

November 27, 2009

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative  
**Att'n: NCRSC Nominations**  
c/o California Natural Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

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RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA

Also via email to [MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov](mailto:MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov)

Dear Marine Life Protection Act Initiative:

Please accept this letter of nomination for my consideration as a member of the North Coast Marine Life Protection Act Initiative Regional Stakeholders Group (NCRSG).

I offer a thirty year successful track record of working constructively with all representative user-groups and numerous state, federal, and local elected officials with jurisdiction throughout the North Coast region, and have a detailed longterm familiarity with the coastal features, nearshore waters, and constituencies affected by the MLPA process.

My prior direct experience includes numerous relevant and complex negotiation processes within the U.S. Congress on the issue of offshore oil and gas drilling and coastal management, as well as my recent service as a Conservation Alternate member of the RSG for the North-Central region's MLPA planning process. I was instrumental in working with local governments during the 1980's to secure the federal designation of the Channel Islands, Gulf of the Farallones, Cordell Bank, and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries, and to maintain a twenty-seven year bipartisan congressional moratorium protecting the California coast from expanded offshore drilling. I currently serve as Chair of NOAA's *Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council*, and also serve on the U.S. Department of Energy's *Methane Hydrates Advisory Committee*. I also authored and designed, in 2001, a Citizens Guide to Marine Protected Areas in the Channel Islands as these designations were being considered there as part of the *Channel Islands Marine Reserves Working Group* (sample publication enclosed).

I am willing and able to express fundamental interests on the NCRSG in a manner that brings to the collective decisionmaking table no preconceived outcome, but instead recognizes the necessity of balancing the creation of an

effective network of appropriate types of marine protected areas that can be achieved with minimized socioeconomic costs over the short-term. The very extensive geographic area represented by the Northern California MLPA Study Area offers a great deal of flexibility for siting an effective array of protected areas while avoiding critical harvest areas for the range of ocean-dependent user-groups in this region.

I enjoy working collaboratively with a wide range of groups and individuals, and am able to be flexible with respect to specific areas and geographic boundaries, while still focusing on the ultimate achievement of a fair, equitable, and biologically-effective outcome. It is my intent, throughout the NCRSG process, to communicate effectively and frequently with both extractive users and with non-extractive users, including commercial and sport fishers, local port authorities, affected county officials, local conservation interests, and those involved in related state and national marine spatial planning efforts.

I serve as the hub of several longstanding communication networks related to marine and coastal uses, and will apply these networks to the task at hand on the NCRSG. I am committed to the completion of all aspects of the charge of the NCRSG by working to constructively integrate the interests of the full range of constituencies in the region and statewide. I have substantial localized knowledge of the region itself, with a slightly higher degree of detailed knowledge of the Mendocino County area than for the Humboldt-Del Norte coastline, although I do possess a working knowledge of the entire Northern California MLPA Study Area.

Thank you for your consideration for service on the NCRSG, and thank you for the commitment by your agency to the completion of the critical statewide mandate of California's Marine Life Protection Act and the important model that successful completion of an MLPA array on the North Coast will provide.

Sincerely,



Richard Charter

Government Relations Consultant

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