



April 2010

Executive Director's Message

It was just over a year ago that I started, once again, making regular trips to the very special communities of California's north coast. As a kid on vacation from a small rural community in the Central Valley, I always felt very comfortable and at home in these coastal communities. Memories of hiking incredible shoreline vistas, my first abalone dive and the absolute certainty as a 12-year old that I had snagged bottom at the mouth of the Klamath, only to quickly find a very different 20 pound outcome as I struggled to land my first salmon!

Although our initial MLPA Initiative meetings would hardly be described by anyone as "comfortable," the north coast communities have given this planning process a chance to show that we are trying to implement this law in the most open and equitable way possible, while honoring the unique nature of California's north coast. It was a very significant moment last week for those of us serving as your MLPA Initiative staff to be able to join with local stakeholders in the planning of recreational activities and a community potluck on April 19. The commitment and positive energy of all involved gives me great confidence that we will succeed in crafting a marine protected areas solution that respects all interests in the north coast. Now that the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group has received evaluations of the eight Round 1 draft MPA arrays developed by north coast community groups, I believe we're continuing what was a great start by those groups.

I am very encouraged about our progress to date and look forward to the upcoming NCRSG work sessions where we will be able to watch the Round 2 draft proposals begin to blossom and grow.

~Ken Wiseman, Executive Director

Meeting Highlights

Blue Ribbon Task Force

On March 1, the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force held its third meeting in Fort Bragg. During this meeting, the task force:

- Received science presentations on water quality and on the use of commercial and recreational fishing data in the design and evaluation of marine protected areas (MPAs)
- Received an update on Round 1 external proposed MPA arrays submitted by community groups
- Reviewed policy direction that had been provided in previous study regions and confirmed its applicability to the MLPA North Coast Study Region

The task force also discussed additional policy direction specific to the north coast. During this discussion, the task force received California Department of Fish and Game and California Department of Parks and Recreation input on the state decision-making context related to tribal uses of marine resources. To ensure the task force had adequate time to fully discuss policy direction specific to tribal traditional uses, a subsequent meeting via teleconference and webinar was scheduled for Thursday, March 18.

On March 2, the task force participated in a field trip of the central part of Mendocino County's coastline, beginning in Westport and concluding at Albion River Campground.

The task force's fourth meeting was held on March 18 via teleconference/webinar. During this meeting, the task force discussed additional policy direction and legal guidance for the north coast related to tribal and tribal community uses of marine resources. The task force guidance included direction for NCRSG members and California tribes and tribal communities to:

- Continue sharing information with one another;
- Avoid siting MPAs in locations of high priority for California tribes and tribal communities; and
- Where MPAs are sited in locations where tribal activities occur, allow for these uses in SMCAs or SMPs.

The task force noted that, consistent with California Department of Fish and Game authorities and policy, allowed uses should be proposed that apply to all Californians. The task force also noted this guidance is intended to complement other guidance that have previously been provided. The task force also discussed potential long-term solutions that may be pursued outside of the MLPA Initiative's planning process; these potential solutions will be further discussed in an April 9 meeting between the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), California Department of Parks and Recreation (California State Parks) and California tribes and tribal communities.

The task force's next meeting is scheduled for May 3-4 in Crescent City.

Science Advisory Team

On March 16-17, the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT) held its fifth meeting in Eureka. SAT members voted to approve all evaluation results of Round 1 external proposed marine protected area (MPA) arrays, including those for:

- Habitat representation
- Habitat replication
- MPA size
- MPA spacing
- Bioeconomic modeling
- Potential commercial and recreational fishery impacts
- Water quality
- Marine birds and marine mammals

The SAT also approved the evaluation methods document chapters for habitat replication, water quality, and marine birds and marine mammals. Finally, the SAT approved the species likely to benefit (SLTB) list, the SLTB criteria document, and the draft responses to science questions. The next SAT meeting will held via teleconference and webinar on May 12, 2010.

North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group

On February 25, the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG) held its second meeting via teleconference and webinar. During this meeting, NCRSG members and MLPA Initiative staff discussed the February 19, 2010 MLPA Initiative memorandum summarizing anticipated legal guidance from DFG and California Fish and Game Commission staff regarding how California tribal and tribal community marine resource uses should be addressed in the MPA planning process.

NCRSG members discussed and revised draft text for a proposed NCRSG recommendation to the BRTF regarding tribal and tribal community marine resource uses. Following the meeting, the proposed language was electronically sent to the NCRSG, and members were asked to vote on whether they supported the proposed NCRSG recommendation to the BRTF. The results of the vote (28-yes, 3-no, 3-abstain) and the recommendation were presented to the BRTF at its March 1-2, 2010 meeting, which helped inform the BRTF's deliberations.

