



Westport Municipal Advisory Council

P. O. Box 307, Westport, CA 95488
www.westportmac.org

December 8, 2010

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
c/o California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear California Natural Resources Agency:

The Westport Municipal Advisory Council (WMAC) would like to comment on the decision by the Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) to adopt for recommendation to the California Fish and Game Commission the North Coast Regional Stake Holder Group's "Unified Array." We appreciate the efforts of the disparate interests of the North Coast Regional Stakeholders Group to agree on the "Unified Array." It is indeed a laudable achievement. We also appreciate the BRTF's willingness to honor this achievement by recommending it for adoption by the California Fish and Game Commission. However, we are concerned that the proposed location of the northern boundary of the Ten Mile Reserve is going to negatively impact our community.

In a letter dated February 23, 2010 (see attached) and during public comment at the February 24 BRTF meeting, WMAC has provided testimony of the importance of this area for local residents. Others have graphically illustrated the popularity of this safe public access point for the subsistence gathering of seafood. Many of our constituents are low-income and depend on marine resources provided in this area. In moving the boundary line just two tenths of a minute north from our recommended location, the safest and most convenient public access to these resources has been eliminated.

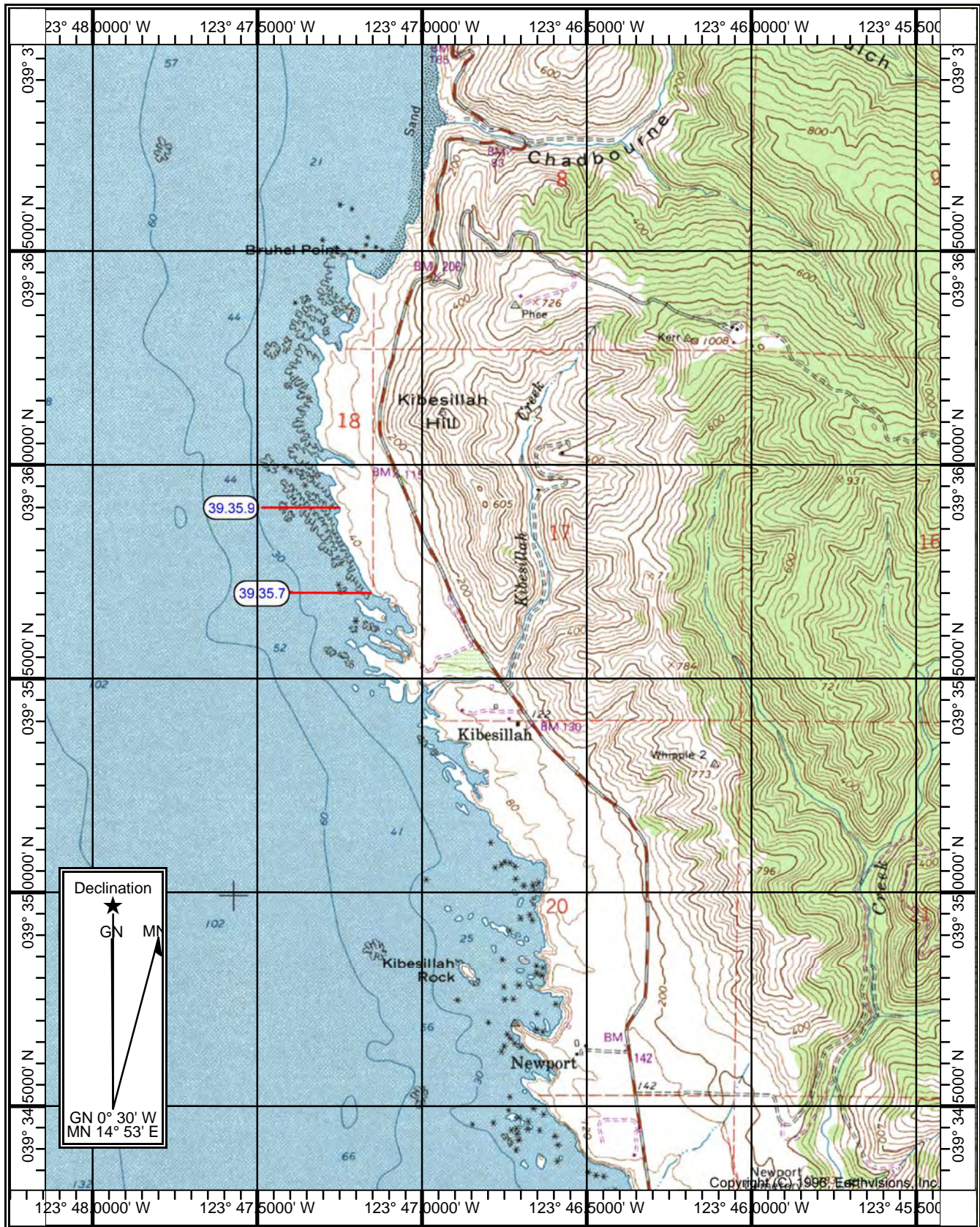
We are also concerned with the potential unnecessary expenditure of diminishing public funds to patrol this popular access area. Please move the northern boundary to 39°35.7' of latitude as we suggested originally to avoid these certain negative impacts to our community.

Sincerely,

Thad M. Van Bueren, Chair

Attachments: WMAC letter of Feb 23, 2010; map showing requested boundary change

cc: California Fish and Game Commission
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090



Move north end of Ten Mile Reserve to 39° 35.7'

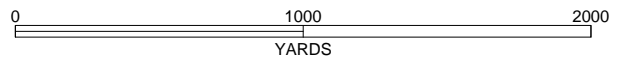
Map Name: INGLENOOK

Scale: 1 inch = 2,000 ft.

