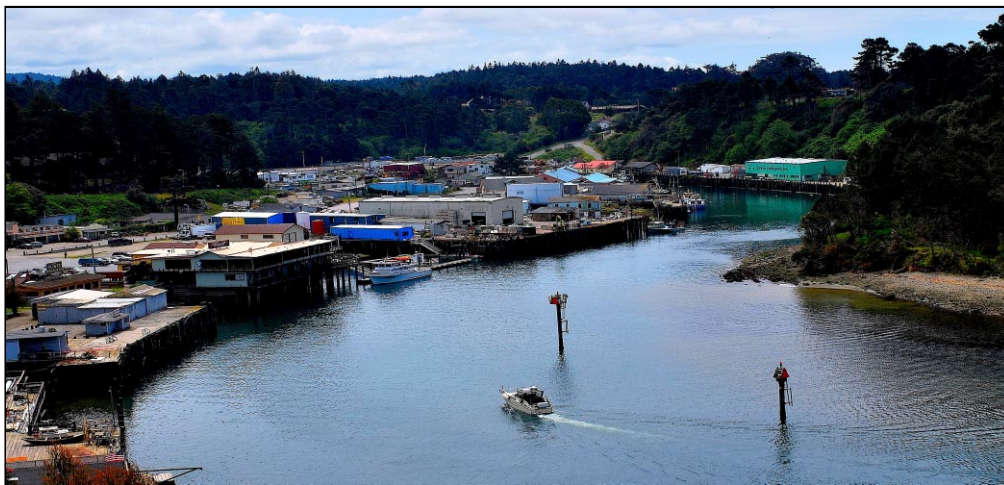




This is the official newsletter of the Ocean Protection Coalition of the Mendocino Coast. The Ocean Protection Coalition is an affiliate of the Redwood Coast Watershed Alliance. The Redwood Coast Watershed Alliance is an alliance of citizen organizations on ridges, valleys and waterways of the Mendocino Coast. The Redwood Coast Watershed Alliance is also a tax exempt, IRS-approved non profit organization.



A view of Fort Bragg's Noyo Harbor from the Noyo Bridge-photograph by Ed Oberweiser

Learn the MLPA issues at stake

By Judith Vidaver

Ocean issues are very hot topics these days; from news of ocean acidification, more attempts to open the US coast to offshore oil, an oil spill off Australia, to new reports of methane being released from frozen deposits below the Arctic Ocean.

However this issue of the OPC News is devoted to a highly controversial local issue: the implementation of the Marine Life Protection Act in our region.

Concern regarding the process of designating areas for protection is being expressed by commercial, recreational and subsistence fisherfolk, sea weed harvesters, as well as by local governments and representatives of State government.

Many claim the process is a sham driven by special interest groups and doesn't represent local communities.

Many cry foul that the process is tainted by political corruption. It seems even the sci-

ence behind excluding fishing from areas of the ocean is questionable and such "protection" may not even be necessary.

The process for the North Central Region has been completed—to the disappointment of many locals and with potentially devastating economic impacts to the Point Arena community.

Now it's our turn. So please take the time to read the following submissions and make up your own minds. Then get active and help make this process fair to locals!

Obama creates ocean policy task force

In order to better meet our Nation's stewardship responsibilities for the oceans, coasts and Great Lakes, President Obama created an Interagency Task Force on Ocean Policy on June 12, 2009. The Task Force is led by the Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality and the other members are composed of senior-level officials from the agencies, departments

and offices on the existing Committee on Ocean Policy. The Task Force has been instructed to provide its recommendations in 90 days for the first three issue areas and 120 days for the last. The Task Force seeks input on its work from interested communities, governments, tribes, businesses, associations, non-governmental organizations and from the general public. If

you would like to provide comments, please visit the task force's website: <http://www.socrata.com/government/Interagency-Ocean-Policy-Taskforce-Comments/4w5y-5cfm>. We ask that you focus your comments on the issues set forth in the President's Memorandum. These include National policy for oceans and for

[See Obama page 2](#)

Fish & Game approves marine reserves

By Dan Bacher

Dan Bacher is the editor of the Elk Grove-based Fish Sniffer magazine.

The California Fish and Game Commission voted 3-2 to create a controversial network of 24 marine-protected areas, stretching from the waters near Half Moon Bay to Point Arena in Mendocino County. This will close or restrict approximately 20 percent of the region's state waters from fishing and seaweed gathering.

