

**California MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team**  
**Summary of SAT Marine Bird and Mammal Evaluations for the MLPA Blue**  
**Ribbon Task Force Recommendations**

*Created January 6, 2011*

At its meeting on October 25-26, 2010, the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) adopted seven motions with recommendations related to marine protected areas (MPAs) and special closures in the MLPA North Coast Study Region. The first recommendation forwards the Revised Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal (RNCP) and the North Coast Special Closures Recommendation to the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission). While special closures provided significant benefits to breeding seabirds and moderate levels of protection to the breeding endangered Steller Sea Lion, overall the MPAs provided few additional benefits to the marine mammals and sea birds in northern California. The revisions to the Round 3 North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG) MPA Proposal include name changes to three MPAs and updated recreational uses intended to accommodate tribal uses. Given that the initially proposed MPAs provided few additional benefit to marine mammals and sea birds, these revisions do not change the proposal in terms of benefits to marine birds and mammals. The results of the NCRSG MPA proposal would therefore also apply to the Revised NCRSG MPA Proposal. The BRTF is also forwarding the North Coast Enhanced Compliance Alternative MPA Proposal (ECA) to the Commission. The ECA made several modifications to the RNCP, including adding nearshore ribbon SMCAs to four MPAs and reducing the proposed allowed uses in the offshore SMCAs created when the ribbon SMCAs were added. The placement of MPAs is the same in the ECA and RNCP and the bird and mammal work group determined the differences between the ECA and RNCP were not great enough to require an additional evaluation of the ECA. We want to emphasize that human activity in these nearshore areas (and the adjacent offshore areas) will continue to impact the marine mammals and sea birds that depend on them for breeding, resting and feeding. Marine mammals and sea birds would benefit from enhanced protection in the future.