



October 2010

Executive Director's Message

During its August 30-31 meeting in Fortuna, the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG) completed a single marine protected area (MPA) proposal for the north coast study region's Round 3 MPA planning process. This significant achievement illustrates the NCRSG members' dedication to working collaboratively and exemplifying a respectful, stakeholder-based process.

The Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal and accompanying Round 3 NCRSG Special Closures Recommendation are available at the MLPA website and via MarineMap for review by the public. Over the coming weeks the MPA proposal and special closures recommendation will be evaluated by the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team, California Department of Fish and Game, California Department of Parks and Recreation, and MLPA Initiative staff. The results of these evaluations will help inform the deliberations of the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) at its upcoming meeting in Fortuna on October 25-26.

I encourage each of you to provide feedback on the MPA proposal and recommendation for special closures. In addition to email, mail and fax, you are invited to share your input via an online form. I look forward to seeing many of you the BRTF meeting later this month, where members of the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group will join the task force for presentations and discussion about the Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal, associated evaluation results, and what recommendations will be forwarded to the California Fish and Game Commission.

~Ken Wiseman, Executive Director

Meeting Highlights

North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group

The sixth meeting of the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG) was held on August 30-31 in Fortuna. During this meeting, the NCRSG completed a single Round 3 MPA proposal to forward to the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force for consideration. Additionally, the NCRSG produced a recommendation for seven year-round or seasonal special closures. During the meeting, the NCRSG:

- Adopted a motion supporting the State of California's recognition of a traditional tribal use category within MPAs. The motion received broad, though not unanimous, support.
- Adopted a motion that all proposed MPAs should include language in the state regulations that traditional tribal uses be exercised by members of California tribes and tribal communities (note

that the California Fish and Game Commission has indicated this is legally not possible at this time).

- Agreed to forward its Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal and accompanying Round 3 NCRSG Special Closures Recommendation to the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT), California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) and MLPA Initiative staff for evaluation, and to the BRTF for consideration.

On September 1, 2010, a work session was held with volunteer NCRSG members and MLPA Initiative staff to begin drafting supporting MPA attribute information for the Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal, including site-specific rationale, goals/objectives and other design considerations. A quality control process followed the NCRSG meeting to confirm the accuracy of the proposal. During this process, the NCRSG also finalized the supporting attribute information and drafted NCRSG supporting materials to accompany the Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal, including a narrative rationale and an overview table to better explain individual MPAs and choices made with regard to meeting various guidelines.

Members of the NCRSG will join the BRTF at its October 25-26 meeting to help present the Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal.

Upcoming Public Meetings & Events

Public Meetings

All meetings are open to the public and simultaneously webcast on the day of the meeting (field trips not included). Meeting details are available on the MLPA website.

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).

Meeting agendas are posted to the MLPA website at least 10 days 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.

Wednesday, October 13 – Thursday, October 14, 2010

October 13, 1:00 p.m.

October 14, 8:00 a.m.

Master Plan Science Advisory Team

Red Lion Hotel

1929 Fourth Street

Eureka, CA 95501

General public comment on subjects related to the work of the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT) will be held on Wednesday, October 13 at approximately 3:30 p.m. The public will also have an opportunity to comment on any SAT action items.

As an alternative to attending the meeting in Eureka, the public is welcome to attend a “public participation location” to watch a live webcast of the meeting and/or provide public comment:

CV Starr Community Center
300 South Lincoln Street
Fort Bragg, CA 95437

Flynn Center Multipurpose Room
981 H Street
Crescent City, CA 95531

Monday, October 25 – Tuesday October 26, 2010

MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force
River Lodge Conference Center
1800 Riverwalk Drive
Fortuna, CA 95540

A general public comment session will be held, beginning on Monday, October 25 at approximately 3:30 p.m. The public will also have an opportunity to comment on any BRTF action items. Guidelines to providing public comment.

As an alternative to attending the meeting in Fortuna, the public is welcome to attend a public participation location to watch a live webcast of the meeting and/or provide public comment:

CV Starr Community Center
300 South Lincoln Street
Fort Bragg, CA 95437

Flynn Center Multipurpose Room
981 H Street
Crescent City, CA 95531

Frequently Asked Questions

Where are we in the north coast planning process?

The MLPA Initiative began the marine protected area (MPA) planning process in the north coast study region in June 2009. Currently, this process is in the final stages, or “Round 3,” of developing MPA proposal alternative(s) to forward to the California Fish and Game Commission for consideration.



At the upcoming October 25-26 meeting, the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) will receive presentations on the Round 3 MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG) MPA Proposal. The BRTF will review science evaluations conducted by the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team as well as analyses conducted by I-Team staff, the California Department of Fish and Game and the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

The meeting will also involve a discussion between the BRTF and members of the NCRSG; this will be an opportunity for BRTF members to gain a better understanding of the key considerations that influenced the MPA proposal design. Using the information obtained from the discussion with NCRSG members, Round 3 evaluation results, and public comment, the BRTF is expected to select a “preferred alternative” MPA proposal. The preferred alternative, along with any other recommendations and/or proposal(s) the BRTF identifies, will be forwarded to the California Fish and Game Commission in early 2011; the commission will then begin regulatory and environmental review processes that are expected to last several months.