The vote to approve the reserve package developed through the Marine Life Protection Act process took place just one day after Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed a new member of the Fish and Game Commission, Donald Benninghoven. A Republican from Santa Barbara, Benninghoven was the deciding vote for the Integrated Preferred Alternative reserve package pushed by the governor.

Benninghoven replaced the former commission president, Cindy Gustafson. Gustafson suddenly resigned the previous Friday, citing an opinion from the state attorney general that found her post conflicted with her position as the Tahoe City Public Utilities District's general manager.

Representatives of Washington, D.C., and San Francisco-based environmental nongovernmental organizations (including the League of Conservation Voters and the Natural Resources Defense Council) praised the vote while fishermen, seaweed harvesters and the North Coast-based Ocean Protection Coalition con-

demned it. "This landmark decision is a major step towards restoring the health and productivity of our state's ocean wildlife," said Warner Chabot, CEO of the California League of Conservation Voters. "The goal is to restore and repopulate underwater life by protecting these essential habitats." "For decades, we've protected California's special places on land with state and national



How many vessels will be unable to fish? - photo Ed Oberweiser

parks," said Karen Garrison, a policy analyst for the Natural Resources Defense Council. "Now it's time to protect the Yosemite of the sea."

The vote will ban Lester Pinola, the past chairman of the Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of Stewarts Point Rancheria in Sonoma County, and the 600 members of his Pomo Indian tribe from harvesting abalone, seaweed and mussels in the intertidal zone off Stewarts Point as they have done for hundreds of years.

"What you are doing to us is taking the food out of our mouths," Pinola told the commission. "When the first settlers came to the coast, they didn't know how to feed themselves. Our people showed them how to

eat out of the ocean. In my opinion, this was a big mistake." Pinola and recreational anglers, commercial fishermen and grassroots environmentalists showed in force at the meeting to back "2XA," the alternative that they believe best meets the conservation objectives of the MLPA while incurring the least economic harm to coastal communities.

Under this alternative, Pinola and members of his tribe could continue harvesting abalone and seaweed. Fish and Game Commissioners Richard Rogers and Michael Sutton, the latter of who is being investigated by the California Fair Political Practices Commission for potential conflicts of interest in regard to his past votes on the MLPA, lauded the MLPA decision as the outcome of a transparent public process. "What we have before us

today is the result of a complicated, open, historic process," said Rogers before the vote. "I've seen processes before that were real railroad jobs, and this isn't one. It is the single most best process in my life that I've been involved with."

Pinola disagreed with Rogers' contention. "They never contacted us to let us know they were planning to close the coast to fishing and seaweed harvesting, even though we were the first people on the coast," he stated.

Commissioners Jim Kellogg and Daniel Richards voted to adopt 2XA and to delay the process because there's no funding to patrol the new re-

See Fish and Game page 3

Obama from page 1

coastal and Great Lakes ecosystems; Ocean governance framework; Implementation Strategy to meet the objectives of the national policy and coastal and marine spatial planning.

In addition, please feel free to include information about the impact of significant emerging issues on your area of expertise

or concern, such as climate change, offshore renewable energy development; on jobs and the economics of your business or activity and any experience you have with current policies and programs - with an emphasis on specific suggestions for improvement where possible.

Please note, that to meet the ambitious time frame out-

lined in the President's Memorandum, the task force will build upon the work of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and the Pew Oceans Commission.

These reports, appendices and the extensive public engagement and records will serve as important foundations for the work of the Ocean Policy Task Force.

Don't buy into the MLPA lies

By Kenyon Hensel

Our community is carefully being fed lies to justify closing large areas of our local state marine waters.

You could lose access forever to shore-side and open-ocean fishing, clamming, and driftwood-gathering areas — and possibly even local beaches through a state process controlled by private interests that is currently unfolding in our area.

Here are the lies used to justify spending tens of millions of our state dollars to close more of our local marine waters.

- “Fish stocks in our state waters are in trouble.” At this time, according to both federal and non-federal experts, there are no local fish stocks being over-fished off the West Coast.

- “Marine reserves are needed to protect habitat.” State and federal laws already include gear restrictions that protect habitat from fishing activities.

- “Rock cod need refuges from fishermen.” In our northern waters, large areas of our coast are unfished. Local weather patterns and reduced effort provide large natural refuges from fishing.

- “State law mandates closures.” The law (the Marine Life Protection Act) does not specify sizing or spacing of closures. When conceived, the MPA

portion of the law was envisioning less than 19 percent of total habitat protection, including all bottom types found in an area. It didn't envision the 40 percent closures of prime hard bottom fishing areas as enacted in the south-central region.

