

**CALIFORNIA MARINE LIFE PROTECTION ACT INITIATIVE  
CHARTER OF THE BLUE RIBBON TASK FORCE**  
*August 27, 2004*

**Official Name:** This Task Force officially will be designated as the California MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force to the California Resources Agency (hereinafter the Task Force).

**Background:** The Department of Fish and Game was tasked by the 1999 Marine Life Protection Act to prepare a Master Plan and to recommend alternative networks of marine protected areas within the state's coastal waters for proposed adoption by the Fish and Game Commission, to improve the protection of the state's marine life, habitat and ecosystems. Designing and implementing marine protected areas is challenging from a public policy perspective because of numerous scientific, economic and cultural questions, many of which are not definitively answered by the best available science. Therefore, the Secretary has determined it beneficial to convene a task force to make public policy recommendations and to enhance the state's ability to carry out the mandate under the Marine Life Protection Act.

**Membership:** The Task Force will be composed of seven to ten distinguished, knowledgeable and highly credible public leaders selected by the Secretary for Resources. The Secretary shall have sole discretion to select members of the Task Force, and may consider persons for their intellect, vision, public policy experience, diversity of professional expertise, and ability to get things done. The Secretary shall also select one person to serve as Chair.

**Term:** Each member shall serve for the duration of the Initiative, through November 2006. Each member, including the Chair, shall serve at the pleasure of the Secretary.

**Charge:** The charge to the Task Force is to meet the objectives of the Initiative, including: to oversee the development of a draft Master Plan Framework for the Department of Fish and Game to present to the Fish and Game Commission by May 2005, to oversee a regional project to develop a proposal for alternative networks of marine protected areas in an area along the central coast to present to the Commission by March 2006, to prepare a comprehensive strategy for long-term funding of MLPA implementation by December 2005, and to develop recommendations for improved coordination with federal agencies involved in marine protected areas management by November 2006. The Task Force will also work to resolve policy disputes and provide direction in the face of uncertainty, while meeting the objectives of the MLPA.

The Chair of the Task Force will make recommendations for potential candidates to serve as the Executive Director to the Initiative, work with the Director of the Department to convene the Master Plan Science Advisory Team, and serve as the principal link between the Task Force and Initiative staff.

One member of the Task Force will serve as liaison to the Central Coast MLPA Project.

**Attendance:** The members of the Task Force are each expected to attend all regular meetings of the Task Force, which shall generally be scheduled as two-day working meetings every eight weeks from September 2004 through November 2006. The liaison to the Central Coast MLPA Project shall also attend regularly scheduled meetings of the Central Coast MLPA Stakeholder Group.

**Remuneration:** Members of the Task Force will, upon request, be reimbursed for actual travel expenditures related to the Initiative, but not for time.

**CALIFORNIA MARINE LIFE PROTECTION ACT INITIATIVE  
CHARTER OF THE MASTER PLAN SCIENCE ADVISORY TEAM  
*October 25, 2004***

**Official Name:** This Team officially will be designated as the California MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team to the California Department of Fish and Game and the Blue Ribbon Task Force (hereinafter the Science Team).

**Background:** The Department of Fish and Game was tasked by the 1999 Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) to prepare a Master Plan and recommend alternative networks of marine protected areas within the state's coastal waters for proposed adoption by the Fish and Game Commission, to improve the protection of the state's marine life, habitat and ecosystems. The MLPA directs the Department of Fish and Game to appoint a master plan team to advise and assist in the preparation of the Master Plan. The statute identifies the composition of the master plan team, but also allows for the contribution of other experts to the Master Plan development process.

Due to the complexities presented by the task of drafting a Master Plan, this Initiative will enhance the scientific expertise required by the MLPA by adding to the master plan team, described in statute, members with biological and socioeconomic expertise. In addition, because the policy considerations of the Master Plan will be addressed by the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force, the Initiative is focusing the charge of the master plan team to the scientific considerations involved in drafting the programmatic portion of the Master Plan and designing networks of marine protected areas. The master plan team is therefore renamed the Master Plan Science Advisory Team (Science Team) to reflect this enhanced expertise and scientific focus.

