

California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Appointments to the
MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group
February 2, 2010

1. Who appoints the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG)?

The NCRSG appointments were made by California Department of Fish and Game Director John McCamman and MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force Chair Cindy Gustafson. The appointments were made after receiving recommendations from two neutral facilitators, who interviewed the recommended nominees, along with other senior MLPA Initiative and California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) staff.

2. What is the appointment process for regional stakeholders?

A request for nominations to the NCRSG was made this fall and distributed to over 3,000 groups and individuals asking for nominations to be made by November 30. Nominees were evaluated against the selection criteria established in the request for nominations (located at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/ncproject.asp>). Staff recommendations to the director and chair were informed by facilitator interviews, nomination letters, any letters of support, DFG background checks (including fish and game citations), as well feedback from other staff who have knowledge of and experience working with the nominees.

The director and chair appointed stakeholders who represent a broad diversity of interests, perspectives, and geographic locations within the MLPA North Coast Study Region. In instances where staff was unable to find strong candidates that could represent a certain interest or perspective, staff was directed by the director and chair to seek nominees beyond the initial set of nominees (i.e., nominees who submitted their nomination letters by November 30) to recruit possible additional nominees. In each of these cases, the nominee submitted the requested information and was interviewed by the neutral facilitators. A similar directive has been used in other study regions.

3. Why were 31 stakeholders chosen for the NCRSG?

The 31 individuals appointed to the NCRSG are viewed as collectively representing the broad diversity of perspectives and interests in the north coast. To help ensure the effectiveness of NCRSG meetings, staff was aiming to recommend 25-30 members. This target range was in part informed by lessons learned from past MLPA study regions and by some of the unique attributes of the north coast study region (e.g., relatively close relationships among many of the nominees).

NCRSG members will strive to achieve a high level of agreement in developing and advancing alternative marine protected area (MPA) proposals. The intent is to strive for MPA proposals that earn broad-based, cross-interest support from NCRSG members. The NCRSG is not intended to function as a representative voting body.

4. Does the NCRSG have tribal representation and how does this compare to previous study regions?

The MLPA north central coast and south coast study regions each had two tribal representatives. Due to the larger number of tribes, tribal citizens, and tribal use of marine

resources on the north coast, DFG Director McCamman and BRTF Chair Gustafson believed that broader tribal representation was required for the NCRSG.

5. What happens if a stakeholder resigns from the group?

Stakeholder resignations would be addressed on a case-by-case basis. If an NCRSG member resigns or otherwise leaves the process early on, we would try to replace him/her with someone else representing similar interests, expertise and geography, and who also satisfactorily meets the selection criteria. If an NCRSG member stops participating late in the process, we might choose to not replace that individual; this would in part depend on an assessment of whether that individual's interests/perspectives could be adequately represented by other NCRSG members.

6. What information will be given to stakeholders at the Feb 8-9, 2010 meeting in Eureka and will this information be provided to the general public as well?

All meeting materials for all NCRSG meetings will be made available to the public on the MLPA website. As they become available, all briefing materials received by the stakeholders for the first meeting can be found at http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/meeting_020810.asp

7. Is there a process to remove a member of the NCRSG?

There is a draft ground rule for the NCRSG on "commitment to the process." The draft ground rule states: NCRSG members commit to adhere to these ground rules, as a set of mutual obligations, once they are ratified. NCRSG members are encouraged to help uphold and enforce these ground rules. If an NCRSG member consistently deviates from these ground rules, that member may be replaced by another person upon confirmation by the director of DFG and the chair of the BRTF. Prior to an NCRSG member being dismissed, the NCRSG member will meet with the facilitation team and the MLPA Initiative executive director to discuss the reasons for the dismissal. Flagrant personal attacks or repeated violations of the ground rules may be cause for immediate removal.

8. Are NCRSG members compensated for their participation?

NCRSG members will be reimbursed for travel expenses, including food, lodging and mileage, for attending publicly-noticed meetings and work sessions. NCRSG members can also apply for a stipend; NCRSG members who are volunteering their time and are not compensated in some other way to participate may apply for a stipend of \$175.00 per day for publicly-noticed meetings and work sessions.

9. How long do members serve on the NCRSG?

NCRSG members are expected to participate in six 2-day meetings and work sessions between February and September 2010, plus one joint meeting with the BRTF in October 2010.