- “There are 99 closed areas already in California and we are just creating a network.” Without the closures enacted through this process, less than 4 percent of state waters were closed to fishing.



Is this another retired fishing boat because of the MLPA?

- “We have the money to properly enforce and monitor this many closed areas.” Just recently, the state association of game wardens asked for a suspension of closures until money is found to support effective enforcement. No one has yet identified where the tens of millions of dollars needed each year for monitoring will come from. Reserves do not provide protection or benefits to fish populations without scientific monitoring.

- “You must accept closures. It's the law.” Nowhere in the MLPA does it say how many MPAs must be created or how big they must be. These outside groups have brought in their own science and paid the state to control the process. Some of the best fisheries scientists have identified the flaws in the outside group's science, only to be ignored. The environmentalists involved only care about closures, and they are breaking federal law by not considering local fishing communities' financial needs.

- “The process is open and transparent.” Yes it is, but the statewide Blue Ribbon Task Force that picks the final alternative to forward to the Fish and Game Commission answers to no one. It is comprised of out-of-the area people with ties to oil and energy groups. Not one fisherman there. These are some of the lies outside environmental groups are willing to feed you to keep the grant money flowing.

You can fight them by joining me at the meetings, and being sure you are heard. Your fishing community needs your help. Petitions are at England Marine. Please stop in and help protect your access to our renewable ocean resource.

Kenyon Hensel is a local fisherman who has been closely involved with California's MPA process.

Fish and game from page 2

serves, but the other three commissioners voted “no” on both motions. Jerry Karnow from the California Fish and Game Wardens Association also asked the commission to delay the implementation of the MLPA initiative “until there is some relief from furloughs and enough officers to enforce these significant new provisions.”

Proponents and opponents of the marine reserve plan also clashed over the science behind the decision.

Chabot said the decision was the result of a “science-based, compromise plan” approved by the commission. “Hundreds of science studies from around the world prove that marine reserves allow fish and wildlife to grow larger, more abundant and healthier,” he stated.

Jim Martin, West Coast director of the Recreational Fishing Alliance,

countered Chabot's contention that the decision was “science-based,” pointing to a landmark study published in Science magazine on July 31 that found that the California Current marine ecosystem has the lowest fishery exploitation rate in the world.

Martin argued that the study, co-authored by Ray Hilborn and 20 other international scientists, effectively challenges the need to rush the MLPA process.

“Much of the motivation for the MLPA was concern about the state of the groundfish stocks—there is clear evidence that these can be rebuilt without MLPAs,” Hilborn noted, citing the new study.

John Lewallen, one of the founders of the Ocean Protection Coalition as well as the “Seaweed Rebellion” on California's North Coast, also strongly contested the decision. The new marine reserve package will

bar Lewallen and his wife, Barbara Stephens-Lewallen, from Sea Lion Cove near Point Arena where they have sustainably harvested sea palms and other seaweed for 25 years.

“I'm really stunned that our democracy would be trashed like it was by the commission,” he said.

“Californians have to oppose today's decision and the MLPA process, or our coast will be taken over by private-money interests.”

Lewallen and fishermen have criticized the MLPA Initiative, a public process, for being funded by the Resource Legacy Fund Foundation, a private nonprofit corporation that receives its money from the David and Lucille Packard and the Gordon and Betty Moore foundations.

State closes fishing holes

By Wes Venteicher

Fishermen lament and environmentalists rejoice as another piece of the Marine Life Protection Act was pushed into place in August, permanently restricting fishing in 20 percent of waters on the north central California coast.

The decision followed the resignation of a member of the Fish and Game Commission due to a conflict of interest and the rapid re-assignment of her swing-vote post by Governor Schwarzenegger.

The network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), including the Farallone Islands, Bodega Head and Point Reyes will impact local fisheries, recreation areas and economies in an effort to protect biodiversity and ocean ecology.

The north central region, stretching from Pigeon Point to Point Arena, is the second of five regions in the state to implement protection areas. The five-member Fish and Game Commission chose from among four proposals.

They selected the Integrated Preferred Alternative, touting it as a compromise of the interests of fishermen, harbor masters, businessmen, scientists, environmental advocates, educational researchers and the public.

Conflict of interest

After former Fish and Game Commission President Sandy Gustafson resigned last month, Schwarzenegger appointed Donald Benninghoven, 76, of Santa Barbara, to replace her.

