

California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative Blue Ribbon Task Force

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April 2, 2010

To Whom it May Concern,

On behalf of the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Initiative, I am writing to share a proposal for mutual learning and knowledge exchange related to traditional tribal uses of marine resources. Information regarding traditional tribal uses of marine resources is important not only for the MLPA Initiative's marine protected area (MPA) planning process, but also is integral to long-term management, co-management and ecological and socioeconomic monitoring to help ensure the health of the ocean ecosystem.

We respectfully request your assistance in helping the MLPA Initiative to better understand tribal uses of the marine environment in the MLPA North Coast Study Region (from the California-Oregon border to Alder Creek near Point Arena). The groups participating in the MLPA Initiative are responsible for different aspects of assisting the State of California with redesigning MPAs along the north coast, and include a task force (overseeing the process), a science advisory team (providing scientific advice and evaluations), a regional stakeholder group (providing local knowledge to the design process), and MLPA Initiative staff (providing support to the three groups).

The first set of ideas about how to redesign the north coast MPAs were developed by local community groups, including participation and input from north coast tribes and tribal communities. The evaluations of those ideas, which just concluded, have made it clear that the MLPA Initiative groups are working with incomplete information about tribal uses of marine resources along the north coast. We would like to work with California tribes and tribal communities to integrate this information into the planning, design, and evaluation of proposed MPAs.

Specifically, we would like to ask you to help the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT) develop guidelines and protocols for better understanding and incorporating information on tribal uses into its advice to the task force, regional stakeholder group, and California Department of Fish and Game. We also would like to explore the conditions under which you would be willing to share information pertaining to tribal uses in the context of the planning process currently underway in the region.

It is in this spirit of mutual learning that the SAT has developed a list of the kinds of information and data about tribal uses that would be useful for developing advice to share with the task force and regional stakeholder group. We would very much appreciate if you or your designee would review this list, suggest additional items the SAT should consider, and indicate which—if any—your tribes or tribal community would be willing to share, and under what conditions. The MLPA Initiative is committed to developing mutually agreeable arrangements for knowledge sharing and for bringing this knowledge to the MLPA planning process, which may include, where appropriate, individual tribal agreements for information sharing and the protection of confidentiality.

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Enclosed, please find a list of potential questions for consideration by California tribes and tribal communities regarding traditional uses of the marine environment. We recognize that these questions are potentially intrusive, and apologize for any concern raised by our efforts to integrate traditional knowledge. The MLPA Initiative is committed to working collaboratively to incorporate this information into the MPA planning process in a respectful way.

To date, the MLPA Initiative has identified several potential ways to learn about tribal uses in the marine environment. We would appreciate your review of these and any suggestions for other ways that would be agreeable to you for sharing information.

- The MLPA Initiative greatly appreciates the invitations extended by many California tribes and tribal communities to visit tribal lands and talk with tribal members about traditional practices. Members of the SAT's Tribal Work Group and support staff would like to engage in in-person meetings, if it is determined that this is an appropriate way to assemble information about tribal uses. Scientists on the SAT Tribal Work Group are working with masters-level graduate students who can travel to tribal communities in the MLPA North Coast Study Region to work directly with California tribes and tribal communities to learn more about tribal uses in the marine environment.
- Another approach is to communicate directly with a scientist on the SAT or a member of the MLPA Initiative staff who can assist with documenting knowledge about tribal uses. SAT members will be available during an in-person meeting at the Red Lion Hotel at 1929 Fourth Street in Eureka on June 29 from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. Scientists on the SAT's Tribal Work Group also are available outside of in-person meetings by telephone or email.
- Tribal council, tribal, or tribal community members may wish to assemble and directly provide information to the MLPA Initiative. This method was used to develop a special appendix on California tribes and tribal communities in the north coast regional profile.
- Tribal council, tribal, or tribal community members may wish to directly share information with members of the regional stakeholder group, which includes seven tribal and tribal community members. This method has been used in previous MLPA study regions.

