Date: 5/3/08

MLPA Initiative and Blue Ribbon Task Force
c/o California Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Drakes Estero -- North Central Coast Project

Dear MLPA Initiative and Blue Ribbon Task Force Members:

I am writing to express my concern that sustainable food production at the Drakes Bay Oyster Farm (DBOF) is threatened by the Marine Life Protection Act Initiative. I support your efforts to protect sensitive coastal ecosystems, but not the use of this legislation to remove this regionally, culturally and environmentally appropriate shellfish farming operation.

The DBOF epitomizes the sustainable farming we need in these times of increased food supply contamination and global environmental crises. The oyster farm uses no feeds, fertilizers, hormones, antibiotics, tillage or pesticides, and produces more than10 times the protein per acre of a typical land-based livestock farm. The oysters filter Drakes Estero's waters, thereby helping to maintain its unparalleled quality and sustain its biodiversity.

This historic California resource has been in operation for over 80 years and is home to the last operating oyster cannery in the state. It represents approximately 85% of California's North Central Coast shellfish growing area, and has the region's only shellfish hatchery. It is the only mariculture operation located within the Point Reyes National Seashore and has been a favored destination of Park visitors and locals alike for decades. It provides the rare experience of viewing a farming and processing facility first hand. The extensive educational and research opportunities offered at DBOF are important aspects of the oyster farm's contribution to the greater community.

The DBOF is not just a Marin County treasure; it is an invaluable source of shellfish for the entire Bay Area. This significant supply of locally farmed seafood actually reduces the harvest pressure on our declining wild fish populations. If Drakes Estero becomes designated a "no take" zone within a Marine Protected Area it would be both an environmental and cultural tragedy. DBOF is precisely the type of operation that the MLPA should be actively supporting as a model of proper stewardship and sustainability for our coastal ecosystems.

Please protect Drakes Estero and allow shellfish farming to continue for the health and benefit of the environment and future generations.

Sincerely,

Signature

CATHERINE A. DAVIS

Printed Name

PO BOX 777

Address

INVERNESS, CA. 94937

City, State, Zip