On March 24-25, the NCRSG participated in its third meeting in Crescent City. NCRSG members shared their geographic areas of importance and received a number of presentations, including:

- Overview on Round 1 external proposed MPA arrays and the geographic overlap of those arrays, as well as presentations by proponents for each of the 8 external arrays
- SAT evaluation methods and evaluation results for Round 1 external proposed MPA arrays, including habitat representation and replication, MPA size and spacing, potential impacts to fisheries, bioeconomic models, marine birds and mammals, and water quality
- DFG guidance, evaluation methods, evaluation of existing MLPA North Coast Study Region MPAs, and Round 1 evaluation results
- State Parks guidance, evaluation methods and Round 1 evaluation results • MLPA goals and draft north coast regional objectives
- Preliminary guidance for considering Goal 3 NCRSG members also received a presentation describing, and provided feedback on, MLPA Initiative staff guidance for Round 2 process design.

MLPA Initiative staff modified the process design to incorporate interests expressed and feedback received from NCRSG members. The NCRSG work groups will meet in Fort Bragg on April 20-21 for their first work sessions. In addition, there will be a community potluck held in the Fort Bragg area to allow NCRSG members to get to know the community in the southern part of the study region.

Documents for Public Comment

Invitation to Submit North Coast Information

Interested members of the public are invited to provide new information and/or comments on the Regional Profile of the North Coast Study Region (California-Oregon Border to Alder Creek in Mendocino County) with the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force for discussion during its meeting on May 3-4, 2010. Members of the public are invited to submit written comments and/or to present verbal comments during the meeting.

Submissions are requested no later than April 19, 2010 for compilation and distribution to the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force. The public is encouraged to review the regional profile and submit written comments. Key information to include when submitting comments:

- Identify the specific section(s) on which you are commenting and/or providing supplemental information
- Indicate whether you wish to provide verbal, in-person comments at the May 3-4 meeting

The regional profile is available to view in two ways:

1. Immediately available for download on the MLPA website
2. On CD by contacting the MLPA Initiative office (MLPAOffice@resources.ca.gov or 916.654.1885)

Written comments should be submitted by April 19, 2010 in one of three ways:

1. Email to AskMPA@wildlife.ca.gov
2. Fax to 916.653.8102 (Attention: MLPA Initiative)
3. Postal service to MLPA Initiative c/o California Natural Resources Agency 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311 Sacramento, CA 95814

Update: Documents for Review

Update on the Strategy for Public Participation in the MLPA North Coast Study Region

The MLPA Initiative's Strategy for Public Participation in the MLPA North Coast Study Region identifies the various methods to be used to help ensure quality public participation in developing recommendations the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force will deliver to the California Fish and Game Commission for the MLPA North Coast Study Region. As a result of the thoughtful input from the north coast community, the strategy was updated and a final version was reviewed and approved by the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force on March 1, 2010.

Upcoming Public Meetings & Events

Public Meetings

All meetings are open to the public and are also simultaneously webcast on the day of the meeting (field trips not included); meeting details are available on the MLPA website. Open houses and workshops are generally not videotaped or webcast.

To the extent possible, public participation locations are also set up in at least one other city within the study region (Crescent City, Eureka and/or Fort Bragg) to provide members of the public with a stable Internet connection for the webcast and the opportunity to provide comments during the public comment period(s).

All meeting agendas are posted to the MLPA website at least one week in advance of the meeting. Meeting materials are posted as soon as they become available. In addition to the simultaneous webcast of meetings, the video and audio archives are posted online within two days of each meeting.

May 3-4, 2010

Blue Ribbon Task Force
Elk Valley Rancheria Community Center
2332 Howland Hill Road
Crescent City, CA 95531

Additional public participation location:

C.V. Starr Community Center
300 S. Lincoln Boulevard
Fort Bragg, CA 95437

If you live in the Eureka/Arcata area and are interested in helping to manage a local public participation site, please contact Kelly Sayce at (707) 832-4088.

May 12, 2010

Science Advisory Team

Teleconference/Webinar

Staffed public participation locations will be announced soon for Crescent City, Eureka, Fort Bragg, Sacramento, Santa Barbara and Los Alamitos.

Work Sessions

Work sessions provide NCRSG members with focused, face-to-face opportunities to pursue their charge of developing alternative MPA proposals. NCRSG work sessions are not formal public meetings and are not videotaped or webcast. All work sessions are open to members of the public, who may attend as observers; while there is not formal public comment, there are informal opportunities for members of the public to share their perspectives with NCRSG members and MLPA Initiative staff. To help create a “safe space” for NCRSG members to explore possible MPA ideas, the public will not be permitted to videotape, audiotape or take pictures of work sessions.

