

**Mark Cortright**  
**Northcoast Divers**

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I would like to nominate myself to serve on the North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group, for the MLPA process. Being an avid scuba diver and underwater photographer, my primary interest is in representing non-consumptive divers. However, I have dived for game, and am an active sport-fisherman, so I feel that I would be able to represent a broad perspective, and multiple stakeholder groups. I am computer-literate, and am proficient with web-based software and email, and would be able to communicate with stakeholders if I am chosen to be on the RSG. I am willing and committed to fulfilling the requirements of the North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group. Since I am self-employed, I have a flexible schedule and will be able to work around the meeting times.

Charlie Notthoff and I would really like to work together as stakeholders. He is also a local dive instructor and has many of the same dive qualifications and mindset as myself; we are both even-keeled. Another person I hope you would consider as a stakeholder, who has tons of local knowledge and history is Ken Bates, commercial fisherman, who resides on Indian Island in Humboldt Bay. I would like to nominate both of these people, as well as myself.

Through our local Fish and Game office in Eureka, I served briefly in the MLPA process, which was canceled due to insufficient funding. The local biologist I worked with was John Mello. During the current process, I have attended initial MLPA workshops on the North Coast and also via the web. In addition, I attended a web-training on the Marine Map software.

I have lived and worked in Humboldt County near Humboldt Bay since 1971. I own 2 boats and have been an avid ocean user since early childhood. Since becoming a certified scuba diver/Divemaster in 1982, I have dived locally on the North Coast from Point Arena to Crescent City, taking underwater photographs, spearfishing, abalone diving, and commercial diving. I have worked for Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District, NOAA and Chevron doing commercial dive work over the past 20 years. My small business, Northcoast Divers, was established in 1984. Through this business, I have sold underwater photographs to calendar companies and magazines, written stories in dive magazines, and worked locally as a commercial diver. I have been an active member of the Humboldt Skindivers club (one of the oldest dive-clubs in the state) since 1983, and have held positions of President (4 years), Vice-president (5 years), and Treasurer (3 years) at various times and am now one of the longest term members.

I am very familiar with local divers on the North Coast and know their needs. I know the underwater areas from Fort Bragg to Point Saint George lighthouse, as I have dived them for almost 30 years now. I have seen the change in species over that time and have taken underwater photos in most locations. I possess the ability to see multiple viewpoints on any given topic, and work collaboratively with others towards consensus. Possessing excellent communications skills, I communicate frequently via Internet, telephone and email with various stakeholders.

Since 1980 I have owned small boats, and have been an active diver and sport-fisherman, fishing for salmon, albacore, Dungeness crab, and rockfish. I have been very active in the sport-fishing community, sharing knowledge with fellow fishermen through on-line chat boards, and at semi-annual gatherings of the Humboldt Area Tuna Club. I also serve as Moderator/Administrator on the Bay Area Tuna Club and Moderator of the Humboldt Area Tuna Club since its inception. I am active with Oregon fishermen as well, being a member of "Ifish" (online fishing club) since 2003. As demonstrated, I have many ocean-related connections, and would bring first-hand knowledge and a moderate perspective to bear on the North Coast MLPA process.

#### Affiliations

**Humboldt Skindivers**, member, 1983-present. President, Vice-president, Treasurer – held each of these positions during the 1980s and 1990s.

**Bay Area Tuna Club**, Internet Chat Board Administrator/Moderator, 1998-present. I have been an active participant and Moderator since 1996.

**Humboldt Area Tuna Club**, Internet Chat Board Moderator, 2007-present.

**iFish**, Internet fishing club, member since 2003

**Same Old People (North Country Fair), Arcata**, Board of Directors, Vice-President. 2007-present. Joined this Board to return the 36 year-old fair to its original mission, after it was taken over by profit-only leadership. Spent many hours in meetings, and collaborated with city officials, board members, vendors and the public. We successfully formed a non-profit and have returned this venue to its original roots.