

North Coast Local Interest Marine Protected Area Workgroup Meeting Notes and Minutes: May 11, 2009 (2:00-4:00 pm)

MEETING PURPOSE

The Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District is forming a North Coast Local Interest Marine Protected Area (MPA) Work Group. The Work Group will facilitate coordination of interested entities within the State's Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Initiative North Coast Study Region. The purpose of this meeting was to develop a common understanding of the MLPA Initiative, discuss the roles of local agencies, and discuss processes for nominating regional stakeholders and developing external MPA proposals.

ATTENDEES

Name	Organization or Interest
Mitch White	Kuiper Mariculture
Brandi Easter	Consumptive and Non-consumptive Recreational Uses
Sebastian Elrite	Aqua-Rodeo Farms (Mariculture Farm)
Mark Wheatley	CA Department of Fish and Game
Todd Van Herpe	Humboldt Bay Oyster Company
Rick Sheperd	Del Norte Marketing Association
Brett Fahning	Del Norte
Phil Pritting	Englund Marine Supply
Pete Nichols	Humboldt Baykeeper
Craig Richardson	Trinidad Rancheria, Trinidad Harbor
Don Sack	Commercial Fisherman
Bill Hebard	Commercial Fisherman
Ken Vallotton	Sport Fisherman
Jim Waldvogel	UC Sea Grant
Doug Corrigan	Recreational Fisherman
Chris Hegnes	Englund Marine Supply
David Helliwell	Fishing Vessel Owner
Aaron Newman	Humboldt Fishermen's Marketing Association
Pete Nelson	HT Harvey and Associates
Shaunna McCovey	Yurok Tribe
David Bigger	Ferret Analytics
Michelle Collins	N. California Women for Fisheries
John Collins	F/V Toni Rae II (Trinidad)
Mike Cunningham	Commercial Fishing
Greg Dale	Coast Seafoods Company

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Susan Schlosser	UC Sea Grant Program
Patrick Davis	F/V Susan T
Greg Crawford	Humboldt State University
Casey Allen	Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers
Melvin McKinney	North Coast Environmental Center
Jonas Savage	Trinidad Rancheria
Mike Zamboni	Trinidad Bay Fishermen's Marketing Association
Jay Wright	Recreational Fishing
Kenyon Hensel	Crescent City Commercial Fisherman
Vince Doyle	Fort Bragg Commercial Fisherman
Tom P. Estes	Fort Bragg Commercial Fisherman
Rose Bond	Wave Connect Project
Alison Talbott	Pacific Gas and Electric
Dave Bitts	PCFFA / Commercial Fishing
Tom Marking	Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers
Mary Marking	Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers
Tom Leshner	Charter Boat Owner (Trinidad Bay)
Vivian Helliwell	Institute for Fisheries Resources
Ian E. Holcomb	Sport Fishermen
Clyde Holcomb	Sport Fishermen
Rex Olander	Commercial Fishermen
Layne Kaufman	Deeper Near Shore Commercial Fishing
Maggie Stoudnour	Friends of the Dunes
Gene Morris	Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers
Richard Culp	Shelter Cove Resort Improvement District
Susan Golledge Rotwein	Captain Zach's Crab House
Dennis Mayo	
John Gebers	North Coast Fishing Alliance
Tim Klassen	Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers
Jacque Hostler	Trinidad Rancheria
Stephen Davies	Observation
Jim Martin	Recreational Fishing Alliance
Ronnie Pellegrini	Humboldt Bay Harbor District
Pat Higgins	Humboldt Bay Harbor District
Adam Wagschal	Humboldt Bay Harbor District
Richard Young	Crescent City Harbor Master

MINUTES

(Taken by Commissioner Pat Higgins, with edits by Adam Wagschal and Jim Martin)

Introductions by all attendees.

Ronnie Pelligrini reads meeting purpose (above). Pat Higgins noted that Harbor District was asked by Jimmy Smith to convene the committee that was formerly under the umbrella of the County of Humboldt. Pat noted that the group may want to broaden their scope to include PFMC/Allocation policies (i.e. seasons/monitoring, ITQs).

Adam Wagschal presentation on Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA)

process: Public and private partnership to guide the redesign of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). Prime actors are Ca Department of Fish and Game, the Ca Resources Agency and Resources Legacy Fund Foundation. South Central Coast done, North Central Coast pending, South Coast in progress, North Coast is next and SF Bay will be last. Process looks at data: biological, oceanographic, socioeconomic, and governance aspects. Talks about how different studies will be done or are underway, including habitat mapping and surveys of fishermen. Need to look at selecting representatives to serve as regional stakeholders for North Coast. Can also create MPA design alternatives that will be considered (but not necessarily adopted). Ca Fish and Game Commission is ultimately responsible for selecting preferred MPA alternative, but will also be advised by Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) and Science Advisory Team. Foundations provide funding for MLPA Initiative process. Types of MPAs: Marine Reserves, State Marine Parks, State Marine Conservation Areas. *(PowerPoint presentation is being made available at www.humboldtby.org)*

Dave Bitts: MLPA team at regional level can be trumped by Blue Ribbon Task Force. Problem in decision loop. Generally agreed.

Pete Nelson: Making sure that process gets best information possible will make for better decisions.

Jim Martin presentation: What Recreational Fishing Alliance (RFA) does. Fishermen are being scape-goated. Myth is that MLPA doesn't center on fishing, but it skips concerns about water quality and flows, etc. A particular problem in Southern California is that decisions are not based on the problems the process may cause to economics of local communities.

Lack of integration of MPAs into fisheries management. Didn't take into consideration tourist dollars from abalone fishery in North Central Coast Study Region.

