

SAMPLE ONLY: Actual letters were personalized for each tribe or tribal community
California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative

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1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311 Sacramento, CA 95814 916.654.1885

May 28, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Initiative, we would like to thank you for your continued interest and involvement in the marine protected area planning process in the north coast study region (California – Oregon border to Alder Creek near Point Arena). We are writing to respectfully request an in-person meeting to discuss the draft MPA proposals developed to date by the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG), to further our mutual learning and knowledge exchange.

With guidance from tribal representatives on the NCRSG, MLPA Initiative staff developed a confidential approach to integrating the concerns and interests of California tribes and tribal communities into the north coast MPA planning process. We invite your suggestions for how to improve the approach. During our proposed meeting, we would like to discuss with you (1) any proposed marine protected areas (MPAs) that overlap areas of traditional use and/or importance to your tribe or tribal community and (2) any uses that your tribe or tribal community would like to see allowed in the proposed MPAs with the intention to avoid or minimize potential impacts of MPAs on traditional tribal uses of marine resources to the extent possible and where feasible. Uses may include, but are not limited to, harvesting, subsistence gathering, and ceremonial, cultural, recreational, commercial or other take of marine resources, including both biological and geological resources.

To protect confidentiality, information that you share during our meeting will be aggregated with information gathered from similar meetings conducted with other north coast California tribes and tribal communities. No reference will be made to your tribe or tribal community for those specific areas of importance or proposed uses you share.

It is our intention to bring the aggregated list of all proposed uses for each MPA to the NCRSG meeting in Fort Bragg on July 29, 2010. The aggregated list is important because the NCRSG will need to consider these proposed tribal uses before submitting a set of final recommended MPA proposals to the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team and MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force in August 2010. The NCRSG will create a list of marine resources that can be gathered or harvested (“allowed uses”) for each proposed MPA and, ultimately, the uses may be specified in California state law for the north coast MPAs adopted by the California Fish and Game Commission. Consistent with stated limitations of the authority of the commission, state regulations will apply to all users equally and will not distinguish California tribes and tribal communities from other users.

Also during the NCRSG meeting on July 29, MLPA Initiative staff would like to share which California tribes and tribal communities participated in these meetings. This information will help the NCRSG, SAT and BRTF determine where there may be gaps in information about proposed tribal uses for draft MPA proposals.

Of course, before any aggregated information is shared from our meeting, MLPA Initiative staff will provide your tribe or tribal community with the opportunity to review your information that was documented to ensure its accuracy. Your tribe or tribal community also may retain the original data sheets for your records. As was previously mentioned, information specific to your tribe or tribal community will not be forwarded to the NCRSG, task force, science advisory team or the public unless you specifically request that this information be distributed to these groups.

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We welcome your feedback on this approach. Please contact Satie Airamé (805-893-3387 or airame@msi.ucsb.edu) to share your suggestions or concerns, or to schedule a meeting, if desired; Satie also will follow up with you directly to be sure you received this request. Enclosed you will find a list of suggested dates for a meeting as well as upcoming MLPA Initiative public meetings. The suggested dates are based on when California Department of Fish and Game and MLPA Initiative staff will be in your area; if you have a conflict with these dates, feel free to suggest others.

We hope this proposal for mutual learning and knowledge exchange can serve as the foundation for continuing engagement during MLPA planning and implementation.

Yours sincerely,



for Becky Ota
Habitat Conservation Program Manager, Marine Region
California Department of Fish and Game



Satie Airamé, Ph.D.
Science and Planning Advisor
Marine Life Protection Act Initiative

Enclosure

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**California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
Upcoming Meetings and Key Milestones
June 25, 2010**

Date	Meeting	Primary Objectives
June 29-30, 2010	SAT meeting (Eureka)	Complete evaluations of Round 2 MPA proposals
July 6, 2010	Public Open House (Fort Bragg)	Share Round 2 draft MPA proposals and receive feedback from the public
July 7, 2010	Public Open House (Briceland and Eureka)	Share Round 2 draft MPA proposals and receive feedback from the public
July 8, 2010	Public Open House (Orick and Crescent City)	Share Round 2 draft MPA proposals and receive feedback from the public
July 21-22, 2010	BRTF meeting (Fort Bragg)	Receive Round 2 MPA proposal evaluation results.
July 23, 2010		Deadline for submitting data for consideration by NCRSG during Round 3
July 28, 2010	SAT meeting (via teleconference and webinar)	Review and respond to science questions
July 29, 2010	NCRSG meeting (Fort Bragg)	Receive Round 2 MPA evaluation results
July 30, 2010	NCRSG work session (Fort Bragg)	Begin to develop Round 3 MPA proposals
August 30, 2010	NCRSG work session (Eureka)	Continue to develop Round 3 MPA proposals
August 31, 2010	NCRSG meeting (Eureka)	Complete Round 3 MPA proposals. Deadline for submitting data for consideration by SAT.
October 13-14, 2010	SAT meeting (Eureka)	Complete evaluations of Round 2 MPA proposals,
October 26-28, 2010	BRTF meeting (Eureka)	Receive Round 3 MPA proposal evaluation results
November 17, 2010	SAT meeting (via teleconference and webinar)	Review and respond to science questions
December 1, 2010	Joint California Fish and Game Commission and BRTF meeting (Sacramento)	Deliver MPA proposals for the north coast study region to the California Fish and Game Commission

NCRSG = MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group

BRTF = MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force

SAT = MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team

Potential Dates for Meetings with California Tribes and Tribal Communities

The following dates are when MLPA Initiative and Department of Fish and Game staff will be in your area. Please contact Satie Airamé (805-893-3387 or airame@msi.ucsb.edu) to schedule a meeting on one of these dates or to discuss other possible meeting dates.

Fort Bragg/Ukiah area: July 5, 6, 20, 23

Arcata/Eureka area: June 29, July 1, 7

Crescent City area: July 8, 9