Gustafson was advised by the state Attorney General's office to leave her post because of a recent promotion to general manager of the Tahoe City Public Utilities District.

A press release from the governor's office described Benninghoven as a lifelong outdoorsman, fisherman, hunter and Republican. Benninghoven also sat on the Blue Ribbon Task Force, a group formed to oversee the implementation of MPAs, before his recent appointment.

Commission members Jim

Kellogg and Dan Richards wanted to suspend the vote until the state's financial situation could support the projected \$30 million dollar annual cost of monitoring and enforcing.

The other two commission members, Mike Sutton and Richard Rogers, supported the Task Force's alternative. Benninghoven voted in favor of the proposal he had helped design. Sutton has also faced scrutiny for possible conflicting interests. He is vice president of the Monterey Bay Aquarium, which receives funds from the Packard Foundation, a major



Another soon to be out of work local fishing boat?

underwriter that contributed more than \$8 million to the Fish and Game Commission to help implement the marine act. Sutton is currently being investigated by the Fair Political Practices Commission. Since the Commission has not yet made a determination, he was allowed to vote.

Price of preservation

When former California Governor Gray Davis signed the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) into existence in 1999, there were no funds to support it. The act floundered until 2004, when the state Department of Fish and Game approached the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation, a non-profit conservation group. The fund, which also receives money from the Packard Foundation, has paid \$20 million so far to implement the Act. Fishermen and others claim the MLPA is compromised by a conflict of interest because of private funding.

But Susan Ashcraft, MPA project supervisor, said the claims are unjusti-

fied. "The fund can't influence the outcome. They just want to see law put forward with good public process," she said. "The main goal of everyone involved with the Act is to create an open and transparent process based on sound science, to allow the state to create a network that is as cohesive as possible."

The fund has no policy role," said Amy Tomah, spokesperson for the fund. Still, many wonder what agendas may be behind the MLPA.

Gov. Schwarzenegger, who showcases his green policies, has done little to address water pollution, and supports other projects that counteract the mission of the MLPA. Zeke Grader, executive director of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fisheries, calls the MLPA "conservation light," or conservation for those who don't want to do any heavy lifting.

Grader and other fishermen are upset that the MLPA is not adhering to its original goal of addressing water pollution.

"What I see here is a resource grab. The first thing that the corporations want to do before grabbing public trust resources is to get rid of the people who live or subsist on the land and ocean," said Judith Vidaver, of the Ocean Protection Coalition, in a June meeting to oppose the MLPA process. The five-member, Blue Ribbon Task Force includes Catherine Reheis-Boyd, Chief Operating Officer and Chief of Staff for the Western States Petroleum Association.

Questionable science

The commission's decision follows a landmark study published this year in Science magazine. In the study, experts concluded the California Current ecosystem has the lowest fishery exploitation rate in the world. Local fishermen, who already face a tangle of state and federal regulations, question the necessity of MPAs in thriving coastal waters. "We're still trying to figure out what they're trying to protect," said Chris Lawson, president of the Bodega Bay Fisherman's Marketing Association.

"What the MLPA is designed to 'solve' is a good question," wrote co-author of the Science article Ray Hilborn in an e-mail. "If the problem is overexploited fish stocks and 'decline' of marine ecosystems, I think it is very clear that you don't need the MLPA to do that; the fisheries management tools of catch limitation, etcetera, are working quite well."

See State closes page 5

Obama's ocean task force meeting will be in San Francisco, September 17

Obama Administration officials will hold their second Ocean Policy Task Force Public Meeting in San Francisco, California on September 17, 2009.

The meeting will be held from 2:30 p.m. until, 6 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Embarcadero Center, Ballroom A, 5 Embarcadero Center, San Francisco, CA 94111 (near BART and MUNI Embarcadero Station).

The Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force, led by White House Council on Environmental Quality Chair Nancy Sutley, consists of

senior-level officials from Administration agencies, departments, and offices.

The Task Force will develop a recommendation for a national policy that ensures protection, maintenance and restoration of oceans, our coasts and the Great Lakes.

It will also recommend a framework for improved stewardship and effective coastal and marine spatial planning.

The public is encouraged to attend and an opportunity for public comment will be provided.

