

Effective Tribal Engagement in a State Marine Planning Process

CALIFORNIA NORTH COAST

CA Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA)

- Purpose to create a network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) along the coast within "State waters"
- Originally enacted in 1999
- Initiative began in 2004 (North Coast 2009)
- State broken into 5 study regions (4 now completed)

Challenges

- No language in the act regarding Tribes
- No consultation policy in place
- No state acknowledged process to recognize Tribally asserted rights within the ocean
- No state process to view natural (cultural) resources as anything, BUT recreational and/or commercial
- Bias on incorporating science generated by Tribes
- Oftentimes lacking sufficient "translation tools"
- Lack of aggressiveness in taking meaningful steps towards co-management

Strong Support and Involvement from Tribal Leadership and Community



Consistent Engagement at all Levels

- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Governor's Office
- Local Congressional Representatives
- California Resources Agency
- California Fish and Game Commission
- California Department of Fish and Game (now Wildlife)
- California Department of Parks and Recreation
- Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
 - Staff
 - Blue Ribbon Task Force
 - Science Advisory Team
 - Regional Stakeholder Group (rep)
- Del Norte County Board of Supervisors
- Tri-County Workgroup
- Del Norte County Workgroup

Consistent Message

- Rights never ceded
- Ability, interest, and responsibility for co-management/governance
- Retain historic and current uses and stewardship responsibility within ancestral lands and waters
- Retain authority over citizens
- Tribal citizens will continue to rely upon the marine environment and are integral components of the ecosystem
- Traditional ecological knowledge provides a stewardship framework that ensures sustainability

Inter-Tribal Coordination and Strategizing

- Inter-Tribal Coalition of North Coast Tribes
- Informal, recognized each Tribe's independent sovereignty
- Information sharing
- Creating a stronger voice
- Increased ability to influence process on areas of consensus among Tribes
- Leveraging limited staffing and resource capacity

Positive Outcomes

- California Natural Resources Agency Tribal Consultation Policy
- Increased dialog between the State resource agencies and the Tribes
- Northern California Tribal Chairman's Association
- First California regulation recognizing "Tribal take" within the marine ecosystem
- Strong platform for engagement in related marine monitoring and planning processes
- Enhanced relationships with "unconventional" groups within the larger community
- Increased awareness and education of Tribal rights and stewardship within the larger community

Continued Efforts Towards Desired Outcomes

- Monitoring
- Education and Outreach
- Continued capacity-building
 - Data collection and management
 - Tribal Codes
 - Staffing
 - Resources/Infrastructure
 - Enforcement
- MOU with the State
- Legislation
- State license requirement
- Integrating scientific perspectives