

Wednesday, April 11, 2007 12:58 PM

Attention: Melissa Miller-Henson

My name is Tommy Ancona, President of the Fishermen's Marketing Association. Our association represents Trawlers, Shrimpers and crabbers from northern Washington to southern California.

I would like to nominate Tom Estes to North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group. Tom has been very active in fishery management at the state level. He has the time and the energy that will be required to work with others on the implementation and use of MLPA's.

Tom's extensive knowledge of the various fisheries as well as his knowledge of the coastal communities affected by MLPAs would be an asset to any working group.

I have attached Tom's letter describing his experience and commitment to follow through with this project.

Respectfully

Tommy Ancona, President, FMA
Tommy's Marine Service
Fort Bragg, Ca.

To whom it may concern,

April 11,2007

My name is Tom Estes and I have been approached by members of Salmon Trollers Marketing Association of Fort Bragg, California if I would be interested in being a commercial fishing representative on the North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group . I am very much interested in that I, like many of the fishermen from the Fort Bragg area, spend a considerable amount of time fishing in the area being studied for MLPA's.

My personal qualifications are that I have been making a successful living commercial fishing since 1967 . The fisheries I have been involved in are salmon trolling, longline blackcod fishing,, crabbing ,albacore tuna fishing, pink shrimp trawling and bottom trawling. Prior to 1967 I started fishing in 1957 as a crewman on salmon trollers. After a couple of

years I leased a boat and then purchased a small troller. With this small troller I was able to support myself and achieve a B.A. Degree at Sacramento State College. I have owned three different vessels and the one I have now is a combination bottom/shrimp trawler, crabber and albacore tuna boat. I have recently retired and my eldest son now captains the vessel. I also have another son who also has a vessel and is a full time fisherman. Not actively fishing should allow me to devote the time needed to see this project through.

I have had a some experience politically. For a period of about fifteen years , during the formative years of the PMFC, I attended many meetings as a member and officer of the Fishermen's Marketing Association which represented bottom trawlers of California. On the state level I have been involved in a reactive capacity in trying to defeat legislation that would be harmful to the larger producers in the industry. I have also attended and given testimony at California Fish and Game Commission hearings.

Recent involvement in the MLPA's has been very little other than articles being forwarded to me and what I read in the paper. Prior to that I attended and chaired a group of concerned persons at a town meeting where the agenda was to force this down our throats with next to very little input. Needless to say it didn't happen and now the process is being scrutinized by the public and stakeholder groups are having some needed input.

I have extensive knowledge about the area from Half Moon Bay to the northern boundary of the area being studied from my experiences fishing salmon, shrimp trawling and crabbing in state waters.

As in many ports commercial fishing has atrophied as an industry. In Fort Bragg we still have the Salmon Trollers Marketing Association who also represent kelp or near shore fishermen , and members of Fishermen's Marketing Association who represents trawlers and also shrimp trawlers who fish in state waters. Both of these groups represent crab fishermen with whom I can converse with. We also have a Sea Urchin Group that I am not that familiar with but I know that MLPA's could have a devastating impact on them . I would have to consult with this group and get their input. Others who should be concerned about MLPA's are the Board of Supervisors of Mendocino County, City Council of Fort Bragg and the Fort Bragg Chamber of Commerce as this area is so heavily depended on the tourist dollar. Abalone sport fishing , ocean sport fish trolling and shore rock fishing are all important to the economy of this area. I feel I can be a liaison to these various entities as a representative of the northern part of this area.

Thank You,

Tom Estes

Contact Information: Tom Estes
Fort Bragg, CA