**Membership:** The MLPA requires a Master Plan Team including staff from the Department of Fish and Game, the Department of Parks and Recreation, the State Water Resources Control Board, one member appointed from a list provided by Sea Grant, and five to seven scientists, one of whom may have expertise in economics and culture of California coastal communities. The Science Team will include those members identified in statute and up to eight additional scientists knowledgeable in marine ecology, fisheries science, marine protected areas, economics and the social sciences. The Director of the Department will appoint the members of the Science Team. In considering members for the Science Team, the Director may consult with the Secretary for Resources, the Chair of the Blue Ribbon Task Force, and the President of the Fish and Game Commission. The Director shall designate one member to serve as Chair of the Science Team. The Chair shall assign four to six members to serve as the Science Sub-Team to the Central Coast MLPA Project.

**Term:** Each member shall serve for the duration of the Initiative, through November 2006. Each member, including the Chair, shall serve at the pleasure of the Director of the Department.

**Charge:** The charge to the Science Team is to provide the scientific knowledge and judgment necessary to assist the Blue Ribbon Task Force with meeting the objectives of the Initiative. Principally, the Science Team is charged with assisting the Blue Ribbon Task Force in developing a draft Master Plan Framework by reviewing and commenting on scientific papers, reviewing draft Master Plan documents, and addressing scientific issues presented by those documents. In the course of developing recommendations for the draft Master Plan, members shall refrain from making policy judgments; rather, where available science presents either options or uncertainty, the Science Team shall frame and refer those policy questions to the Blue Ribbon Task Force.

The Science Team will be supported by the Senior MLPA Project Manager and the Department of Fish and Game's Statewide Technical Advisor.

The Science Team will convene regular, open meetings that may be attended by interested members of the public. The Science Team reports to the Director of the Department of Fish and Game and the Blue Ribbon Task Force, and will report its findings and recommendations to the Task Force at the Task Force's regular, open meetings. The Chair may convene sub-teams of the members as necessary to address specific scientific issues. A sub-team of the Science Team will also serve the Central Coast MLPA Project. Each sub-team will report the results of its work to the full Science Team at the Science Team open meetings.

**Attendance:** The members of the Science Team are each expected to attend all regular meetings of the Science Team. The Chair of the Science Team is expected to attend all regular meetings of the Blue Ribbon Task Force, which shall be scheduled as two-day working meetings approximately every eight weeks from September 2004 through November 2006. Other members of the Science Team may attend Task Force meetings. The Chair of the Science Team may also assign members to sub-teams, and those members are expected to fulfill all assignments of those sub-teams including attending any additional scheduled meetings. A member of the Central Coast Science Advisory Sub-Team shall also attend regularly scheduled meetings of the Central Coast MLPA Stakeholder Group to provide scientific summaries, answer scientific questions, and advise on relevant scientific merits of various network proposals. Members will be responsible to review all relevant materials in advance of each meeting.

**Remuneration:** Members of the Science Team will, upon request, be reimbursed by the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation for actual travel expenditures related to the Initiative, but not for time.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
December 17, 2004

***MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force Chair Phil Isenberg  
Announces Statewide Interests Group***

*Chair Isenberg welcomes members, offers thanks for commitment and participation*

**SACRAMENTO** – California Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Blue Ribbon Task Force Chair Phil Isenberg today announced the selection of 19 members and 8 alternates to the MLPA Statewide Interests Group. This group will advise the task force and professional staff to the initiative on the overall process to develop a draft master plan framework and network of marine protected areas along the California coast.

"This group represents a wide range of perspectives and will provide a valuable mechanism to enhance communication with stakeholders about the MLPA process," said Isenberg. "This group has been assembled to help advise the task force on process issues and to help us get the word out to ensure that different viewpoints are being reached," he added.

All members of the Statewide Interests Group were nominated by various interests involved in the MLPA process. The group will not vote or otherwise take formal positions on any procedural or substantive issues, but instead will alert the task force to issues and opportunities that may improve public involvement in the process. The first meeting of the group was held yesterday, where nearly 100% participation was achieved.

Executive Director John Kirlin said, "This is an outstanding group of stakeholder representatives who will enhance the progress of the MLPA Initiative, as evidenced by the level of active participation we saw yesterday."

The MLPA Initiative depends on the active involvement of stakeholders and the general public to succeed. Various opportunities are available for such involvement, including meetings of the task force and a science advisory team that will be open to the public.

This initiative is possible through the efforts of private and government partners who are providing funding and in-kind services. These include: the California Resources Agency, California Department of Fish and Game, Resources Legacy Fund Foundation, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and MPA Science Institute of the National Marine Protected Areas Center.

