

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

NOMINATION TO THE MLPA NORTH CENTRAL COAST REGIONAL STAKEHOLDER GROUP

The California Abalone Association (CAA) is nominating the following individual(s) to the MLPA North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group:

Phil Sanders (primary)
Gualala CA

Mike Kitahara (1st alternate)
Albion CA

Rich Pogre (2nd alternate)
San Mateo CA

All three (3) individuals bring extensive first hand local knowledge of the marine resources on the north central coast. They have all been involved with regional projects and are able to clearly convey the fundamental interests of the CAA.

Our primary nominee, Phil Sanders, owns his own business, has been a recreational diver since the mid 1970s, and a sea urchin diver since 1986. He has logged over 8,000 hours underwater throughout the State of California. His experience would lend a unique perspective in helping to balance conservation of the resources with the needs of the resource users. Mike Kitahara is a commercial fisherman and diver with over 30 years of experience. Rich Pogre has been a recreational ocean fisherman since the early 1950s and a part-time commercial fisherman since 1978.

To bring the broadest range of experience to this important process Mr. Sanders would act as the primary participant. He is fully committed to completing all aspects of the charge and would act as the lead at all times. The alternates would be kept informed and remain fully engaged in the process (through Mr. Sanders) and will only attend meetings if necessary to provide continuity in representation.

Mr. Sanders and Mr. Kitahara served on the Commercial Abalone Advisory Committee (CAAC), which provided policy and regulation guidance to the Department of Fish & Game (DFG). Mr. Kitahara also worked collaboratively with the DFG and the Fish & Wildlife Service to develop regulations for the Farallon Islands. Mr. Pogre is a current member of the Recreational Abalone Advisory Committee (RAAC) that advises the Director of the DFG.

All three (3) nominees are active members of the California Abalone Association (CAA), which is an association of individuals that are interested in preserving, fostering, and sustaining all

things relating to the California market abalone fishery. The CAA is a leader in innovative marine resource management. The CAA is currently working on several cooperative projects with the California Department of Fish and Game (San Miguel Island {SMI} Abalone Fishery Advisory Group {AAG}, and the SMI Snapshot Survey conducted in 2006 and scheduled again for 2007). The nominee(s) will effectively communicate with members of the fishing community through briefings at regularly scheduled CAA meetings and through e-mail correspondence.

Thank you for considering the above nomination(s).

Chris Voss, President
California Abalone Association