

To: Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
From: Richard Alvarez Diving Safety Officer Humboldt State University Scientific Diving Program
Date: 1/6/2010
Re: MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Nomination

I am interested in serving on the North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group. I have lived in Arcata/Eureka area since 1994. In that time I have been actively and extensively involved in ocean related activities. I surf and freedive the north coast as often as I can, but it is my job that I feel uniquely qualifies me to participate in this process. I have taught Scuba Diving courses at HSU since 2000 and prior to that was student in the program. I have over 1500 dives and 98% of these are here in local waters. As Diving Safety Officer at HSU I oversee all university diving related research in addition to teaching a Scientific Diving course. The Scientific Diving course uses the Reefcheck California Protocol to survey 6 Nor-Cal sites and 4 Southern California sites since 2007. I have seen the diversity that Northern California has and will apply this experience in hopes of placing MPAs where they will be most effective. I have participated in multiple surveys of sites from Crescent City to Point Arena in the 15 years that I have been diving here in Northern California using a variety of survey techniques and in collaboration with DFG and other agencies and researchers. As both a hunter and research diver I feel my ability to bridge a gap between consumptive and non-consumptive users will be valuable in this process. I have a broad spectrum of people with a variety of viewpoints about the MPA process who I regularly deal with. The ability to take all these various perspectives and apply them to the Stakeholder's group is why I hope to be a voice for compromise from both sides. I have a very busy teaching schedule but I will do everything I can to attend all meetings and be an active participant. I have discussed the Stakeholder's process with people who have participated in the Central, North-Central, and Southern California Stakeholder groups. Each has assured me that the time and energy are well spent and none regretted the involvement. I appreciate your consideration in the nomination process and look forward to being part of this important process.

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