Please contact me by telephone (805-893-3387) or email (airame@msi.ucsb.edu) if you would like to discuss the opportunities to share information or have additional suggestions.

Information about tribal uses is important and any information we can incorporate will contribute meaningfully to inform the SAT evaluations, the regional stakeholder group's deliberations, and the task force's guidance throughout the MPA planning process. To help facilitate participation in the MPA planning process, also enclosed is a schedule of MLPA Initiative meetings and key milestones for your consideration.

Information on traditional tribal uses of marine resources in the MLPA North Coast Study Region also will be important beyond the MLPA Initiative's planning process. Knowledge about traditional tribal uses is integral to planning long-term management, co-management between California tribes and tribal communities and the managing agencies, and ecological and socioeconomic monitoring of MPAs established under the MLPA. To this end, information about tribal uses that is integrated in the coming or following years will contribute to a mutual understanding and improved health of California's ocean ecosystem.

Tribes and Tribal Communities

April 2, 2010

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We hope this proposal for mutual learning and knowledge exchange can serve as the foundation for continuing engagement during and beyond implementation of the MLPA. Please contact me (805-893-3387 or airame@msi.ucsb.edu) if you would like to schedule a time to talk or meet or if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours Sincerely,



Satie Airamé, Ph.D.

Science and Planning Advisor

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative

Enclosures: List of potential questions regarding traditional uses of the marine environment, upcoming meetings and key milestones document, overview of the MLPA Initiative, MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group Tribal Members contact information

California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
Questions Regarding Traditional Uses of the Marine Environment
March 29, 2010

Potential questions for California tribes and tribal communities regarding traditional uses of the marine environment include:

1. What activities related to ceremonial, cultural, or subsistence gathering or harvesting of marine natural resources are important to the tribe/tribal community and/or its members, and the broader tribal community in the MLPA North Coast Study Region?
2. Which species of marine plants and animals, and what minerals or other natural resources, are used as part of these traditional activities?
3. Are there particular areas that are important for these traditional activities in the MLPA North Coast Study Region? If so, have these areas already been or could they be identified on a map? If there are existing maps in the published literature, are these maps consistent with the tribe's or tribal community's knowledge?
4. What is the method of harvesting or gathering the natural resources? (Specific information about the harvest methods, including tools and techniques, would be helpful.)
5. Is there a way to characterize the relative importance of different areas or activities? For example, how many families or tribal members are supported by subsistence harvest? What are the numbers, sizes, or cultural significance of ceremonies for which particular species are collected?
6. Do you have a tribal government that provides guidance about the management of natural resources? If so, would you be willing to describe the tribal management approaches or have they been described elsewhere to the tribe's satisfaction?
7. Are you familiar with the published literature about tribal harvesting practices in the study region? Would you be willing to share or provide a review of any existing published studies of tribal harvesting practices?
8. Is there any other information about tribal uses that the SAT, task force, or regional stakeholder group should consider?

California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
Upcoming Meetings and Key Milestones
March 29, 2010

Date	Meeting	Primary Objectives
April 20-21, 2010	NCRSG work session (Fort Bragg)	Begin to develop Round 2 MPA proposals
May 3-4, 2010	BRTF meeting (Crescent City)	Receive Round 1 MPA proposal evaluation results
May 12, 2010	SAT meeting (via teleconference and webinar)	Review and respond to science questions
May 19, 2010	NCRSG work session (Crescent City)	Continue to work on Round 2 MPA proposals
May 20, 2010	NCRSG meeting (Crescent City)	Complete Round 2 MPA proposals
June 29-30, 2010	SAT meeting (Eureka)	Complete evaluations of Round 2 MPA proposals, deadline for submitting data for consideration in Round 2 evaluations is May 15
July 21-22, 2010	BRTF meeting (Eureka)	Receive Round 2 MPA proposal evaluation results
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
October 13-14, 2010	SAT meeting (Eureka)	Complete evaluations of Round 2 MPA proposals, deadline for submitting data for consideration in Round 2 evaluations is Sept. 1
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