

CALIFORNIA FISHERIES COALITION

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES (DEC. 2004)

Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries

American Albacore Fishing Association

California Abalone Growers

California Lobster & Trap Association

California Fisheries & Seafood Institute

California Sea Urchin Commission

California Wetfish Producers Association

Central Coast Fisheries Conservation Coalition

Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara Inc.

Federation of Independent Seafood Harvesters

Fishermen's Alliance of California

Fishermen's Association of Moss Landing

Golden Gate Fishermen's Association

I.S.P. Alginates Kelp Harvesters

Kingfisher Trading Inc.

Monterey Commercial Fishermen's Association

Morro Bay Commercial Fisherman's Organization

Port San Luis Commercial Fishermen's Association

Recreational Fishing Alliance

South Central Nearshore Trap Organization

Southern CA Trawlers Association

Sportfishing Association of California

Ventura County Commercial Fishermen's Association

For further information, contact Vern Goehring, CFC Manager

THE PURPOSE of the California Fisheries Coalition is to provide a mechanism for recreational and commercial fishing groups to work together in a proactive manner on the MLPA Initiative to ensure a credible, fair, and science-based outcome. Participating groups all recognize that by working together and focusing on their core values they increase the likelihood that they will be able to maximize the resource conservation benefits and minimize the detrimental economic impacts derived from improving an MPA network in California. The CFC will pool resources (e.g., knowledge, time and money) from the participating organizations and persons to increase efficiency and impact for all.

CFC participants agree to respect each others' expertise and to strive for consensus. They also agree to listen respectfully to each other, seek clarification, stay on the subject at hand, and be open and flexible when exploring solutions and developing recommendations. Those who find they are unable, for whatever reason, to constructively take part in the CFC collaboration will voluntarily withdraw from participating rather than potentially hinder the work of the others.

CFC participants recognize that their respective groups will not necessarily always agree on all marine or fishery policies. That recognition, however, does not preclude the groups from working collaboratively on the MLPA Initiative.

THE CALIFORNIA FISHERIES COALITION ENDORSES THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES:

1. Implementation of MLPA requires consideration of all impacts to the marine environment when designating MPAs for the purpose of protecting existing unique areas or for the purpose of enhancing marine areas, e.g., those areas with the most potential for improvement via the protections from MPA status are candidates for designation.
2. Existing MPAs and closed areas should be evaluated and modified before new MPAs or reserves are created.
3. A prerequisite to implementation of MLPA is a recognition that fishery management often has the same goals as the MLPA and therefore fishery management must be integrated in an improved MPA network so as to minimize social, biological and economic consequences while still accomplishing MLPA goals.

4. The MLPA program must ensure that MPAs have clear and measurable goals and objectives and provide a clear process for adding, deleting or modifying MPAs.
5. MPAs and reserves must have an effective complement of enforcement and management measures to support monitoring and adaptive management changes in the future.
6. Implementation of the MLPA must incorporate objective scientific peer review of baseline assessments, criteria, standards, monitoring, and management strategies.
7. The MLPA Initiative must ensure adequate long-term funding to cover the cost of on-going monitoring, enforcement and management of MPAs.
8. The MLPA program should strive to accumulate and develop the best science relative to the marine ecosystem and MPAs and not just be satisfied with what is easily available.
9. The MLPA program should include processes that maximize the use of fishermen and local communities in data gathering, monitoring and managing MPAs.
10. The designation of MPAs must protect and/or improve public access to the coast, marine environment and marine resources consistent with the State Coastal Act and the public trust doctrine supported in State law.