

To whom it may concern,

April 2, 2007

My name is John Mellor, and I would like to apply for a seat on the Regional Stakeholder Group as the commercial fishing representative for The San Francisco Bay Area.

My most important qualification, I believe, is that I have been successfully making my living, nearly exclusively, from fishing for over 27 years. I started out working on party boats, got my 100 ton masters license when I was 21, and ran charter boats out of Berkeley, Emeryville, San Francisco, Sausalito, Half Moon Bay, and Bodega Bay for around 6 years. During the winter months I would fish for rockfish commercially from Half Moon Bay to Pt. Arena using rod and reel and various other types of vertical gear. The excitement and the promise of more money drew me towards commercial fishing whereupon I began leasing boats to fish salmon, crabs, sablefish, albacore, herring, halibut, and rockfish in California, and going to Alaska for the Bristol Bay salmon fishery and to the Bering Sea for the crab fisheries. I bought my first boat, an old wood troller when I was 29. The boat I have now is called the High Hopes and is a 40ft. fiberglass boat. Over the years I've participated in every available fishery on the Central California coast and am very familiar with the gear types, geographical, and socio-economic factors involved, as well as much of the biology and ecosystems of the targeted species. I would say that rockfish and their habitats are the animals I'm most familiar with. I've seen and felt the results of mismanagement and greed that everyone now realizes has occurred in the groundfish fishery.

I've been active politically, of course attending many state and federal council meetings, as well as a fishing activities working group with the Gulf Of the Farallones Sanctuary people, the Eco Trust economic study for the gulf, among other things. I would have no problem working with scientists, environmentalists, regulators, sport anglers or anyone else. I have no ax to grind, no fixed ideas - I think we all want the same thing - a healthy ocean and healthy fisheries.

Also, I believe that I have the support of and good communication with all the members of the San Francisco Crab Boat Owners Association, other local fishers, as well as the PCFFA. This would be a great opportunity to repay them for all the help they have given me over the years. Since I won't be fishing for salmon this year, (I fish for crabs until July and then sablefish and live rockfish through November) I should be able to devote the necessary time to complete the project.

Thank you for your consideration,
John Mellor