The task force members include: Nancy Sutley, Chair, White House Council on Environmental Quality; Dr. Jane Lubchenco, Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Peter Silva, Assistant Administrator for Water, Environmental Protection Agency; Kit Batten, Science Advisor to the Deputy Secretary, Department of Interior; U.S. Navy Rear Admiral Herman Shelanski, Director for the Chief of Naval Operations Environmental Readiness Division and Rear Admiral Sally Brice-O'Hara, Coast Guard Deputy Commandant for Operations.

State closes fishing holes from page 4

Assemblymember Wesley Chesbro commented on the north coast MPAs in a press release Monday.

"Because of strong constituent concern, I am skeptical of the process that has been followed in developing proposed plans for these regions. The process must be based on sound science. I have been saying, 'Show me the science.' So far I'm not satisfied with the answers I've been getting. The economic health of local fishing communities must be balanced with the need for habitat protection." Mark Carr, co-chair of the MLPA Science Advisory Team and professor of ecology at UC Santa Cruz, agrees that known California fisheries are well-regulated. "But the act is meant to protect ecosystems, not species," he said. "The leading goals are to protect species diversity and ecosystem health, including species for which we don't have good stock assessments. This is a means of providing insurance we don't overfish those species before they're properly assessed." Carr likens the aquatic preserves to America's national parks. "We're going to protect an area for future generations," he said. The advisory team believes the MPAs will provide long-term benefits for fisheries by

preserving ecosystems, but fishermen question the means of preservation.

"All fishermen like the idea of areas being set aside for fish to spawn. We're not against MPAs, just as long as the areas taken aren't too



Northern California coastline off Trinidad - photo by Ed Oberweiser

able, with high dependency on commercial fishing and low resilience to its loss. In 2006, there were 302 commercial vessels, 311 commercial fishermen and 84 processors that reported landings in these ports.

Top fisheries included Dungeness crab, salmon, tuna, California halibut, rockfish and herring. The total value of all landings in 2006 was over \$5 million, with more than 2 million pounds landed. Business practices here have changed over the years.

Josh Churchman, who has fished commercially in Bodega Bay for 40 years, has seen several shifts in the market. He remembers selling croakers in Chinatown when no one else wanted them, and currently sells to high-end chefs looking for fresh, local catch.

Commercial fishing in California has decreased significantly in the past 25 years. The number of commercial fishing licenses sold in the state from 1980 to 2004 has declined by 69 percent to about 6,000 today. "A commercial license used to be \$35. You could catch anything and sell to anyone," Churchman said. "Now it's more restricted than ever and costs \$2,000." Recreational fishing is also an important industry. Second only to Florida, California contains more than 2.7 million residents who eat saltwater fish.

excessive and the integrated proposed alternative is fairly excessive," said Bodega Bay fisherman Eric Owens. "I'm not saying it's unneeded, but the way they approached it is kind of unnerving," Lawson added. The MLPA carries three levels of protection, each with different implications for local fisheries. A state marine reserve prohibits fishing; a state marine park allows some recreational fishing; and a state marine conservation area limits recreational and commercial fishing. Much of the negotiation has focused on what uses will be allowed in given areas.

An economic impact report identifies West Marin ports as vulner-

See State page 6

Will California legislature help people resist “fisheries facism?”

By John Lewallen

“I have looked fascism in the face,” my wife Barbara said, when we came out of the August 5 Fish and Game Commission hearing.

The Marine Life Protection Act Initiative (MLPAI) has brought fascism to California’s public fisheries regulatory process. If we can look this private-foundation takeover of public process in the face now, we may be able to stop it in its early phases.

Fascism’s first target in California is independent ocean food providers operating in clean, wild ocean ecosystems. A group of oil company lobbyists, marina developers and advocates of “ecosystem management” by removing human ocean food providers, have hijacked the Marine Life Protection Act of 1999.

The MLPAI has completely shaped the 1999 Act into a force it was never intended to be, a means not of protecting fisheries but of managing people. With the sudden August 1 appointment of lobbyist Donald Benninghoven to the State Fish and Game Commission (an unconstitutional appointment made by Resources Secretary Mike Chrisman) the private-money takeover of the commission became complete.

Along with Commissioners Sutton and Rogers, the Blue Ribbon Task Force running the privately-

funded MLPAI is sure of a three-vote majority to adopt any South Coast or North Coast marine protected areas they want. Commissioner-designate Benninghoven’s conflict of interest is shockingly blatant: Benninghoven

was a leading member of the privately funded MLPAI Blue Ribbon Task Force that created the controversial plan for huge, permanent closures of fisheries and intertidal subsistence harvesting on the North Central Coast.