The California Marine Life Protection Act Statewide Interests Group members:

***Carol Abella***, California Marine Affairs and Navigation Conference  
***Dan Berman***, Marine Interests Group of San Luis Obispo  
***Steve Campi***, Central California Council of Diving Clubs  
***Don Canestro***, UC Santa Barbara Natural Reserve  
***Kevin B. Cooper***, San Diego Freedivers (alternate for Ken Kurtis)

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***Eric Endersby***, California Association of Harbor Masters and Port Captains (alternate for Steve Scheiblauser)

***Dr. Ronald Fritzsche***, Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District

***Karen Garrison***, Natural Resources Defense Council

***Vern Goerhing***, California Fisheries Coalition

***Zeke Grader***, Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations

***Joel Greenberg***, Recreational Fishing Alliance

***Nancy Hastings***, Surfrider Foundation (alternate for Linda Sheehan)

***Pam Heatherington***, Marine Interests Group of San Luis Obispo (alternate for Dan Berman)

***Bill G. James***, commercial nearshore fisherman

***Ken Kurtis***, Reef Seekers Dive Co.

***Roberta L. Larson***, California Association of Sanitation Agencies

***Dr. James Liu***, United Pier and Shore Anglers of California (alternate for Tom Raftican)

***Kevin McDonnell***, K. McDonnell Photography (alternate for Jesús Ruiz)

***Corrine Monroe***, Aquarium of the Pacific

***Mike Osmond***, World Wildlife Fund

***Tom Raftican***, United Anglers of Southern California

***Mike Ricketts***, commercial fisherman (alternate for Zeke Grader)

***Jesús Ruiz***, YMCA SCUBA Program

***Steve Scheiblauser***, California Association of Harbor Masters and Port Captains

***Linda Sheehan***, California Coastkeeper Alliance

***Ben Sleeter***, Coastside Fishing Club

***David J. Whittington***, Central California Council of Diving Clubs (alternate for Steve Campi)

For more information about the MLPA Initiative, please visit the Department of Fish and Game's MLPA Initiative website at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/mlpa>.

**CALIFORNIA MARINE LIFE PROTECTION ACT INITIATIVE**  
**CHARTER OF THE CENTRAL COAST REGIONAL STAKEHOLDER GROUP**  
*June 6, 2005*

**Official Name:** This group officially will be designated as the MLPA Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group to the Blue Ribbon Task Force and the California Department of Fish and Game (hereinafter the CCRSG).

**Background:** The Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) requires that the Department of Fish and Game prepare a master plan and recommend alternative networks of marine protected areas (MPAs) within the state's coastal waters for proposed adoption by the Fish and Game Commission, to improve the protection of the state's marine life, habitat and ecosystems. The MLPA Initiative recognizes that developing a master plan requires considerable work and analysis that is too complex to implement along the entire California coast at once. The Initiative is focusing as a starting point on an area along the central coast where a combination of the efforts of prior working groups, available scientific resources and potential partnerships provide a sound foundation for making progress.

In addition to a requirement for the participation and advice of a science advisory team, the Marine Life Protection Act gives the Department of Fish and Game the ability to engage other experts to contribute to the master plan, including scientists, geographic information system experts, commercial and recreational fishermen, divers, and other individuals knowledgeable about the state's underwater ecosystems, the history of fishing effort or marine protected area management, or other relevant subjects. The department is also required to take into account relevant information from local communities and solicit comments and advice for the master plan from interested parties. The Blue Ribbon Task Force and the Department of Fish and Game have taken these provisions into account in convening a CCRSG to enhance the state's ability to carry out the mandates of the Marine Life Protection Act, and to ensure that regional knowledge and interests are reflected in alternatives for MPAs.

**Membership:** The CCRSG is composed of key, affected members of the central coast region who are able and willing to provide information that will assist in developing the alternative proposals for marine protected areas along the central coast. The chair of the Blue Ribbon Task Force and the director of the California Department of Fish and Game shall have sole discretion to select members of the group. In selecting members, they may consider professional expertise or experience, diversity of perspectives, geographic location, communication network, capability to work with diverse viewpoints, ability to work collaboratively, and commitment to successfully completing the central coast process by March 2006.

**Term:** Each member shall serve through March 2006. Each member shall serve at the pleasure of the chair of the Blue Ribbon Task Force and the director of the California Department of Fish and Game.

