

**California MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team**  
**Summary of the November 17, 2010 Meeting of the**  
**MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team**  
*Revised December 8, 2010*

## Meeting Date, Time and Place

Wednesday, November 17, 2010  
9:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

Via teleconference and webinar

Public onsite access was provided at the following locations:

Humboldt Bay Aquatic Center  
921 Waterfront Drive, Room 211  
Eureka, CA 95501

California Department of Fish and Game  
4665 Lampson Avenue, Suite C  
Los Alamitos, CA 90720

***SAT members attending:*** Larry Allen, Eric Bjorkstedt, Mark Carr, Chris Costello, Kevin Fleming, Steve Gaines, Dawn Goley, Dominic Gregorio, John Largier, Ron LeValley, Phillip Levin, Steven Morgan, Karina Nielsen, Pete Raimondi, Steven Rumrill, Craig Strong, Steve Wertz, and Will White.

***SAT members absent:*** David Hankin, Steven Murray, and Astrid Scholz.

## Meeting Objectives

- Receive MLPA Initiative process updates
- Review and potentially approve draft responses to science questions
- Review and potentially approve new proposed levels of protection
- Review and potentially approve the document Methods Used to Evaluate MPA Proposals in the MLPA North Coast Study Region
- Receive overview of motions adopted by the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) at its October 25-26, 2010 meeting

Both audio and video recordings of this meeting are available on the MLPA website at [http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/meetings\\_n.asp](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/meetings_n.asp).

## Executive Summary

On November 17, 2010, the tenth meeting of the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT) for the MLPA North Coast Study Region (NCSR) was held via teleconference and webinar. Members of the public were invited to join the meeting either individually or with MLPA staff at two locations.

## **Meeting Summary**

### ***Welcome, Introductions and Review of Agenda***

On November 17, 2010, the tenth meeting of the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT) for the MLPA North Coast Study Region (NCSR) was held via teleconference and webinar.

### ***I. MLPA Initiative North Coast Process Updates***

Melissa Miller-Henson gave an update on the north coast planning process. The BRTF adopted seven motions at its October 25-26, 2010 meeting, including sending two marine protected area (MPA) proposals to the California Fish and Game Commission.

### ***II. Science Questions***

#### ***A. Review and discuss SAT responses to science questions***

Seth Miller presented the draft responses to three science questions received by the SAT. The SAT discussed each of the responses and some members suggested additions to one. Since the suggested additions to one response were fairly substantial, the SAT agreed to postpone a vote on this agenda item until their next meeting to allow SAT members and members of the public to review the revised response.

### ***III. MPA Design Guidelines and Evaluation Methods for the MLPA North Coast Study Region***

#### ***B. Review and discuss new proposed levels of protection***

Emily Saarman presented new proposed levels of protection (LOPs). SAT members discussed the proposed LOPs and the language used in the LOP decision tree. The SAT LOP work group will clarify the wording in the decision tree, add information to some LOP supporting text, and complete Appendix C of the LOP chapter in the evaluation methods document for review and potential approval during the next SAT meeting.

#### ***C. Review and discuss methods used to evaluate MPA proposals in the MLPA North Coast Study Region***

Jason Vasques reminded SAT members to review the full set of compiled chapters of the Methods Used to Evaluate MPA Proposals in the MLPA North Coast Study Region, including the updated LOP chapter. This document is a record of the evaluation methods used by the SAT in the NCSR and the SAT will review and potentially approve the complete document during its next meeting.

#### **IV. Motions Adopted by the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force on October 26, 2010 Regarding Recommendations for the MLPA North Coast Study Region**

##### ***D. Overview of the North Coast Enhanced Compliance Alternative MPA Proposal***

Dominique Monié presented an overview of the BRTF recommendations for the NCSR. The BRTF adopted seven motions with recommendations related to the MPAs and special closures in the NCSR. The BRTF will forward the Revised Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal (RNCP) to the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission). The BRTF also modified the RNCP to create the Enhanced Compliance Alternative MPA Proposal (ECA) to be forwarded to the Commission by adding four “ribbon” SMCAs along the shore at Pyramid Point, Samoa, Big Flat, and Vizcaino SMCAs. These ribbon SMCAs allow recreational uses at all LOPs, including recreational uses intended to accommodate traditional tribal activities from the intertidal to approximately 1000 feet from shore. In the paired offshore MPAs at these locations, the ECA includes only proposed allowed uses at LOPs of moderate-high and above, thereby eliminating many of the proposed allowed uses included by the NCRSG in those areas. Additionally, the BRTF’s ECA added recreational spearfishing for pelagic finfish to all SMCAs and removed recreational uses intended to accommodate tribal uses with LOPs below moderate high from South Humboldt Bay SMRMA, Big River Estuary SMP and Navarro River Estuary SMRMA.

##### ***Wrap-up and Next Steps***

Mike Prall announced that the next SAT meeting will be via teleconference and webinar, potentially on December 6, 2010. This will be the last scheduled meeting of the SAT, although more meetings could be scheduled in the future.

##### ***Public Comments***

Members of the public commented on a number of issues during the meeting, including the status of California condors, concern over the availability of SAT briefing documents, and questions about the process of assigning LOPs. A number of scientists for the Yurok tribe commented on the process and stated that they look forward to working with the MLPA process in the future.

##### ***Briefing Documents***

- A.1: Draft SAT Responses to Science Questions
- B.1: PowerPoint Presentation: Levels of Protection in the MLPA North Coast Study Region
- C.1: Draft Methods Used to Evaluate Draft MPA Proposals in the MLPA North Coast Study Region (Revised November 17, 2010)
- D.1: PowerPoint Presentation: Overview of the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force North Coast Recommendations
- D.2: Overview maps
- D.3: Summary of Actions Resulting from Motions Adopted by the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force for the North Coast Study Region
- E.1: Summary of the October 13-14, 2010 Meeting of the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team