



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
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EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



February 6, 2015

Honorable Chairperson Thomas O'Rourke
Yurok Tribe
PO Box 1027
Klamath, CA 95548

Dear Honorable Chairperson Thomas O'Rourke

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) would like to inform you as a tribal representative that its Marine Region staff will be working on several items regarding the management of California's coastwide network of marine protected areas (MPAs) in 2015. Department staff are developing two separate items for possible consideration by the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) this year, including: 1) amending MPA regulations, and 2) updating the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Master Plan for MPAs (Master Plan). Department staff anticipates proposing both items beginning at the Commission's August 2015 meeting. The Department would like to know whether your Tribe is interested in providing input on one or both of these proposed management items. Your Tribe's input could be provided during the established provision for public input beginning in August 2015 or through direct communication and consultation with the Department prior to the public comment process.

Amending MPA Regulations

Proposed 2015 MPA regulation amendments that will be potentially considered by the Commission include, but are not limited to, improving the accuracy for all MPA boundary descriptions, changing an MPA designation in central California from a state marine conservation area to a state marine reserve, and clarifying regulation content for improved clarity and enforceability.

Updating the MLPA Master Plan for MPAs

The MLPA required the Department to develop, and the Commission to adopt, a master plan that guides the adoption and implementation of MPAs. A Master Plan framework guided the incremental development of alternative MPA proposals in the first regional MLPA planning region, the central coast. Following the adoption of the central coast MPAs, the Master Plan was approved as a living document by the Commission in February 2008 (<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/mpa/masterplan.asp>). The Master Plan then guided the development of alternative MPA proposals in the north central, south, and north coast regions.

Honorable Chairperson Thomas O'Rourke
Yurok Tribe
February 6, 2015
Page 2

The Master Plan is not a regulatory document. The 2015 Master Plan update is intended to shift the focus of the Master Plan, which emphasized designing and siting the new network of MPAs, to setting a framework for management moving forward which provides guidance to natural resource management agencies, Tribes, the State Legislature, partners, and the general public. Key focal areas will include introducing regional MPA management frameworks to guide regionally-based activities and an approach to monitoring, evaluation and adaptive management of MPAs.

The Department is committed to understanding your Tribe's interest in the two proposed items prior to making recommendations to the Commission. Our goal is to understand tribal interest and concerns early in the process and to work collaboratively to resolve any such concerns.

The Department welcomes your preliminary input in the proposed regulations and updates to the Master Plan by the end of April 2015. Your input will be considered when developing the details of the regulatory changes and Master Plan, and associated recommendations to the Fish and Game Commission. Please send your comments via email to R7MPA@wildlife.ca.gov or to Ms. Amanda Van Diggelen, Department of Fish and Wildlife, 4665 Lampson Avenue, Suite C, Los Alamitos, California 90720.

If you would like more information on the 2015 regulation changes or updates to the Master Plan, please contact Ms. Amanda Van Diggelen, Environmental Scientist, by email, R7MPA@wildlife.ca.gov, or by phone, (562) 342-7176. If you would like to request formal government-to-government consultation, please contact Steven Ingram, Tribal Liaison, by email, tribal.liaison@wildlife.ca.gov, or by phone, (916) 651-7401.

We look forward to receiving your input.

Sincerely,



Craig Shuman, D. Env.
Regional Manager, Marine Region

ec: Steven Ingram, Senior Staff Counsel and Tribal Liaison
Office of the General Counsel
Department of Fish and Wildlife

Sonke Mastrup, Executive Director
California Fish and Game Commission