July 18, 2008

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
C/O California Resources Agency
Email: MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov

Subject: SAC Nominations for the Regional Stakeholders Group.

Dear Sir/Madam:

The Sportfishing Association of California (SAC) has since 1972 represented the interests of the southern California commercial passenger fishing (CPFV) vessel industry. As the upcoming southern California phase of the MLPA will have a direct and potentially negative impact on the operations of the 131 CPFVs that SAC represents, we are submitting our slate of nominations for the important RSG.

SAC Nominations:

1. Robert C. Fletcher, President, SAC.
   San Diego, CA 92106.

   Robert Fletcher has owned and operated sportfishing charter boats in San Diego. Bob has also fished commercially for tuna and harpooned swordfish. He has also been the Dep. Dir. and later Chief Dep. Dir. of the CA Dept. of Fish & Game. He spent 15 years as a voting member of the PFMC and was Chairman twice; was a Commissioner on the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission; was the first Chairman of the Klamath Fisheries Management Council; is currently a member of MAFAC, the marine fisheries advisory committee to the Secy. of Commerce; he was a member of the Marine Reserves Working Group (MRWG), which worked to adopt a network of marine protected areas for the northern Channel Islands; and he is also currently a U.S. Commissioner on the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission and an advisor to the PSMFC. As you can see, Mr. Fletcher has first hand knowledge of marine resources locally and regionally, is able to balance perspectives, capable of working collaboratively, able to use effective communications and is committed to completing the charge of the RSG.

2. Roy R. (Buck) Everingham Jr., Owner, Everingham Bros. Bait Co.
La Mesa, CA 91943

'Buck' Everingham has been working for his family company since 1963, and is owner of the largest live bait harvesting company in California, and perhaps the world. Buck over the years has held every position in his company, and in 1984 he got his pilot's license so as to be able to spot schools of bait from the air. In his career as a Captain he has operated seven harvesting vessels ranging in size from 42 ' to 118 ' from Point Arena on the north to the Mexican border on the south. He is also an innovator, and has made design changes to his vessels and holding receivers to provide more and better live bait.
Clearly Buck is qualified to bring the live bait harvesters' perspective to the MLPA RSG discussions, and in his travels he has gained broad knowledge that uniquely provides him the ability to convey his industries interests to the RSG. He realizes that the future of his business relies on him working collaboratively while using good communications skills to convey to others in his industry the updates to the MLPA process. Finally Buck is aware that it is only through a commitment to completing the process and the charge of the RSG that he stands the best chance of having a future that he can operate within.

3. Fred Huber, Captain and Owner of the Half-Day Boat Daily Double.
San Diego, CA 92107.

Captain Fred Huber is a San Diego native who has spent his whole life on the ocean. He started his sportfishing career as a deckhand on the DAILY DOUBLE, and is now the owner and Captain, thirty years later. As a long time Captain, Fred is very familiar with the fisheries and habitat of the ocean around San Diego, and is committed to the future of the ocean environment. In addition to bringing first-hand knowledge of the San Diego county coastal waters, Captain Huber has worked on a number of other sportfishing vessels and has a working knowledge of the southern California ocean area and the Baja coastal waters. As a long-time Captain, he is comfortable with communicating with others, and working in a fleet of other sportfishing boats, he is used to collaborating with others. As a boat owner, he is committed to completing the MLPA process, as his future depends on it.

4. James Alley, Owner, San Diego Sportfishing, Inc.

, Coronado, CA 92118.

In addition to owning two sportfishing boats, Jim has been a long-time member of the Coronado Yacht Club Rod and Reel Club. As a result of his ownership of sportfishing boats, Jim has developed a working knowledge of the waters off San Diego, and would bring that first-hand knowledge to the work of the RSG. Jim has also owned a construction company and is therefore equipped to work collaboratively with the other members of the RSG. In addition, Jim has been a member of the Optimist Club of Coronado for 14 years and is a past President, and is therefore an excellent communicator. Being committed to completing the charge of the RSG is clearly in his best interest, as his ownership would be in jeopardy if an unwise decision were made. He would be a cool and constructive force on the RSG, and his leadership skills would allow him to work towards a positive result for all.

