

### **For more information**

on the FIN and the MLPA process, and to learn how you can help the California Fisheries Coalition work to protect fishing interests, visit:

[www.cafisheriescoalition.org](http://www.cafisheriescoalition.org)

[www.californiafisheriescoalition.blogspot.com](http://www.californiafisheriescoalition.blogspot.com)

### **To schedule a speaker on the MLPA**

for your next club/organization meeting, contact:

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# Marine Protected Areas are coming ...

## Get informed — Stay informed with the FIN



The California Fisheries Coalition brings together 27 marine-related organizations to advocate for cleaner oceans and sustainable marine resources.

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Ecotrust's mission is to inspire fresh thinking that creates economic opportunity, social equity and environmental well-being.

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## The Fisheries Information Network

A partnership of the California Fisheries Coalition and Ecotrust

The Fisheries Information Network (FIN) provides a way for fishermen and fishing organizations to learn about and participate in the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) process and to interact with fishing representatives on the South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (RSG).

### We seek to

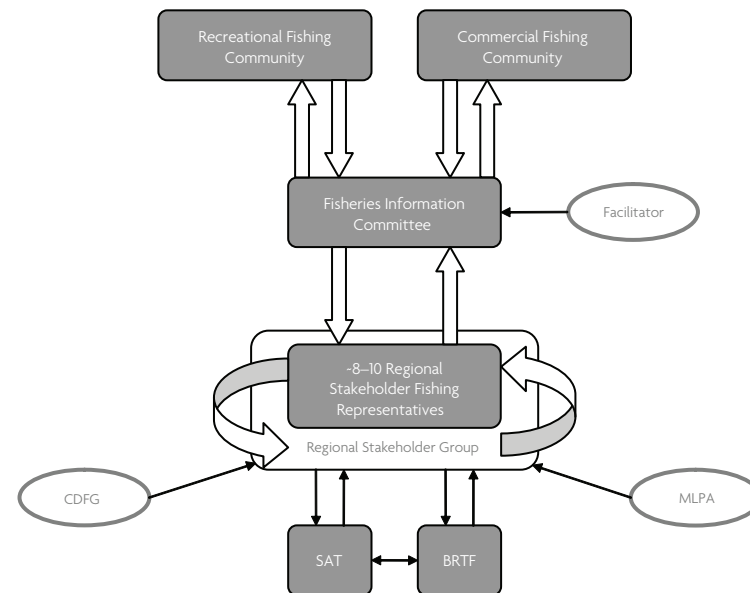
- » strengthen the ability of the fishing community to influence the RSG process in order to ensure that diverse fishing interests are fairly and adequately represented; and
- » assemble a local knowledge base of fisheries uses and values, and use this information to answer socioeconomic questions as they arise by sharing knowledge and recommendations with RSG members and other MLPA participants.

### Progress and timeline

In February 2009, utilizing computer-assisted decision tools for the design and evaluation of Marine Protected Area (MPA) proposals, the FIN submitted an alternate proposal to the South Coast RSG. The FIN proposal seeks to meet the science requirements of the MLPA, while avoiding needless impacts on fishing.

Later this spring, we expect there will be an opportunity to refine this proposal as we learn more about its benefits and impacts. In the fall of 2009, the RSG is expected to submit a set of proposals to the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force and California Fish and Game Commission for final consideration.

The Fisheries Information Committee includes recreational and commercial fishermen working together to represent the FIN in providing input to the MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group.



### Fisheries Information Committee

In the fall of 2008, the California Fisheries Coalition and Ecotrust worked with recreational and commercial fishing communities to identify and recruit representatives to the Fisheries Information Committee. This committee was chosen to be representative of diverse fishing interests in the South Coast study region and complementary to the choice of fishing community representatives on the RSG.

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