and comments on, the draft master plan framework (MPF). (See proposed timeline attached at the end of this summary.)

Draft language regarding design and evaluation of MPAs and MPA networks, as well as monitoring and evaluation, will be available soon, in advance of the science team meeting on February 11. Additional draft sections of the MPF will be available after the science team meeting and before the February 22 task force meeting. Staff will accept comments on this first draft until February 25. [Note: this has since been changed to March 1.] A revised version of the MPF will then be available by March 15, with comments on that draft due March 25. A recommended draft master plan framework will be released April 4 for review and adoption at the April 11 task force meeting.

The staff noted that the February draft will still be a work in progress and that comments are very welcome. The staff also said they would try to respond to stakeholder comments in writing (depending on the volume of comments), but at the very least they were planning to use the “track changes” function of a word processing program to provide clear redline/strikeout versions of the draft MPF as it

is revised.

Chair Isenberg acknowledged the frustration at the very tight timelines for public and stakeholder review, but noted that the timetable was given to the task force as well and that the MPF needs to be completed as soon as possible. Stakeholders are urged, where possible, to plan meetings of their constituents now with the schedule for reviewing the draft MPF in mind.

Mike Weber expressed willingness to talk with stakeholders about their comments. However, most find email an effective and efficient vehicle of communication.

Chair Isenberg noted that even though the task force will have completed the draft MPF in April, the Fish and Game Commission will not adopt anything before its meeting in August.

### **Workshops for Applying the Central Coast Project Selection Criteria**

[Note: the term “project area” was changed to “study region” subsequent to this call.]

Two workshops are planned prior to the next task force meeting to gather additional stakeholder input on selecting the central coast project area. The two tentative locations set for these workshops are Morro Bay and either the Santa Rosa or Sausalito area.

Staff noted that the selection of the project boundaries was important enough to warrant these additional workshops in order to (1) review the criteria for determining the boundaries adopted by the task force in January, (2) review the suggested project boundaries received so far, and (3) accept other options that meet the selection criteria. These will be hands-on workshops with maps and GIS projections and will likely last 3-4 hours. The workshops will focus on applying the criteria to possible project boundaries. Approximately 10 suggestions for project boundaries have been received so far, and staff are developing a matrix comparing them. Participants requested that initiative staff make the matrix of suggested project boundaries available as soon as possible in advance of the workshops.

Terminology can be confusing. John Ugoretz clarified that the central coast project area will be a smaller defined area within the larger central coast biogeographic zone described in the MLPA itself, and that the entire project area will not be a marine protected area. Within the project area it is contemplated that there will be the opportunity to describe one or more MPA networks. (Efforts to clarify terminology will be needed for the public to understand exactly what is being discussed in the workshops and at the upcoming task force meeting.)

The meetings will be two of the following three days: February 15, 16, or 17. [Note: subsequent to this call, a third meeting was added.)

Initiative staff asked for input on where the second workshop should be held. One suggestion was to hold three meetings – two at the far ends of the possible range of boundaries for the project and one somewhere in the middle of the region (e.g. Half Moon Bay). Santa Rosa is easier for those coming from the far northern part of the central coast. Sausalito is closer to the centers of population and Santa

Cruz. Because the region is large, availability of simultaneous web casting capabilities in selecting a site was urged.

Staff also asked for input on what time of day the meetings should be held. Some participants felt evening meetings were important for improving attendance from those with non-fishing jobs (i.e., beginning after 7:00 p.m.). Other members suggested slightly earlier timeframes (beginning around 6:00 or 6:30 p.m.) and some suggested that meetings should begin much earlier (by 5:00 p.m. at the latest) because commercial fishermen have to get up very early. Only a few had concerns about holding the meeting from 6-9:30 or so.

### **Open Discussion**

The audio tape for the science team meeting where the selection criteria were discussed was very poor. Staff reported that the audio technician was thrown off by last minute changes in the room configuration and that this would not happen again.

A question was asked about the effect of the new California Ocean Protection Act on the implementation of the MLPA. At least one stakeholder group has submitted a legal opinion on the matter to the task force. Chair Isenberg commented that some aspects of this are decisions for the Resources Agency, and the task force is seeking clarification about how it should respond or react. The task force also does not yet have clarification on the liability issues, which it hopes to get as soon as legal counsel is available.

There was a question regarding the status of maps showing existing closed areas or MPAs. Staff responded that everything that is mappable is mapped, but that some data are difficult to show on a hard copy map (e.g., because the boundaries of some closed areas move according to the season). Staff indicated they did have better maps than had been available from NMFS, however.

### **Information on Future Meeting Dates**

#### Task Force Meetings:

February 22-23	Monterey
April 11-12	TBD
May 23	Sacramento

#### Science Team Meetings:

February 11	Oakland
March 23	Oakland

#### Proposed SIG meetings (by teleconference):

March 4	1:30-3:30
April 21	1:30-3:30
June 3	1:30-3:30

The March 4 SIG conference call conflicts with the Fred Hall show in Long Beach (where some members have obligations). Staff said they would look into whether it would be possible to have that call from noon to 2:00 pm. It was also suggested that the upcoming Fred Hall and SCUBA shows would make good opportunities for task force members to make public appearances and answer questions. Chair Isenberg stated that the invitation is appreciated and, although they may not always be available, he or other members of the task force (or the executive director) would try to accommodate such requests when possible.

### **Wrap Up**

The conference call adjourned at 3:45 PM.

**California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative:  
Schedule for Review of the Draft Master Plan Framework  
Revised February 3, 2005**

Over the next two months, the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force, the Master Plan Science Advisory Team and stakeholders will be reviewing draft text for the master plan framework. The task force is scheduled to adopt a draft master plan framework at its April 11-12, 2005 meeting, after which the document will be forwarded to the Department of Fish and Game (DFG). DFG will then submit its recommended draft master plan framework for consideration by the Fish and Game Commission over succeeding months. Target dates for discussion and review of the draft master plan framework are as follows:

February 9: Release draft sections of the master plan framework on the design and evaluation of MPAs and MPA networks and on monitoring and evaluation. Begin public comment on these draft sections.

February 11: Review of initial sections at the science team meeting.

February 17: Release of other sections of the draft master plan framework.

February 22: Review of all sections of the draft master plan framework at the task force meeting, solicit input from expert and stakeholder panels, and receive public comment.

March 1: Public comment closes on first draft sections.

March 15: Revised draft master plan framework is released for public comment.

March 23: Review of key sections of the revised draft master plan framework by the science team.

March 25: Public comment closes on revised draft.

April 4: Public release of recommended draft master plan framework.

April 11: The task force reviews and adopts a recommended draft master plan framework after public comment.

April 15: Recommended draft master plan framework is submitted to DFG.

May 23: DFG presents a draft master plan framework to the Fish and Game Commission and public comment is solicited. The Fish and Game Commission process will last several months and will include several opportunities for public comment.

All draft documents will be posted to the MLPA Initiative website as soon as possible after their release. If you have questions or comments on these draft documents, please contact Mike Weber at [Mike.Weber@resources.ca.gov](mailto:Mike.Weber@resources.ca.gov).