



RESOLUTION 2010-14

A RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE UNIFIED MARINE PROTECTED AREA ARRAY

WHEREAS, the California Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) calls for the reexamination and redesign of California's Marine Protected Area (MPA) system to increase its coherence and effectiveness at protecting the state's marine life, habitat, and ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, it is consistent with the MLPA and good public policy to redesign California's MPA system in a manner that gives meaningful consideration to the sustainability of ecological, economic, cultural, and social systems; and

WHEREAS, North Coast fisheries are currently sustainable or rebuilding under existing regulations¹; and

WHEREAS, recent scientific research has demonstrated that the California Current Ecosystem is one of the most conservatively managed ecosystems in the world²; and

WHEREAS, Mendocino County, Humboldt County and Del Norte County are classified as vulnerable to changes in fisheries management measures³ due to factors such as high economic dependence on fishing, high community isolation, limited industry diversification, high unemployment, and high poverty rates; and

WHEREAS, the MLPA Initiative Regional Stakeholder Group unified during Round Three of the MLPA Initiative process to develop a consensus based MPA array (Unified MPA Array) that meets the goals of the MLPA while minimizing impacts to social, cultural, and economic systems; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that, due to significantly distinct ecological, social, cultural and economic conditions in the North Coast, the Unified MPA Array does not precisely meet all the guidelines established by the MLPA Initiative Science Advisory Team, yet represents an MPA network consistent with the spirit of those guidelines and the goals and elements identified in the MLPA legislation; and

WHEREAS, the long term success of MPAs will require acceptance by local communities; and although many community members do not believe any new MPAs are warranted, the Unified MPA Array represents a compromise acceptable to North Coast residents, including recreational fishermen, commercial fishermen and conservation advocates; and

WHEREAS, California Tribes and Tribal Communities are traditional and active stewards of marine ecosystems, and their continued gathering and use of marine resources is an ongoing and essential part of their culture and survival.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Trinidad, that we strongly urge the Marine Life Protection Act Initiative Blue Ribbon Task Force and the California Fish and Game Commission to support and adopt the Unified MPA Array developed by the Regional Stakeholder Group during Round 3 of the North Coast MLPA Initiative process.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT if the Blue Ribbon Task Force makes the decision to redesign the Unified MPA Array contrary to the recommendation of the Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District, then the redesign must be conducted in collaboration with North Coast Regional Stakeholders and communities. Regional Stakeholders have worked for months to design a single cohesive array that

¹ National Marine Fisheries Service. 2009. Our living oceans: report on the status of U.S. living marine resources, 6th edition. U.S. Dep. Commerce, NOAA Technical Memo. NMFS-F/SPO-80.

² Worm et al. 2009. Rebuilding Global Fisheries. Science 325: 578-585.

³ Pacific Fishery Management Council and National Marine Fisheries Service. 2006. Proposed acceptable biological catch and optimum yield specifications and management measures for the 2007-2008 Pacific coast groundfish fishery, and Amendment 16-4: rebuilding plans for seven depleted Pacific coast groundfish species; final environmental impact statement including regulatory impact review and initial regulatory flexibility analysis. Pacific Fishery Management Council, Portland, Oregon, 2006.

incorporates the unique ecological, social, cultural and economic conditions of the North Coast within the framework of the statewide MLPA Initiative guidelines and MLPA legislation. Because the alteration of any single element of the Unified MPA Array has the potential to undermine its cohesiveness, collaboration with Regional Stakeholders and local communities regarding any change to the Unified MPA Array is essential to retaining both its integrity and the support of local communities, factors that are vital to the long term success of the MPA system.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT any approved MPA array design will need to allow traditional, non-commercial, gathering, subsistence, harvesting, ceremonial and stewardship activities by California Tribes and Tribal Communities.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Trinidad City Council at its regular meeting held on the 13th day of October, 2010, by the following vote:

Ayes: Morgan, Ratzlaff, Binnie, Bhardwaj, Fulkerson
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

Attest:

Gabriel Adams
Trinidad City Clerk

Stan Binnie
Mayor