

California MLPA North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group
Stakeholder Identified Interests in the North Central Coast Study Region
Revised August 30, 2007

During the first day of the August 22-23, 2007 meeting of the MLPA North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCCRSG), stakeholders had the opportunity to share key interests in the study region with the broader group. This document summarizes the information shared by each stakeholder during plenary session.

This summary is not intended to reflect a verbatim account of what each stakeholder said, but rather captures general themes and interests expressed. This summary may be useful in considering the broader context for how marine protected areas (MPAs) in the north central coast should be designed and to identify opportunities for cross-interest collaboration.

During this activity, stakeholder group members were asked to consider the question:

"What areas within the study region are important to you, and what do you want other NCCRSG members to know about them?"

Below are the summarized responses for each primary NCCRSG representative present (or alternative, if the primary was unavailable). We recognize that this list of interests is only partial. The I-Team will continue to invite NCCRSG members to express their interests throughout the north central coast process.

Dirk Ammerman: Representing the Sea Urchin fishery and divers. Wants MPAs to benefit not just this fishery but the whole ocean. Especially concerned about the stocks at the Farallon Islands, Point Arena, and the two sub-regions to the south.

Bill Bernard: Represents the abalone fishery, which is now in recovery status. Important areas include: Robison Point, Horseshoe Point, Tomales Point, Gualala Point, Salt Point, and Point Arena, among others. Index points are also important – Arena Cove, Salt Point, Ocean Cove, Timber Cove, Fort Ross State Park. Defacto depth reserve is the breath hold length.

Bob Breen: Advocating for invertebrates and macroalgae. Subregion 5 has been his focus. Moss Beach is very diverse for macroalgae. Invertebrate collection for consumption needs to be considered.

Christopher Chin: Represents a conservationist viewpoint. Wants to have healthy, productive oceans for future generations. Wants to see species level return to where they were before the impact of modern industrialism. Promotes a long-term ecosystem perspective

Josh Churchman: Representing the nearshore fishery. Is interested in sustaining small coastal communities, their fishermen, and their heritage. Emphasized the importance of transparent sharing of objective technical information and analyses.

Henry Fastenau: Primary interest is subtidal diving research sites. Has worked in certain areas for over 20 years. Would like to see research sites that are accessible by beach or by boat without having to spend several hours to get there. Secondary interest is non-consumptive recreation.

Karen Garrison: Wants to protect the whole range of species and habitats represented; wants to protect heritage sites for future generations; wants respectful process and good policy results based on sound scientific information; wants mutual gains to be achieved; and wants a design that can be improved along the way.

Peter Grenell: Three areas of importance: (1) improving the whole process so that the north central coast study region is adequately taken care of while establishing an improved model for the rest of the MLPA effort; (2) improving monitoring and assessment; (3) integrating MPAs appropriately with other existing management tools.

Ken Jones: Representing pier and nearshore anglers. Wants to ensure that some areas are kept open for this fishing because it provides a low-cost activity for families and kids, especially in rural areas.

Francesca Koe: Representing diving (free and scuba). Specific areas of interest are Subregion 1 and 2, as well as Farallon Islands. Believes that education, acquired through diving experiences and otherwise, is key to achieving good stewardship of resources.

Irina Kogan: Representing Gulf of the Farallons National Marine Sanctuary. Main interests are in maintaining healthy populations with an ecosystem focus. Wants biological hotspots to be considered and best available science to be used.

Michael McHenry: Representing the wetfish community. Expressed an interest in the economic sustainability of the wetfish fishery. He also expressed some personal conservation-based interests. Important areas include the Farallon Islands.

Craig Merrilees: Representing commercial fishing folks and conservation interests. Salmon, crab, and rockfish fisheries are important, as well as small coastal communities. Monitoring and enforcement are a key to the success of the MLPA.

Kellyx Nelson: Doesn't have interest in a particular outcome, but rather in an open, inclusive policy process resulting in a win-win scenario.

Don Neubacher: Representing Golden Gate National Recreational Area and Point Reyes National Seashore. Wants to ensure that the final network system is sufficient to benefit the full suite of species and habitats, especially unique ones like Tomales Bay and Drake's Estero.

Nelson Pinola: Representing Native American tribes including Miwok, Southern Central Pomo, and others. Looking to preserve cultural resources including gathering of traditional food and materials for religious/ceremonial purposes; the use of areas for religious/ceremonial purposes. Onshore and nearshore access is important.

Santi Roberts: Represents Oceana, an international marine conservation organization. Wants to see ecosystem-level protection and is interested in linking the MLPA process with the entire west coast ecosystem. Monitoring and adaptive management are very important.

Ben Sleeter: Representing the Coastside Fishing Club. Areas of importance: Duxbury Reef, Point Reyes, Farallon Islands, and areas close to ports. Ensuring salmon and Dungeness crab fisheries is very important. Good conservation based on sound science in the nearshore marine environment.

Fred Smith: Many areas are connected and therefore important. Wants to see an overall abundance and diversity of marine wildlife, and a really balanced plan that works.

Craig Swolgaard: Representing California State Parks, of which there are 16 state parks in this study region. Interested in preserving biodiversity and providing recreational opportunities. Wants an effective system of MPAs along the coast. Public access to parks is a key interest.

Ed Tavasieff: Representing hook and line halibut fishermen. He is interested in several areas, such as the Pescadero area, Bonita Cove, South Cove, Duxbury, and others. Since the boats are small, fishermen aren't able to traverse long distances and are very weather-dependent.

Cassidy Teufel: Representing California Coastal Commission. Wants to preserve existing coastal access points; wants to enhance marine productivity for intrinsic value and for future users' enjoyment.

Sean White: Representing recreational fishing, particularly kayak fishing, in addition to fishery scientists. Wants to protect hotspots similar to those used by recreational fishers, but also less used remote areas.

Jay Yokomizo: Sportfishing anglers and charter boats are most interested in areas nearshore, Duxbury reef, Farallon Islands, as well as areas accessible during bad weather, in addition to rocky structures. Need to have access to sandy areas certain parts of the year, and need to preserve some areas for Dungeness crab and Sanddab.