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Nomination Letter for the Marine Life Protection Act  
North Central Regional Stakeholder Group

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Susan Goldberg, Chair  
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CA Department of Fish & Game  
1416 Ninth Street  
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My name is Ben Sleeter and I am a member of the Board of Directors of the Coastside Fishing Club, a non-profit group of over 13,000 members dedicated to enhancing recreational salt water fishing in northern California. I am submitting this letter of nomination in hopes of being considered as a candidate for the MLPA North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group.

Having been born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area I have had the opportunity to enjoy the multitude of activities focused on marine resources. I have fished recreationally since childhood in addition to spending countless hours viewing marine wildlife such as whales, birds and intertidal environments. California's ocean resources have a special place in my heart and I have a strong dedication to ensuring they will be improved for my family's future enjoyment. Successful implementation of the MLPA will help to achieve this goal.

I have been involved in all aspects of the Marine Life Protection Act Initiative including the following:

- Member of the Statewide Interest Group (SIG) from 2005-2006.
- Alternate (to Howard Egan) on the Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group.
- Participated in and provided public comments at Blue Ribbon Task Force and Science Advisory Team meetings.
- Submitted comments on all aspects of the MLPA Master Plan.
- Organized and delivered MLPA educational round table discussions with the recreational (and commercial) fishing community (ongoing effort).
- Worked with conservation groups to identify areas of convergence regarding implementation of the Marine Life Protection Act.

In addition to my work on the MLPA I have been heavily involved in many other marine resource issues impacting recreational angling. Some of these include:

- Developing alternate salmon season structures to minimize impact on Klamath Fall-run Chinook
- Creation of public awareness literature regarding Klamath River salmon
- Developing options on recreational albacore daily bag limits.
- Developing options on recreational white sturgeon regulations.

I am willing to commit the time necessary to help implement the Marine Life Protection Act in the North Central Coast. Coastside Fishing Club affords me a unique ability to directly communicate with several thousand salt water anglers regarding the implementation of the MLPA – this ability is unmatched in Northern California. In addition to outreach done through Coastside Fishing Club, our partners the American Sport Fishing Association (ASA) and United Anglers of Southern California (UASC) will also benefit from my selection to the regional stakeholder group. Specifically, communication with constituents will be done through MPA workshops, membership meetings, private communication, email, and Internet message boards. Monthly newsletters will also be drafted and distributed through sport shops and retailers in an effort to educate the angling community about the progress of the MLPA.

In addition to my fishery-related qualifications I believe I am uniquely qualified from an educational and professional perspective. I hold a Masters in Geography with an emphasis in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and remote sensing to categorize environmental systems. For the past eight years I have worked as a research geographer with the U.S. Geological Survey studying the rates and causes of late 20<sup>th</sup> century land-cover change in the United States. I believe my scientific approach and understanding will be an asset to the MLPA Initiative and specifically, my background in the geographic sciences, particularly GIS, will be of significant benefit to the stakeholder group.

Thank you for this opportunity to volunteer for participation in the Marine Life Protection Act Initiative. Should you have any questions about my qualifications please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Benjamin M. Sleeter  
Recreational Fisheries Advocate  
Coastside Fishing Club