5. Michael Gauger, Senior Staff, Seaforth Sportfishing Inc.
San Diego, CA 92104.

Mike has been a recreational fisherman his entire life. For the last 20 years he has held an important job as one of the senior staffers at the Seaforth Sportfishing Landing in Mission Bay. Seaforth is home to 20 sportfishing boats, and Mike has a thorough knowledge of all aspects of sport boat operations, and is intimately familiar with the coastal waters of southern California and northern Baja. He has a smooth, professional manner and is a great communicator. He is a passionate supporter of recreational fishing and would bring a wealth of experience and great contacts in the sportfishing industry. Any facilitated process in the marine fisheries arena would benefit from Mike's cooperative and collaborative approach to problem solving, and as Mike loves the ocean so thoroughly he would be committed to working through the MLPA process.

6. Norris Tapp, Captain and former manager of Davey's Locker Sportfishing.
Irvine, CA 92606.

Norris Tapp submitted his nomination separately, and SAC supports his appointment. Norris would be a valuable addition to the RSG.

7. Donald C. Brockman, Owner, Freelance.
Newport Beach, CA 92661.

Don Brockman submitted his nomination separately, and SAC support his appointment. Operating in both sport and commercial arenas, he would be a valuable addition to the RSG.

8. Mike Hansen, Manager, Dana Wharf Sportfishing.
Dana Point, CA 92629.

Mike Hansen has submitted his nomination separately, and SAC supports his appointment. As a long-time Captain as well as manager of a large landing, Mike would bring a wealth of knowledge to this RSG process.

9. Joe Villareal, Owner, Mirage, Sportfishing and Squid Lightboat Operations.
Port Hueneme, CA 93053.

Captain Joe Villareal, owner and operator of the sportfishing vessel MIRAGE, has spent a lifetime on the water, both as Captain and owner of his sportfishing vessel and as Captain and owner of his squid lightboat while in support of commercial squid operations. In his spare time Captain Joe V has worked with the Northwest Fisheries Science Center of NMFS to conduct cooperative fishery investigations to determine the status and distribution of rock fish in the southern California Bight. For many years Joe has also contributed his time to attend meetings of the Pacific Fishery Management Council and has provided valuable information that has assisted the Council in its consideration of sportfishing regulations in southern California.

Joe V and his boat MIRAGE are considered one of the most consistently successful operations in the northern area of the Bight, and in his leadership role he would be able to not only bring first-hand knowledge of the waters offshore Santa Barbara-Oxnard, but would be able to communicate with others in the CPFV and commercial fishing sectors to gain a broader understanding of their thoughts and concerns. From his time with the PFMC he has gained an appreciation of the importance of working through issues cooperatively, and I am sure he will be committed to completing all aspects of the RSG's charge.

Finally, Joe worked with me throughout the MRWG process in the northern Channel Islands, and he was instrumental in getting industry support for many of the marine reserves the recreational fishing community supported, prior to the time that the Department of Fish & Game disbanded the working group. I have already mentioned the areas of expertise that Joe Villareal would bring to the RSG process, and I encourage the MLPAI staff to give him serious consideration.

10. Merit McCrea, former sportfishing boat owner and current Marine Biologist.
Santa Barbara, CA 93103.

Merit McCrea is an ideal candidate for the RSG, as he combines the experience of a sportfishing boat owner and operator with the educational knowledge through his time in the UCSB College of Ecology, Evolution and Marine Biology, and his time as a research technician at both the CSULB and UCSB. Clearly Merit has that rare combination of on the water experience and formal educational time. In addition, he is connected with a number of recreational fishing organizations, such as UASC, SAC and RFA. To add to his impressive list of accomplishments, he is a member of the Channel Islands NMS SAC. All the foregoing attest to his ability to communicate with those who may not attend the MLPAI public meetings. Merit is a long time recreational fisherman and believes that it is only through the RSG process that a future that includes recreational fishing can be achieved, and he is committed to completing the charge of the RSG. Finally, Merit is so overwhelmingly overqualified for this process and it would be a real loss to the process if he were not selected, even if he were chosen to be an alternate to another sportfishing industry representative. A real plus for Merit is that he studied under Dr. Michael Goodchild a UCSB Geography, and he presented a poster on spatial distribution of fishing effort at "Spatial at UCSB" inauguration, so he has a working knowledge of GIS.

SAC hopes that these nominations will be considered in this process, and we will be happy to answer any questions related to these nominations.

Sincerely,

Bob Fletcher, President