

# California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative

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**To: MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group**  
**From: MLPA I-Team**  
**Subject: Action of the California Fish and Game Commission Regarding Marine Protected Areas at the Northern Channel Islands and Santa Barbara Island in the MLPA South Coast Study Region**  
**Date: December 30, 2008**

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On December 11, 2008 the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force and the California Fish and Game Commission held a joint meeting in Sacramento. One of the purposes of the joint meeting was to receive information about marine protected areas at the northern Channel Islands and Santa Barbara Island, including a five-year review of scientific data and two MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team analyses of the marine protected areas related to MLPA science guidelines and connectivity to the mainland.

## Action of the Commission

The California Fish and Game Commission adopted the following motion concerning how the MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group should consider the northern Channel Islands and Santa Barbara Island when developing alternative marine protected area proposals:

*The California Fish and Game Commission recognizes that there are considerable complexities with reopening the existing northern Channel Islands and Santa Barbara Island marine protected areas (MPAs) to redesign through the Marine Life Protection Act Initiative. There were substantial obstacles overcome during the initial design and establishment of those MPAs.*

*The California Fish and Game Commission also recognizes that the northern Channel Islands and Santa Barbara Island MPAs must be considered and evaluated within the context of the Marine Life Protection Act through the planning process in the MLPA South Coast Study Region.*

*Therefore, the California Fish and Game Commission requests that the MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (SCRSG) not consider changes to the boundaries and regulations of the existing northern Channel Islands and Santa Barbara Island MPAs, but that these existing MPAs (using current boundaries, regulations and classifications) be included within, and evaluated as part of, the alternative MPA proposals developed for the MLPA South Coast Study Region.*

At your January 2009 meeting, MLPA staff will have further details about how this action will be incorporated into the MPA planning process. Any questions regarding the commission's action should be directed to Executive Director Ken Wiseman (Ken.Wiseman@resources.ca.gov or 916.653.5674).