**Charge:** In cooperation with a facilitation team, the MLPA central coast project manager, a science advisory team, the Department of Fish and Game, and MLPA Initiative professional staff,<sup>1</sup> the CCRSG will provide advice to assist in the following key tasks:<sup>2</sup>

- Develop regional goals and objectives consistent with the MLPA;
- Evaluate existing marine protected areas within the central coast study region against those goals and objectives;
- Identify and value alternative proposals for marine protected areas, including MPAs which are new or modified, within the central coast study region;
- The result of the efforts of the CCRSG will be a set of clearly identified alternative proposals for MPAs, each valued regarding how it meets the goals and objectives selected for the central coast study region.

In accomplishing its work the CCRSG members are expected to reach out to constituent groups for involvement in the MLPA Central Coast Project. When needed, the CCRSG will identify potential panel speakers for MLPA Initiative Blue Ribbon Task Force meetings.

The CCRSG will adhere to the ground rules developed by the group and will not decide issues outside the public sessions of the group.

Note that the charge of the CCRSG is not to:

- Debate the virtues of the Marine Life Protection Act or whether MPAs should be established (this is law)
- Debate the validity of MPAs as a fisheries management tool (fisheries management is not the main goal of the MLPA)
- Debate the detailed guidance of the draft Master Plan Framework (it is only guidance)

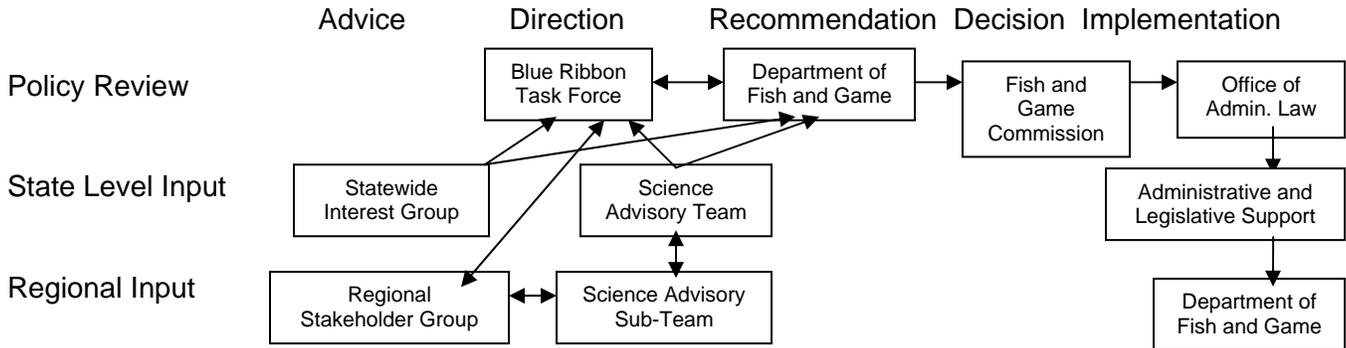
**MLPA Initiative Decision Making Process:** The figure on the next page describes the links among the various players in the initiative process.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The roles and responsibilities of other MLPA groups and organizations is described in the draft Master Plan Framework (pages 14-16).

<sup>2</sup> The MLPA calls for the development of a master plan by the Department of Fish and Game, and its adoption by the Fish and Game Commission. The MLPA Initiative has divided the master plan into two principal parts: a section providing guidance in the application of the MLPA to the development of a statewide MPA network (the master plan framework), and a section describing the preferred alternatives for MPA proposals. The CCRSG's charge contributes to this latter part.

<sup>3</sup> The process for designing alternative MPA proposals is described in greater detail in Section 2 of the draft Master Plan Framework.



Note: input is solicited from the interested public and stakeholders at each step, until adoption of regulations by the Fish and Game Commission.

**Meeting Structure and Format:** The members of the CCRSG, or their alternates, are expected to attend all regular meetings of the group, which shall generally be scheduled as one- or two-day working meetings every four weeks from June 2005 through January 2006. These meetings will alternate between the Monterey Bay and Morro Bay areas. In the August, September, and October timeframe, the CCRSG meetings will be scheduled as “sub-group” meetings, where northern and southern sub-groups will meet separately for one-day meetings. CCRSG members are invited to participate in both northern and southern sub-group meetings, although it is anticipated that CCRSG members will self-select to attend one or the other.

**Information Supporting the Design of MPAs:** The MLPA calls for the use of the “best readily available science” in designing and managing MPAs.

**Remuneration:** Upon request, members of the CCRSG, including alternates, will be reimbursed for actual travel expenditures related to the MLPA Initiative, but not for time.