California MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force

Motion Regarding Round 3 of the Marine Protected Area Planning Process for the MLPA North Coast Study Region

Adopted July 22, 2010

The MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) continues to be extremely impressed by the tremendous efforts of the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG) in creating several widely supported and well thought-out marine protected area proposals which strive to achieve the science guidelines within the MPA planning process. It is clear that the guidance given by the BRTF with respect to incorporating cross-interest support and understanding socio-economic impacts, as well as the unique needs of the local tribes and tribal communities, has been taken to heart. These achievements notwithstanding, it has also been illuminated during this meeting by the input from the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team that the minimum science guidelines, especially with respect to the spacing and replication of MPA's within the MPA proposals, has not yet been achieved. With this in mind we provide the following guidance:

1. The NCRSG must consider all necessary means to improve the proposal(s)' compliance with the science guidelines. If the NCRSG's Round 3 proposal(s) do not meet the science guidelines to the extent possible, recognizing that in some areas habitat distribution precludes meeting the science guidelines, the BRTF may be forced to consider modifying the Round 3 proposal(s).
2. Continue to achieve strong cross-interest support and utilize local knowledge.
3. Adhere to previous guidance to avoid tribal traditional, non-commercial uses, to the extent possible.
4. Where avoidance is not possible, the use of state marine conservation areas may be considered as shoreline ribbons to acknowledge and accommodate tribal uses that are protective of the marine environment, recognizing that the BRTF has been advised that such uses will be available for all non-commercial users until relevant agency and/or legislative action is taken.
5. The NCRSG should state its intent on how traditional tribal uses should be acknowledged and accommodated within specific SMCAs.
6. The NCRSG is encouraged to take into consideration tribal proposals to implement avoidance with regard to specific tribal uses.

In addition, we want to express our strong support for efforts of tribes and tribal communities to work with the California Department of Fish and Game and the California State Legislature to gain a resolution to their concerns regarding the MLPA.