

# California's Marine Life Protection Act Initiative presents...



## *South Coast Public Open Houses*

Open houses are scheduled to introduce the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Initiative's South Coast Project. The MLPA requires the state to reexamine and redesign California's system of marine protected areas, with extensive public input.

Attendees are welcome to walk through informational stations at their leisure any time between 5:30 and 8:30 p.m. The open house goals are to introduce people to the MLPA Initiative and its South Coast Project (state waters from Point Conception to the California border with Mexico, including offshore islands), invite questions, and solicit input on the process.

***All are welcome to attend. The open houses are all scheduled from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Drop by anytime!***

**Tuesday, July 8**  
**Huntington Beach**  
Huntington Beach Harbor  
View Club House  
16600 Saybrook Lane

**Wednesday, July 9**  
**Carlsbad**  
Hilton Garden Inn  
6450 Carlsbad Blvd.

**Thursday, July 10**  
**San Diego**  
Holiday Inn Express  
Old Town  
3900 Old Town Ave.

The success of the MLPA Initiative is highly dependent upon the active involvement of the public in a variety of ways; the MLPA South Coast Project will afford many opportunities. Come visit an open house to learn how you can get involved! Open houses were also held in June in Santa Barbara, Oxnard and Santa Monica.

***For more information, please contact the MLPA Initiative at 916-654-1885 or visit [www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa)***



# California's Marine Life Protection Act Initiative

## South Coast Project (2008-2009)

**What is the Marine Life Protection Act Initiative?** A public-private partnership designed to help the State of California implement the Marine Life Protection Act, using the best readily available science as well as the advice and assistance of scientists, resource managers, experts, stakeholders and members of the public.

**Why this project?** The Marine Life Protection Act was signed into law in 1999 and directs the state to redesign California's system of marine protected areas to increase its coherence and effectiveness in protecting the state's marine life and habitats, marine ecosystems, and marine natural heritage, as well as to improve recreational, educational and study opportunities provided by marine ecosystems.

**What are marine protected areas?** Marine protected areas (MPAs) are named, discrete geographic marine or estuarine areas designed to protect or conserve marine life and habitat. Examples within California that you may be familiar with include Goleta Slough State Marine Park, Painted Cave State Marine Conservation Area, Crystal Cove State Marine Conservation Area and San Elijo Lagoon State Marine Park.

**What can I do in a marine protected area?** There are three types of MPAs: state marine reserve, state marine park, and state marine conservation area, each with different rules about what activities can or cannot be done within each. In general, marine reserves do not allow any type of extractive activities (including fishing or kelp harvesting), marine parks do not allow any commercial extraction, and marine conservation areas do not allow some combination of commercial and/or recreational extraction.

**When and where did the MLPA Initiative start?** Redesigning MPAs along California's 1,100 mile coastline is such a large task that a regional approach is being used to implement the MLPA. In the first phase of the initiative, a master plan framework was created to help guide the planning process within individual geographic areas, called study regions. The central coast study region (from Pigeon Point in San Mateo County to Point Conception in Santa Barbara County) was the first effort to redesign a group of MPAs. In April 2007 the California Fish and Game Commission adopted MPAs for the central coast and is now considering MPAs for the north central coast (from Alder Creek/Point Arena in Mendocino County to Pigeon Point).

**What are the basic steps in the MLPA Initiative process?** An appointed regional stakeholder group makes proposals for MPAs with advice and guidance from other groups and the public; these proposals are reviewed by a science advisory team, and then by a policy level blue ribbon task force that makes recommendations to the California Fish and Game Commission, the decision-making body under MLPA.

**When will the MLPA Initiative be in my area?** The south coast (Point Conception in Santa Barbara County to the California border with Mexico in San Diego County) is the next study region where planning has begun. Following the south coast will be the north coast (California border with Oregon to Alder Creek/Point Arena) and then San Francisco Bay (Golden Gate Bridge northeast to the Carquinez Bridge).

**How do I get involved in the process?** The success of the MLPA Initiative is highly dependent upon the active involvement of stakeholders and the general public in a variety of ways, including a regional stakeholder group, workshops, public meetings, and providing input on documents and MPA proposals as they are developed. The MLPA South Coast Project will afford many opportunities for public involvement, which will begin with a series of workshops in the summer of 2008. For more information visit [www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa).