

**California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
Procedure for Developing a Recommendation to the
MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force**

(February 22, 2010)

This document describes the steps by which the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG) may choose to develop a recommendation to the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) for consideration. This procedure is intended to be consistent with adopted NCRSG ground rules.

Key steps to developing a recommendation include:

1. An NCRSG member(s) proposes to develop an NCRSG recommendation to the BRTF on a particular topic; the NCRSG discusses the proposal. The facilitators then test whether there is broad-based support¹ within the group to develop an NCRSG recommendation to the BRTF, and then confirm the intent of the group.

If broad-based support exists:

2. MLPA Initiative staff (I-Team) establishes an agenda item for a future NCRSG meeting. The agenda item will be included in the public agenda posted in advance of the meeting.
3. NCRSG member(s), with assistance of the I-Team, will develop proposed text for the NCRSG recommendation and assemble appropriate materials to support a discussion. The I-Team will distribute the text of the NCRSG recommendation, along with supporting materials, to the NCRSG and public in advance of the meeting at which the proposed recommendation will be discussed.

At the NCRSG meeting for which this topic is agendized:

4. The NCRSG discusses the proposed text to:
 - a. ensure the text is clear and understood by all, and
 - b. confirm the text meets the intent of the recommendation; NCRSG members can refine the proposed text as appropriate.
5. NCRSG members then deliberate on the proposed text; all NCRSG members in attendance are provided with an opportunity to provide input.
6. The public may provide comment during a designated public comment period. The public may also provide written comments in advance of the meeting. Written public comment received at least one, full business day in advance of the meeting will be provided to NCRSG members prior to a vote on the topic.
7. In a formal vote, NCRSG members will indicate preference, or not, for the proposed recommendation. NCRSG members may make their vote at the meeting itself or shortly

¹ "Broad-based support" means that there is cross-interest support within the NCRSG for the proposal and that NCRSG members "can live with" it.

thereafter via email/phone correspondence. Votes may be confidential, depending on the subject of the proposal and in accordance with adopted NCRSG ground rules.

8. The I-Team will contact any NCRSG members not present during the meeting (by email or phone) to provide them with the opportunity to vote.
9. The I-Team will then present the outcomes of the vote to the full NCRSG.