What are special closures?

Special closures are designated in the marine environment to provide geographically-specific protection of resources from human activities. In some instances special closures may offer protection, such as to breeding seabird and marine mammal populations, from geographically-specific threats that are not necessarily addressed by marine protected areas (MPAs), including disturbance. Proposed special closures have been developed by the NCRSG separately from the MPA proposal, but are intended to be considered in conjunction with the proposal.

At its August 30-31 meeting, the NCRSG recommended seven year-round or seasonal special closures for consideration by the BRTF. Members of the public are encouraged to review the Round 3 NCRSG Special Closures Recommendation and provide feedback on what has been proposed.

How were tribal uses considered in the Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal?

Members of the NCRSG indicated general support for traditional tribal uses in marine protected areas by adopting two motions at their August 30-31 meeting: (1) a motion recommending that the State of California’s recognize a special category for traditional tribal use (beyond “commercial” and “recreational” types of uses) within MPAs, and (2) a motion that all proposed MPAs include language in the regulations that traditional tribal uses be exercised by members of California tribes and tribal communities. With regard to specific MPAs in the NCRSG MPA Proposal, the NCRSG considered tribal uses in a couple of different ways.

First, the NCRSG was provided guidance that, under current state law, the California Fish and Game Commission does not have the authority to allow only tribal uses in an MPA. Rather, any proposed non-commercial uses intended to accommodate tribal uses in marine waters must be identified by species and gear type and must apply to all non-commercial (termed “recreational”) users. During its August 30-31 meeting, the NCRSG included a number of MPAs intended to accommodate non-commercial tribal uses. To determine which species and gear types should be allowed to accommodate tribal uses for each MPA, the NCRSG requested that MLPA staff use input from north coast tribes and tribal communities gathered during review of the Round 2 draft MPA proposals (Briefing Document C1; Briefing Document C2). The proposed uses to accommodate tribal uses are listed under “Proposed Allowed Uses (Take Regulations)” in the “Description of MPAs” document and the Round 3 geographic cluster maps.

Second, a few MPAs were intended to accommodate tribal uses only when it becomes possible within California legal authority to limit allowed activities to tribes and tribal communities; therefore, at this time these MPAs do not include proposed allowed uses to accommodate tribal activities

How do I provide feedback on the Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal?

Members of the public are invited to provide both written and/or verbal comments to the BRTF on the Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal and Round 3 NCRSG Special Closures Recommendation. Feedback on specific MPAs or special closures, including boundaries, designation type, proposed allowed uses (take regulations) and general location is valuable. The public is invited to share comments the following ways:

WRITTEN COMMENTS

Written comments are encouraged to be submitted by October 18, 2010 so that BRTF members receive and have an opportunity to review them prior to the October 25-26 meeting. Written comments received between October 19 and 21 will be provided to the BRTF at the October meeting; after October 21, written comments must be received at the BRTF meeting in Fortuna. Written comments can be submitted via:

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, Attn: MLPA Initiative

VERBAL COMMENTS

MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force Meeting
October 25-26, 2010
River Lodge Conference Center
1800 Riverwalk Drive
Fortuna, CA 95540

The public is invited to provide verbal comments at the upcoming BRTF meeting in Fortuna. Wall maps of the Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal and Round 3 NCRSG Special Closures Recommendation will be available for public viewing at the meeting location.

Public comment will begin at approximately 3:00 p.m. on Monday, October 25, 2010. Helpful public comment includes:

- Feedback on specific MPAs or special closures, including boundaries, designation type, proposed allowed uses (take regulations) and general location. Do you support what is being proposed? If not, can you suggest a specific change to the MPA boundaries, designation type, proposed allowed uses and/or general location that would make it more acceptable to you?
- Feedback on the complete proposal.

As an alternative to attending the meeting in Fortuna, the public is welcome to attend a public participation location to view the meeting and/or provide public comment:

CV Starr Community Center
300 South Lincoln Street
Fort Bragg, CA 95437

Flynn Center Multipurpose Room
981 H Street
Crescent City, CA 95531

The public will also have an opportunity to comment on any BRTF action items. Guidelines for providing public comment.

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:

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
- Visit the Key Resources page on the MLPA website, a one-stop informational resource

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. 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
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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 the current Round 3 MPA proposal anytime by clicking or visiting http://www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/mpa/mpaproposals_nc.asp MarineMap
- Participate in workshops, open houses and public information presentations
- Contact a member of the north coast regional stakeholder group
- Submit 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.

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