Problems with data: Lack of habitat (seafloor type) data doesn't stop process, even though it is critical to MPA design to know what type of bottom structure is being "protected."

Conflict of Interest: Mike Sutton is the head of blue ribbon panel. He works for the Packard Foundation, the main source of funding to implement the MLPA. Other conflicts shown in flow chart.

Funding can bias decision making.

California Fisheries Coalition (CFC) (www.cafisheriescoalition.org): Put aside allocation issues, disagreements over gear types and other things that divide. Ally w/crab, commercial nearshore, sportfishers. Trawl not impacted by MPAs because MLPA only goes out 3 miles.

State is Promising public that it will monitor and use adaptive management, consistent with MLPA, but are not living up to promise.

Eco-Trust: looks mostly at economics and help identify economic factors.

(PowerPoint presentation is being made available at www.humboldtby.org)

Fisheries Information Network (FIN): Meet science guidelines but balance impacts so it is fair. Dennis Mayo suggests that everyone can help a little to participate to help avoid burn-out. Jim says that we (fishermen) are more exposed because we have so much to lose. For the foundation folks or Blue Ribbon Task Force it is all academic.

Commercial fisherman asks about whether Jim Martin is conflicted because he represents sport fishing interests. Pat talks about how we are trying to ally, but not fight. Dave Bitts says that there is commonality. Pat says we need to organize. Ronnie says that we need data for science based decisions. Pat agrees.

Discussion of commercial vs. sport interests. Long history of problems for commercial fishermen being driven out of business and sport fishers are only coming now because they are affected. Pat says committee should be concerned with commercial fishing too (ITQs, etc.).

Pete Nichols: Make up of Blue Ribbon Task Force is not grassroots based. Can we get folks on the BRTF? Jim says they are appointed by Mike Christman and Governor. Generally lobbyists and have business with State. big oil. Marina developers, etc. Need to lobby ourselves. Can we get some changes on BRTF? Only if we are effective politically.

Provisions for reopening areas. Weak because they are supposed to monitor, but there is no funding.

Tom Marking: Political agenda. Not science driven. Abalone decisions were completely non-scientific. Are there guidelines? Jim: there is monitoring

committee. Guidelines cover habitat parameters. MPAs must be at least 3 mi. square. Not more than 60 miles apart. Biased towards rocky habitat, but supposed to be proportional to existing habitats.

Jim: BRTF has no basis in law.

Trinidad Rancheria wants to play a role in shaping MLPAs and will be asking for government to government consultations. Reinvesting in Trinidad Pier.

Jay Wright: North Central Coast is better than areas further south. Jim says participation will get you a better shake. Pat: but they shut Point Arena and we have to shoot higher.

Wave energy might have conflicts with MPAs; therefore, PG&E might be allies.

Greg Crawford: HSU has compiled data, but there are large data gaps for coast. Timelines are too short to collect data. Regional profile is largely based upon bottom habitat.

Casey Allen says California ships to reefs might help offset closed areas. Asks about how MLPAs and Magnusen Stevens Act integrate. Jim: the MLPA is a state law, while Magnuson Stevens covers federally managed fisheries. However, the National Marine Fisheries Service has stated they are concerned about how the MLPA will affect the management of these fisheries and that effort shift is a problem. Magnuson-Stevens: "best available science." MLPA: "Most readily available science."

Local Agencies were asked about how they might be involved.

Susan Schlosser: Sea Grant has been reviewing monitoring proposals. Funds should be available. Pete Nelson: Monitoring Enterprise. Can get them focused on our area.

Pat explains collaborative fisheries grant. HSU, professionals, and HBHRCD staff have worked on a very scientific study design. Adam breaks news that we didn't get funded.

Adam says implementation needs hard money to ensure long-term, consistent MPA monitoring and adaptive management and that requiring researchers to compete for competitive grants every year will not result in adequate MLPA implementation.

Del Norte Harbor Master Richard Young: Got money with acquisition of Mill Creek and used for monitoring. Need to squeeze the State to get monitoring because we are losing money. Need to hang dollars on these regardless of where process is. Need to point out conflict with Magnusen Stevens Act.

Richard Culp Shelter Cove Resort Improvement District: Shelter Cove Resort Improvement District fought off closure last year. Trying to get involved. Use

utility bills as way of communicating with public. Everyone thinks this is bad news and likely to put people out of business. Need to play or it will be worse. Would shut it down, if they could. Under funded, disorganized. How can it go on?

Jim Martin: Got to get to politicians, but need to get into the process as well.

Mark Wheatley: Has been involved in Humboldt Bay Management Plan and salmon restoration. This community needs to get involved early and have representation at all levels. Economic tools. North Coast needs to close ranks.

Yurok Tribe is trying to build relationships with sportfishers and don't want folks to get rolled. Trinidad Rancheria says lets get lots of effort into the planning. Can collect data at the pier. Let us know what data needs to be collected.

Dennis Mayo indicates variability of habitats. Get nearshore fishing surveys and tailor by adjusting areas.

Jim Waldvogel (Sea Grant Del Norte): Use North Coast as control areas. Master Plan for State needs to have controls. Maybe we can be unique. Need to go to funding groups. Blue Ribbon Task Force and its origin. Debate with Jim Martin. Law says something different than is being carried out.

Pat suggests we start to vet people who want to serve on regional stake holder groups. They will select, but we can make suggestions (nominate).

Draft letter: Get someone local on the Blue Ribbon TF. Pat will help. Call Fred Euphrat.

Can't fully develop alternative MPA proposals without having data. The socioeconomic and habitat (seafloor mapping) data is not yet available.

Next Meeting: June 1st, 3 PM. May be in different location. Agenda will be provided in advance.

Adjourn