Commissioner-designate

Benninghoven’s approval of the “North Central Coast IPA” was the deciding vote. Senate confirmation is required of all State Fish and Game Commission nominees and Senate hearings about the Benninghoven appointment should begin at once! It’s as if an unconfirmed Supreme Court nominee had put on official robes and cast the deciding vote for a plan their employer had ordered them to push through.

This vote scornfully ignored the years of work by North Central Coast tribes, fishermen, and abalone divers to make their own plan for marine protected areas, that would better suit local needs.

Now North Coast ocean food providers are being encouraged by MLPAI staff to raise money and spend hundreds of hours making our own plan. Are we window dressing for

fascism? We, the people of California, could really use the help of the legislature now.

If unchecked, fisheries fascism will move to privately-funded guards and surveillance technology keeping people from taking food from California public waters and intertidal zones.

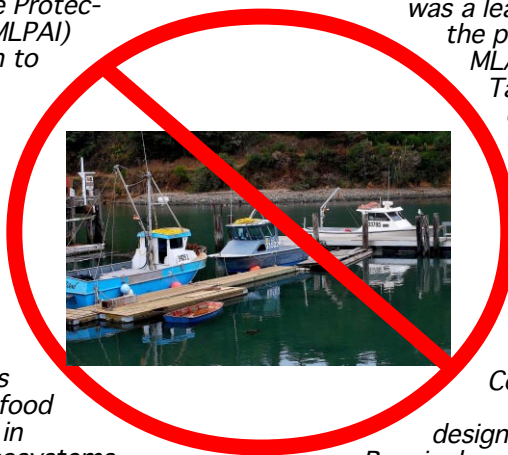
Commissioner Michael Sutton said on August 5 that the Blue Ribbon Task Force estimates that enforcement of new reserves will cost \$11 million a year, with two-thirds of the cost of guards coming from private funding sources, not California state money. The California legislature could suspend the MLPAI at any time by defunding it. All the North Coast county supervisors, many city governments, tribes and community members have contacted Resources Secretary Mike Chrisman, asking him to suspend the MLPAI process.

The whole North Coast community is being tormented and distressed by this fascist attack on ocean food providers! The California State Legislature is the people’s next line of defense against MLPAI fisheries fascism.

It’s time for all of us to contact Senator Patricia Wiggins, Assemblyman Wes Chesbro, and any other California legislators we know. We need an immediate suspension of the MLPAI process.

We need hearings on the Marine Life Protection Act of 1999, and on the “memorandum of understanding” which gives all power to the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation.

The longer we, the people of California let this MLPAI fascism run, the more damage it will do to people, environments and democratic public process in California.



State from page 5

I don’t support these regulations—it’s a minority of environmental groups supporting the closures,” said Jim Martin, West Coast regional director of the Recreational Fishing Alliance. The north central region boasts an abalone population large enough to support recreational harvest.

Seven of 15 public access sites will close, Martin said. “They’re still going to go diving, but they’re going to go to a smaller number of places and hit them harder,” he said. With the prohibition of fishing in MPAs, activities

such as marine wildlife viewing, scuba diving and kayaking are expected to increase, which could benefit local economies. In 2003, the Fish and Game Commission designated a network of MPAs in state waters around the Channel Islands in central California.

A recently released five-year review of the areas confirms many of the predictions made before the MPAs were implemented. “The story is still unfolding on actual economic impact, but so far we’re seeing what we expected,” said Sean Hastings, resource protection coordinator for the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary.

“Businesses have proven resilient; they’ve moved their operations and continued. Some of the fishermen say they miss their old waters, but they have adapted.”

The MLPA process continues to become more refined as it moves from region to region. The north central region will likely meet expectations on several fronts, but fishermen wonder if they will survive adaptation. “The average age of Bolinas fishermen is 59,” Churchman said. “How long can we last?” http://www.ptreyeslight.com/cgi/latest_news.pl?record=382

by Char Flum

According to the North Bay Bohemian Newspaper, Sonoma County is going forward with the wave energy project that is funded and supported by the Sonoma County Water Agency. In April the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) accepted the agency's permit for launching an experimental wave energy project at three marine areas between Jenner and Sea Ranch. The next step is for the agency to submit an EIR and if FERC approves the proposal hundreds of marine generators will become part of the near shore sea view. This could happen in as few as three years.

