

## **A Resolution of the County of Santa Barbara California, Supporting implementation of the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA)**

Whereas, the health of the Pacific Ocean is directly tied to the County of Santa Barbara's economy, public health, and environment; and

Whereas, there is increasing scientific evidence that human activities are damaging marine ecosystems and ocean life; and

Whereas, the County of Santa Barbara endorses a balanced approach to managing, sustaining, and protecting the ocean environment, including protection of habitat and wildlife, fishing and recreation; and

Whereas, California adopted the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) in 1999 to provide improved protection for the diversity and abundance of California's ocean habitats through a network of marine protected areas (MPAs) with the goals of sustaining, conserving and protecting marine life populations; protecting marine ecosystems; improving recreational, educational and study opportunities provided by marine ecosystems; and protecting marine natural heritage; and

Whereas, in order to ensure success of the MLPA, diverse, interested stakeholders are included in the MPA design; and

Whereas, there is strong scientific evidence that marine protected areas restore and protect the natural diversity and abundance of marine life, and the structure, function and integrity of marine ecosystems; and

Whereas, marine reserves throughout the world generally show great benefits to the habitat and wildlife populations, resulting in significantly higher densities of marine life within their boundaries relative to only partially protected sites; and

Whereas, MPAs and reserve designation requires a balance of ecological, political, economic and social goals.

Now, therefore, the County of Santa Barbara does hereby resolve as follows:

**Section 1.** The Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, California supports the goals and implementation of the Marine Life Protection act to establish a network of MPAs in California waters designed to protect the State's marine life, habitat, and ocean ecosystems.

**Section 2.** That the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, California endorses the planning process for the Marine Life Protection Act in Southern California

and will support creative implementation processes that include input from the science community and all interested stakeholders.

**Section 3.** That the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, California endorses the implementation of the Marine Life Protection Act and supports its goal of protecting the outstanding marine heritage of southern California, and to ensuring long term vitality of coastal communities and fisheries.

**Section 4.** The County Clerk shall certify to the passage and adoption of this resolution and enter in it into the book of original resolutions.

Passed and adopted this \_\_\_day of\_\_\_\_, 2008.