

April 11, 2007

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
c/o California Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: North-Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group Nominations

Dear Director Brodrick, Chair Golding and MLPA Initiative Staff:

We are interested in ensuring that a variety of approaches as well as broad-based data and information of the California Coast are included in the North-Central Coast regional stakeholder process of the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA). Our view is that should include data, information and recommendations provided by Oceana, other conservation groups, dive groups, fishing organizations and other stakeholder representatives. In the event that you have candidates that support this open approach, Oceana supports their nominations to the Regional Stakeholder Group (RSG). In the event you do not have such a commitment from candidates, I am prepared to volunteer for the RSG. In that role, I would endeavor to ensure the successful implementation of the MLPA on behalf of the 8,500 people Oceana represents on the North-Central Coast (NCC) and nearly 30,000 throughout the State of California.

Oceana is an international marine conservation organization dedicated to protecting the world's oceans. With Pacific offices in California, Oregon, Washington and Alaska, we have promoted a conservation approach on the West Coast that has proven successful in several processes, including the Essential Fish Habitat process in federal waters and the MLPA process in South-Central California. A cornerstone of this approach is our continued belief that strong conservation measures, a vibrant recreational fishery, and a clean, non-destructive commercial fishery are entirely compatible.

In my role as Oceana's California Project Manager, I have collected and analyzed data on the key ecological features in the NCC region. This work has involved GIS mapping and extensive discussions with experts in the region. I have also communicated with representatives of the recreational fishing and conservation communities to, among other things, begin the process of forging a common, conservation-oriented proposal. My background of an advanced scientific education in marine biology and environmental resources coupled with over six years working in the marine conservation policy arena makes me well suited to a position on the RSG.

In addition, Oceana has a proven ability to both collect and disseminate information effectively, using all forms of communication from email and the internet to meeting in person. As this process moves forward, I will continue to communicate with members from all stakeholder groups in the process, including our members, recreational and commercial fishers, the conservation community, other recreational users and the public at large.

Sincerely,

Santi Roberts
California Project Manager
Oceana
Monterey, CA