

# DRAFT Key Outcomes Memorandum

**Date:** May 19, 2008

**To:** Members, MLPA Statewide Interests Group (SIG)

**From:** Scott McCreary and Eric Poncelet, CONCUR, Inc.

**Re:** Key Outcomes Memorandum – May 1, 2008 SIG Meeting

**cc:** BRTF members, MLPA Initiative Staff, and California Department of Fish and Game MLPA Staff

---

## Participation and Materials

The following Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Initiative Statewide Interests Group (SIG) members participated in the May 1, 2008 conference call: Kevin Cooper, Harold Davis, Kaitilin Gaffney, Joe Geever, Vern Goerhing, Joel Greenberg, Angela Haren, Bill James, Ken Kurtis, James Liu, Tom Raftican, Roger Thomas, and Shelly Walther.

Ken Wiseman and Melissa Miller-Henson (MLPA Initiative), and John Ugoretz, Rebecca Studebaker, Elizabeth Pope-Smith, and Matt Erickson (California Department of Fish and Game, DFG) participated on behalf of MLPA Initiative staff (collectively known as “I-Team”). Scott McCreary and Eric Poncelet (CONCUR, Inc.) facilitated the conference call.

SIG meeting materials may be found on the MLPA website at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/meetings.asp>.

## Key Outcomes

**SIG members discussed the outcomes of the April 22-23, 2008 BRTF meeting and expressed general support for the process and motions adopted.**

Key SIG comments included the following:

- The integrated preferred alternative selected by the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) appears to strike a good balance between the different stakeholder interests. The preferred alternative integrates elements of all three of the MLPA North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCCRSO) marine protected area (MPA) proposals. Based on both testimony at the BRTF meeting and later feedback, it appears that most stakeholders can live with the integrated preferred alternative.
- The process benefited from significant opportunities that the BRTF had to discuss the NCCRSO MPA proposals with the NCCRSO members themselves. It was important for NCCRSO members to have the opportunity to explain the details and logic of their proposals and the tradeoffs they made in crafting their proposals.
- In general, the BRTF did a good job of listening to stakeholders and the public.

- SIG members expressed strong support for the BRTF's motion to forward all three NCCRSR MPA proposals to the California Fish and Game Commission (F&GC) for consideration.
- SIG members viewed the overall north central coast process as more successful than the central coast process from the standpoint of effective engagement of the regional stakeholder group, the early mobilization of technical information, and the joint NCCRSR/BRTF deliberations.

**SIG members offered guidance regarding preparations for the upcoming BRTF/F&GC meeting.** Key guidance included the following:

- The integrated preferred alternative contains several state marine reserves in the northern part of the study region. These reserves may have significant socioeconomic impacts on smaller local communities such as Point Arena and Gualala. The BRTF/F&GC meeting should expect significant involvement from constituents from the northern part of the study region.

**SIG members offered guidance regarding potential implications of the BRTF's decision for the MLPA South Coast Study Region.** Key guidance included the following:

- The MLPA South Coast Study Region (SCSR) includes locations where the issue of special closures may arise (e.g., Children's Pool in La Jolla). I-Team staff confirmed that the SCSR includes several existing special closures. DFG staff confirmed that they expect to ask the MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group to review any existing special closures.
- Several SIG members expressed concern regarding the timing and nature of peer agency involvement before the final BRTF deliberations. SIG members advised that the roles, responsibilities, and method of engagement of state and federal agencies needs to be clearly identified at the outset of the MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group process.

**I-Team staff provided SIG members with an update on planning for the SCSR.** Key updates include the following:

- I-Team staff and consultants have already started work on key information gathering efforts that are expected to have a long lead-time. These include mapping, development of the regional profile, and socioeconomic research.
- Ecotrust socioeconomic data collection outreach workshops are set to take place on May 15-16 and 19-20, 2008. The purpose of the workshops is to begin scheduling interviews for the socioeconomic research in the SCSR. Ecotrust is scheduled to conduct three outreach workshops with commercial fishing interests (San Diego, San Pedro, and Santa Barbara), and three with recreational fishing interests (La Jolla, San Pedro, Oxnard). I-Team staff will provide some support for these workshops, but the focus is on the Ecotrust research rather than on the MLPA process.
- Formal MLPA public outreach workshops are scheduled to commence in June 2008. The current plan is to conduct a first round of outreach meetings in about mid-June, followed by targeted round-table meetings with invited stakeholders, and followed again by a second round of public workshops in the July timeframe. The public outreach workshops will take place at locations throughout the SCSR.

- The regional stakeholder group will first be convened in the September/October timeframe. The stakeholder group nomination process will begin after completion of the public outreach workshops.
- A new methodology will be used to collect data on non-consumptive uses in the SCSR. This research will again be conducted by the National MPA Center and the Marine Conservation Biology Institute.
- DFG is adding five staff members to the MLPA planning process for the SCSR.

**SIG members offered guidance regarding how best to proceed with outreach to the South Coast Study Region.** Key guidance included the following:

- Much of the public in southern California is currently not well informed about the aims or steps in the MLPA process. Significant outreach is needed to address both the MLPA process and the socioeconomic research being conducted. Some fishermen will be concerned about how the socioeconomic research may be used against them.
- Take steps to ensure that Ecotrust is also reaching out to consumptive divers.

## **Next Steps**

1. Participants agreed that scheduling of the next SIG meeting should wait until after the F&GC begins to engage the BRTF's recommendations. The next SIG meeting could take place in late summer.
2. I-Team staff to transmit to SIG members sample invitations to the Ecotrust workshops.