

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative



Stakeholder Assessment for the North Coast Study Region

Presented to the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group
February 8, 2010 • Eureka, CA

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Overview

- **Findings from Interviews**
 - Cross-section of nominees to the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG)
 - Interviews (58) conducted by facilitation team
- **Assessment Memo**
 - Key in preparing for NCRSG meetings and informing ongoing process design
 - Cross-section of NCRSG nominees



Overarching Findings

Stakeholders:

- Are keenly interested in MLPA; want process to consider unique qualities of north coast
- Have considerable knowledge and expertise to bring to north coast project
- Recognize challenge of balancing diverse interests
- Emphasize the importance of minimizing possible negative socio-economic impacts to local communities



Shared Interests

- Address needs of local communities –
→ minimize negative impacts and achieve buy-in
- Sustainable fisheries
- Healthy ocean ecosystems
- Recognize traditional tribal uses
- Policy informed by sound science, accurate information
- Transparent stakeholder process



Hopes for NCRSG Process

- Takes into account unique qualities of north coast study region:
 - Relatively healthy status of many marine resources
 - Close relationships among stakeholders
 - Residents engage with marine resources in multiple ways
- Well-informed stakeholder process
- MPA decisions that represent an appropriate balance among stakeholder interests



Key Issues, Potential Challenges

- Achieving multiple benefits and balanced outcomes
- Concerns over possible negative impacts to local communities
- Challenge of incorporating tribal uses
- Mistrust of the MLPA Initiative (MPA planning process)
- Mistrust of science supporting the process
- Sense of government over-imposition



Key Issues, Potential Challenges

Other Key Concerns

- Safety issues
- Overemphasis of Marine Life Protection Act on fishing; other key issues ignored
- Role of media
- Enforcement



Implications for Process Design

Keys to Success

- Search for solutions that balance multiple interests
- Give serious consideration to all viewpoints and encourage mutual gains
- Informed by good science and information
- Build effectively on Round 1 external proposed MPA arrays
- Address tribal issues early in the process
- Acknowledge unique elements of north coast
- Involve broader constituencies in process and continue to reach out to local communities
- Commit to achieving the MLPA goals



Next Steps

- Assessment findings will be incorporated into NCRSG process design
- **Thank you** to interviewees!
- Any questions?