

Rick W. Johnson
Inverness, CA

April 7, 2007

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
c/o California Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814
Attn: Melissa Miller-Henson

Re: Nomination for North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group

Dear Ms. Miller-Henson:

I would like to serve on the North Central Coast Regional Stakeholders Committee. I represent birders and other nature lovers who care about the health of the oceans and would like to see Marine Protected Areas be successful in preserving biodiversity and replenishing fish stocks. I am strongly committed to these goals, but I do not begin the process with a fixed position on the boundaries. I am currently retired and have a background in software business, and volunteer conservation and education activities. If appointed this will be an important activity for me, and I am committed to fully participate in completing the stakeholder committee's responsibilities.

In my birding activities, I do sound recording and developed a web site and introductory on-line bird song course at www.hearbirds.com. I am doing research with Point Reyes National Seashore staff to try to identify individual Spotted Owls by voice in order to develop a less costly and disturbing monitoring method than banding. I volunteer to lead birding by ear field trips and teach young people. This spring I am teaching the Art and Science of Bird Song in an elective for 7-8th graders at West Marin School.

I was trained by Bob Breen to be a tide pool docent and led trips at Fitzgerald Reserve while living on the San Francisco Peninsula. Now, I lead tide pool trips for EAC of West Marin. I also lead dunes field trips for EAC. I volunteer as an elephant seal and gray whale docent with Point Reyes National Seashore. I have taken several years of marine biology classes at Cal State East Bay (Cal State Hayward at the time) and at Moss Landing. (courses included Fisheries Biology, Invertebrate Zoology, Survey of SF Bay Invertebrates, Marine algae, Ecology, Marine Mammals). I am also a recreational fisherman, primarily out of Bodega Bay and Tomales Bay using my small boat.

I have volunteered to help numerous non-profit organizations. I am currently on the Marin Audubon Society Conservation Committee, and previously had similar roles with Sequoia Audubon, where I chaired the committee, and Santa Clara Valley Audubon. I was a board member of Sequoia Audubon and coordinated the breeding bird atlas for San Mateo County. In the year when we published our atlas, I was given an award as Educator of the Year. I was a board member of EAC of West Marin for three years. I

was also a board member of the Friends of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve for several years. I volunteer to do field observations for Audubon Canyon Ranch including Tomales Bay Shorebird Censuses, and monitoring nesting and productivity of a heron rookery.

My local alumni association, HBSA/NC has a Community Partners program which provides pro bono consulting to non-profits. With Community Partners, I helped a regional environmental group develop their first strategic plan. I am currently helping a community group write a business plan for a new charter school. I hope that these skills can be helpful in creating a marine protection plan.

I have experience in providing advice on public natural resource issues. I have provided written and oral comments to local and county planning commissions in Marin and San Mateo Counties, and campaigned for ballot initiatives related to conservation. In 2001, I participated in the first round of California MLPA workshops in Half Moon Bay.

My approach to public outreach has two main elements. I will maintain contact with local Audubon Chapters and California Audubon about the Marine Protected Area process, topics and issues. I don't formally represent them but I will endeavor to communicate. On April 14 I will meet with the Bay Area Audubon Council (8 bay area chapters and a state representative) to describe the process, and solicit their input, and ongoing communication. I have begun and will continue to contact individuals who lead natural history trips to ask for input and express my interest in hearing their views on the issues.

My business career was primarily in software development with my last position as VP of Product Development for Ross Systems. My education includes an MBA from Harvard and a BA from Yale. In my work career I integrated technical information and human needs to find a path for successful development and organizational growth. I think the same skills can help balance local and regional needs for the MPAs in our region.

Sincerely,

Rick W. Johnson