

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative



California Natives: Update on Involvement in the MLPA Initiative

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Background


- Limited tribal input in developing Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA)
- Need to improve tribal involvement in the MLPA Initiative
 - Central Coast
 - North Central Coast



Photo Credit: Reuben Reynoso

South Coast Tribal Planning

- Development of MLPA South Coast Tribal Steering Committee
 - Staff, outside advisors, tribal representatives
- Changed expectations of what was meaningful tribal involvement
 - Moved from collecting data to information exchange



The map, titled 'California Indian Tribal Groups', shows the geographical distribution of various tribes across the state. Tribes are color-coded and labeled, including Tolowa, Yurok, Chulita, Wiyot, Whilkut, Mattole, Nongai, Lisjak, Wailaki, Sierona, Coast Yuki, Huchnom, Lake Miwok, Wappo, Shasta, Modoc, Achomawi, Wintu, Atsugewi, Yana, Maidu, Nonaiki, Korkow, Nisenan, Washo, Mono Lake, Northern Palute, Sierra, Miwok, Owens Valley, Palute-Shoshone, Western Shoshone, Esselen, Salinan, Southern Valley Yokuts, Kern, Kern River, Kawaisu, Southern Palutes, Kitanemuk, Chumash, Serrano, Mojave, Chemehuevi, Gabrielino, Tataviam, Luiseño, Chumash, and Tipai. An orange box highlights the South Coast region, which includes the Gabrielino, Tataviam, Luiseño, Chumash, and Tipai tribes.

Development of Tribal Forums

- Pre-forum outreach
 - Identified key questions
 - Collaboration between DFG, State Lands and State Parks
- Objectives of forums
 - Two main objectives
 1. Share and discuss MLPA Initiative information
 2. Encourage tribal planning & capacity building



A photograph of a rugged coastal landscape. In the foreground, large, dark, jagged rocks protrude from the water. The ocean is a deep blue, with white foam from the waves crashing against the rocks. In the background, a sandy beach leads up to a hillside with sparse vegetation under a clear sky.




MLPA South Coast Tribal Forums

- Participation
 - Approx. 20 individuals
 - Representatives from all south coast tribes
- Organic process
- Key elements
 - Lots of time for discussion
 - Caucusing of California Natives
 - MarineMap training





Photo Credit: iStockphoto/Tammy Peluso



Key Issues Raised

- Insufficient tribal consideration and involvement in MLPA
 - Not acknowledged within the MLPA, the goals, the designations, or the regulatory language
- Recognition of parallel process needed to achieve all interests
- Strong interest in having access to scientific data
- Confidentiality – what information appropriate to share?





Key Outcomes for South Coast

- Establishment of Intertribal Work Group
 - Intention to provide input through future engagement in the MLPA process
 - Feedback on Rounds 1-3 arrays/proposals
 - Develop individual MPA options
 - Need to go back to tribes for additional input





Photo: iStockphoto/Robert Deal



Other Key Outcomes

- Key documents
 - FAQ
 - State Parks policy
- Development of relationships
 - Amongst California Natives
 - Between California Natives and the state (Department of Fish and Game, State Parks, State Lands Commission)
 - Laying foundation for north coast study region




Photo Credit: iStockphoto/Amy Dala



Next Steps for South Coast

- Intertribal Work Group
 - Coordinated meetings and outreach to give feedback during Round 1
 - List server
 - MarineMap accounts
- Request for real-time interaction with I-Team at strategic points; requires additional discussion
- Continued tribal outreach throughout south coast
- Final report



Photo: Reuben Reynoso



Next Steps: Beyond the South Coast

- Assess south coast tribal engagement to inform preparation for north coast
- MLPA Initiative Master Plan
 - Idea to create appendix focused on involvement of California Natives
- Begin building relationships with California Natives in north coast



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