Map Center: 039° 35.6434' N 123° 46.7851' W

Horizontal Datum: NAD83

SCALE 1:24000





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<http://www.westportmac.org>

February 25, 2010

MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force
c/o California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: External Arrays for MLPA Implementation from Point Arena north to Oregon Border

Dear Task Force and Natural Resources Agency:

The Westport Municipal Advisory Council would like to provide preliminary comments on the cited topic in behalf of the citizens living in our sphere of influence from the Ten Mile River north beyond Rockport. We comprise a Council appointed by the Mendocino Board of Supervisors to convey local opinion on planning issues and other related matters.

At a meeting held February 22, 2010 the Westport MAC received public input on the MLPA process and agreed by a unanimous vote that we would like to ensure shore-based sport and subsistence fishing and intertidal resource collection is not further restricted by the MLPA process in the following critical sections of our local coastline as shown on the attached map:

1. Between 39°35'27"N (Kibesillah) and 39°36'30"N (Bruhel Point)
2. Between 39°38'04"N (south end of Westport) and 39°41'12"N (Union Landing Vista Point)

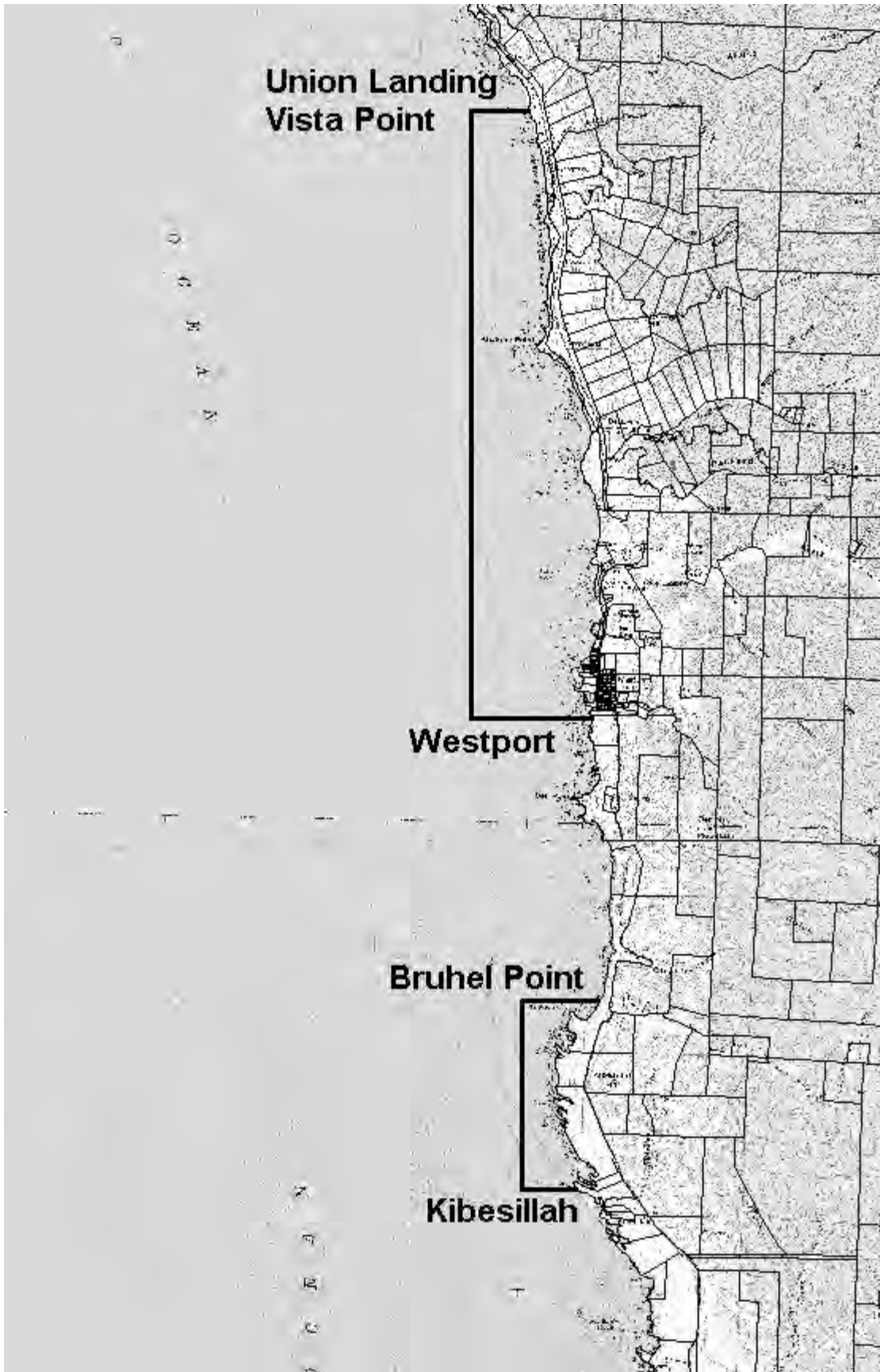
The two referenced portions of the Mendocino County coast have long been used by both indigenous and modern people for sustainable subsistence fishing and gathering other intertidal resources. Bruhel Point is the only easily accessible portion of the coast between Cleone and Westport where such activities are possible. Those traditional uses continue to the present time and should be retained not only to ensure local citizens can provision themselves; but also because that traditional access attracts visitors that help support the local economy. Local businesses such as stores, campgrounds, lodging facilities, and restaurants all depend on sport fishers for a portion of their income.

The WMAC would like to receive all future public notices and review documents that pertain to the cited process for the north coast region. We will have further comments on this process as it unfolds. Thank you for considering the views expressed here.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thad M. Van Bueren". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Thad M. Van Bueren, Chairman



Westport Vicinity with traditional fishing & gathering areas shown.