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STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
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## Fish and Game Commission



*Wildlife Heritage and Conservation*  
*Since 1870*

December 1, 2016

Senator Mike McGuire, Chair  
Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture  
California State Legislature  
Senator.McGuire@sen.ca.gov

Assembly Member Jim Wood, Vice-Chair  
Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture  
California State Legislature  
Assemblymember.Wood@assembly.ca.gov

Dear Senator McGuire and Assembly Member Wood:

The Fish and Game Commission (Commission) is pleased to transmit to you the final 2016 Master Plan for Marine Protected Areas, which was adopted by the Commission on August 24, 2016 pursuant to the California Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA).

The MLPA (Fish and Game Code Section 2850, et seq.) calls for creating an improved network of marine protected areas (MPAs) redesigned to increase its coherence and effectiveness at protecting the State's marine life, habitats, and ecosystems (Section 2853(a), Fish and Game Code). To help achieve this end, the MLPA directs the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) to prepare, and the Commission to adopt, a master plan to guide the design, implementation, and management of a redesigned network of MPAs in California (Section 2855, Fish and Game Code).

In 2008, the Commission adopted a draft master plan as a living document to provide consistent guidance for designing California's MPAs through a regional planning and implementation approach (2006- 2012). Subsequent to the regional planning effort and pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 2859, the Department prepared and submitted an updated master plan to the Commission for potential adoption as a final plan.

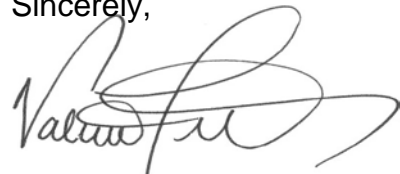
After an extensive and collaborative public process to solicit and incorporate public and tribal input, on August 24, 2016 the Commission adopted the Final Master Plan for Marine Protected Areas, thereby enacting the Marine Life Protection Program pursuant

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to the MLPA. As identified in Fish and Game Code Section 2859(d), once the Commission adopts the final master plan, it shall be submitted to the Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture (Committee) for a 60-day review and comment period. The final master plan for MPAs is attached and can also be found, with additional information, at <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Master-Plan>.

The Commission looks forward to working with the Committee to complete this final step for the master plan and resulting Marine Life Protection Program as identified in the MLPA. If you have further questions please feel free to contact Acting Deputy Executive Director Susan Ashcraft ([Susan.Ashcraft@fgc.ca.gov](mailto:Susan.Ashcraft@fgc.ca.gov) or 916-653-1803) or Acting Marine Advisor Elizabeth Pope ([Elizabeth.Pope@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.Pope@wildlife.ca.gov) or 707-445-5301).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Valerie Termini', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Valerie Termini  
Executive Director

Attachment: Master plan for MPAs

ec: Tom Weseloh, Chief Consultant, Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture,  
California State Legislature, [tom.weseloh@sen.ca.gov](mailto:tom.weseloh@sen.ca.gov)

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