April 20-21, 2010

North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group

Work Session

C.V. Starr Community Center

300 S. Lincoln Boulevard

Fort Bragg, CA 95437

May 19-20, 2010

North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group

Work Session and Meeting

Elk Valley Rancheria Community Center

2332 Howland Hill Road Crescent City, CA 95531

Community Events**North Coast Community Potluck**

Monday, April 19

Learn more about the MLPA and get to know the NCRSG members!

4-8 p.m (drop by anytime!)

Caspar Community Center

15051 Caspar Road Caspar, CA 95420-0114

(707) 964-4997

www.casparcommons.org

Join the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG) and MLPA Initiative staff at the Caspar Community Center for a delicious potluck dinner. Participants are encouraged to contribute to the potluck – feel free to bring your favorite dish or select from the list of suggested items. Need ideas for what to bring? If your last name starts with:

- A – G: Bring a side dish (such as potato salad or green salad)
- H – P: Bring an appetizer (such as chips and salsa or a veggie tray)
- Q – Z: Bring dessert (such as cookies or pudding)

Please bring your own beverages and, if possible, utensils and plate! Drop by to learn about the MLPA, meet the NCRSG and share ideas with your stakeholder representatives.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can members of the public still submit MPA and array ideas to the MLPA Initiative?

Yes, the public can still submit MPA ideas throughout the three rounds of MPA planning in the north coast study region. Community groups were encouraged in Round 1 of the MPA planning process to submit MPA "arrays" for the study region that could then be evaluated and used by a regional stakeholder group for developing draft MPA proposals; eight MPA arrays were submitted in February. The MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG) is now beginning to develop draft MPA proposals for Round 2 of the planning process.

The public is encouraged to submit MPA ideas to be considered by the NCRSG in its deliberations. There are a number of ways to share information, including: designing MPAs using MarineMap (the online mapping tool), submitting written public comments, or presenting verbal public comments at MLPA meetings.

Any member of the public can set up a MarineMap account by registering at <http://northcoast.marinemap.org/> (click on "register" in the upper right-hand corner). With a MarineMap account, anyone can create MPAs and share those ideas with the NCRSG by using the "share" function. If you are having difficulties registering or sharing ideas within MarineMap, please send an email to help@marinemap.org.

Members of the public can also share ideas via written public comment (AskMPA@wildlife.ca.gov) or verbally at public meetings. MPAs ideas shared by the public will be considered by the NCRSG as it develops draft MPA proposals in Round 2 (ends May 20, 2010) and Round 3 (ends August 31, 2010) of the north coast MPA planning process. It is helpful to submit ideas early in the process so that NCRSG members have time to integrate new ideas and learn from those ideas during the evaluations of Round 2. The results of Round 3 evaluations will be used to inform the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force's recommendation to the California Fish and Game Commission.

Get Involved

The success of the MLPA largely depends on the continued involvement of the public. There are a number of ways that members of the public can participate in this process:

Have you contacted your regional stakeholder group members?

Share your questions and concerns with the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG) members. Composed of your local representatives, the NCRSG is charged with drafting marine protected area (MPA) recommendations for the north coast segment of California's statewide MPA network. Contact an NCRSG member today and ensure your voice is included in the MPA planning process.

Stay informed

- Attend meetings or view live webcasts or archived videos of meetings
- The MLPA Initiative is on Facebook! Join the MLPA Initiative group on Facebook for the latest MLPA news

Provide feedback

Providing feedback is one of the most important ways to get involved in the MLPA Initiative. Public comment provided at meetings should be concise and focused on specific ideas or suggestions (click [here](#) for suggested guidelines for providing public comment). While the time available for verbal comments at meetings is usually limited, there is no limit on the length of comments submitted in writing. All written comments can be submitted via email, mail or fax:

Email: AskMPA@wildlife.ca.gov

Mail: Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
c/o California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Fax: 916.653.8102

All written comments are compiled on a weekly basis and distributed to the I-Team and MLPA Initiative groups (BRTF, NCRSG and SAT as appropriate). Please do not send comments to SAT or BRTF members directly.

Specific opportunities to provide input include:

- View current MPA arrays and proposals anytime by clicking http://www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/mpa/ncsrnews/images/proposals_nc.jpg or visiting MarineMap
- Submitting feedback on documents open for public comment
- Participating in workshops, open houses and public information presentations
- Contacting a member of the north coast regional stakeholder group
- Submitting comments, ideas and suggestions to AskMPA@wildlife.ca.gov

Spread the word

- Circulate North Coast News to help ensure others in your community are aware of the MLPA Initiative, upcoming meetings and opportunities for public involvement
- If you are a leader in your community and/or have access to a large number of constituents, become a "Key Communicator." Contact the Public Outreach and Education Team via email or call (707) 832-4088 to learn more.

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
c/o California Natural Resources Agency
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Sacramento, CA 95814
916.654.1885 office
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<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/mpa/>