Fisherman, environmentalists and scientists are already ques-

tioning the impact of such a project on the marine ecosystem and wildlife especially the whales and sea life. Each of three areas will occupy approximately 20 square miles about 1/2 to 3 miles from shore. It is likely that there will be NO ACCESS in these areas.

At the Farrallon Institute president and research scientist Bill Syderman believes that the subsurface cables, noise and electromagnetic fields could be problematic for gray whales, possibly steering them off their migration routes or causing fatal collisions. Navigational warning lights of the generators may attract or disturb birds.

"Much of the coast needs need waves," said Largier, a professor at the research Lab at

UC Davis and a researcher at Bodega Marine Lab. He further said that the wave machines will affect the mechanics and the biology of the surf zone. In the absence of heavy surf, which disturb the sand bars, the rivers up which salmon migrate will remain closed with sand bars and the salmon will perish.

"Nobody should own the open ocean," said local fisherman Neugebauer who once lived in Bodega Bay, but now operates out of Fort Bragg. "The next closure of the ocean will likely be for oil drilling."

At this point the government is not particularly keen on fueling wave energy research as seen when the federal stimulus money was diverted to wind and solar projects.

Attend the Take a Stand concert to save public coastal access in Albion on Sept 26

Our coast is up for sale! Private money is funding the process to create Marine Protection Areas (MPAs), which could prohibit access to large portions of our coast.

Help get the word out that the California Fisheries Coalition (CFC) and other north coast fishing groups are hosting a concert and food benefit at Albion Harbor on September 26th 2009 (noon to 8 p.m.).

This event will raise money so our communities on the North Coast can have a voice in the process of establishing Marine Protected Areas in Northern California.

What's Happening

The Packard Foundation has contributed approximately \$25million to steer the State in a so-called "public-private" process.

There have been many questionable tactics used in other regions of the state limiting a truly open process.

Please get informed! This is not about saving marine resources it's a land grab under the pretence of saving our ocean! Closing large areas of the ocean to fishing to save fish that are already adequately protected will elevate fishing pressure on areas remaining open.

This will in turn lead to additional fishing restrictions to guard against the new overfishing created by marine reserves. Multiple reports estimate MPAs will cost \$35-55 million annually to manage, monitor and enforce but the State does not have that kind of money available.

In the meantime fishing is prohibited or significantly restricted. The Marine Life Protection Act says MPAs are supposed to integrate ocean protection efforts and laws into a better more efficient conservation plan.

Yet the State and its funders are making MPAs only about restricting fishing and misleading the public into thinking that real conservation is going on.

A major recent report said fishing in the California Current is among the best managed and least exploited in the world and that marine reserves are helpful **if** coupled with other traditional management. The State is ignoring these two important facts.

Please, if you can help support this fund raising event please donate money (specify: Take a Stand) at the CFC website (www.cafisheriescoalition.org), it has a secure PayPal link available. If you can help plan, donate food or raffle items, or publicize the "Take a Stand" concert, please contact Mike or Jim.

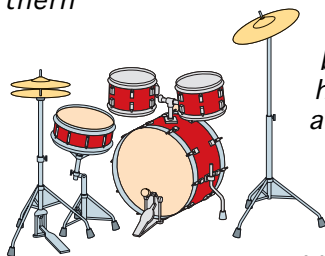
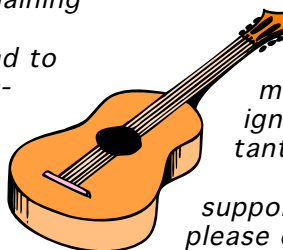
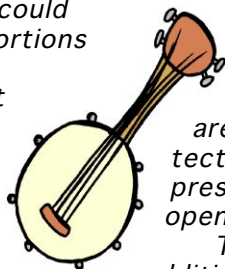
Educational booths are free.

CONTACTS:

• Mike Carpenter, 707-937-4362

• Jim Martin, 707-964-8326
—flatland@mcn.org

Online registration: <http://takeastandconcert.eventbrite.com/>



Write Your Officials

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U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer – District Office: 1700 Montgomery St., Suite 240, SF 94111, (415) 403-0100, FAX (202) 224-0454, mailing address: 312 N. Spring St., Suite 1748, Los Angeles 90012, [web - http://boxer.senate.gov](http://boxer.senate.gov)

U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein – 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510, (202) 224-3841, FAX (202) 228-3954; District Office for state and local issues: One Post St., Suite 2450, San Francisco 94104, (415) 393-0707, [web - http://feinstein.senate.public.gov/public](http://feinstein.senate.public.gov/public)

Rep. Mike Thompson – 1st District, 231 Cannon Office Building, Washington, DC 20515, (202) 225-3311, FAX (202) 225-4335: Coast representative, Heidi Dickerson, 430 N. Franklin St., P.O. Box 2208, Fort Bragg, CA 95437, 962-0933, FAX 962-0934, [web - http://mikethompson.house.gov/](http://mikethompson.house.gov/)

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger – State Capitol, Sacramento 95814, (916) 445-2841, FAX (916) 558-3160 [web - http://gov.ca.gov](http://gov.ca.gov)

State Sen. Patricia Wiggins – Senate District 2, Capitol Building, Room 4081, Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 651-4002, FAX (916) 323-6958; Field Rep. Kathy Kelly, Ukiah office 200 S. School St., P.O. Box 785, Ukiah, CA 95482, 468-8914, FAX 468-8931, [web - http://dist02.casen.govoffice.com](http://dist02.casen.govoffice.com)

Assemblyman Wesley Chesbro – Assembly District 1, State Capitol, P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-001, (916) 319-2001, FAX (916) 319-2101; Ukiah Field Rep Ruth Valenzuela, 311 N. State St., Ukiah, CA 95482, 463-5770, [web - http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a01/](http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a01/)

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors: 1st District, **Carre Brown**, 2nd District, **John McCowen**; 3rd District, **John Pinches**; 4th District, **Kendall Smith**; 5th District, **David Colfax**. County Administration Center, 501 Low Gap Rd., Rm 1090, Ukiah, CA 95482, 463-4221, FAX 463-4245, [web: http://co.mendocino.ca.us/bos/](http://co.mendocino.ca.us/bos/)

Fort Bragg City Council: Contact at: City Hall, 416 N. Franklin St., Fort Bragg, CA 95437, 961-2823, FAX 961-2802 citycouncil@fortbragg.com
Mayor Doug Hammerstrom - dhammerstrom@fortbragg.com
Vice Mayor Dave Turner - dturner@fortbragg.com
Meg Courtney - mcourtney@fortbragg.com
Dan Gjerde - dgjerde@fortbragg.com
Jere Malo - jmelo@fortbragg.com

OPC Needs You!

STOP OCEAN INDUSTRIALIZATION



Go Environmentally Safe, Clean Energy NOW
Ocean Protection Coalition

The Ocean Protection Coalition is a non profit group originally formed to prevent offshore oil drilling off the Mendocino coast.

Now our coastline is threatened by the Minerals Management Service's five-year plan with offshore lease sales.

We are also facing two new threats. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is granting wave power preliminary pilot projects off the Mendocino, Eureka and Ventura County coastlines.

If that wasn't bad enough, now the United States Navy wants to conduct a five-year training exercise in what it calls the Northwest Training Range Complex. This will threaten ocean waters from the Canadian border to the Humboldt/Mendocino county line and beyond. The navy wants to conduct expanded sea and air warfare training and weapons development activities on more than 120,000 nautical square miles off the Pacific Northwest coastline. The navy's weapons training and development activities include bombing, the placement of hundreds of sonar buoys, live firing of guns, missiles, torpedoes and the release of a number of toxic chemicals and substances into the ocean. These include phosphorus, tuolene, depleted uranium and unexploded ordnance containing chromium, chromium compounds and many more.

The navy acknowledges that half a million marine mammals, mostly whales and dolphins could be harmed by the many explosions and especially the sonar. The Gray Whales will have to navigate through this horror 10 times during their migrations to Mexico and back during the navy's five-year war exercises.

OPC is fighting to stop the militarization and industrialization of our oceans. We need your support and help now! We need you to circulate petitions against the destruction of the oceans. We need your written letters to flood the halls of Congress and the White House. We need you at our demonstrations and need you to attend meetings both ours and regulatory agency ones.

We will use the OPC News to give citizens updates on threats to the ocean and our coastline. Please sign up to subscribe for hard copies of the OPC News and pass them around. You can also contact us at: indigoa@mcn.org to get on our list serv and receive the **OPC News** electronically.

OPC is a small organization with minimal funds to carry on our important work. If you are able to donate even a small amount, it will be gratefully accepted. Please send your donations to: The Ocean Protection Coalition, P.O. Box 1006, Fort Bragg, CA 95437. We are a non-profit organization. If you would like more information about our group or meeting time and place, please call 964-5035.