

MLPAComments

From: Brandi Easter [thegwtc@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2009 1:20 PM
To: MLPAComments
Subject: NCRSG Nomination (Self)

November 30, 2009

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
C/O California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814
Fax: 916.653.8102
MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov

Attention: NCRSG nominations

Dear California Natural Resources Agency Members,

As an active diver (free and SCUBA), a resident of the North Coast for more than sixteen years, a California (CA) lifetime fishing license holder and one who highly values the ocean, its resources and its future, I am very interested in participating in the implementation of the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) on the North Coast.

I have been aware of the initiative since its passage and have been active in the MLPA process serving on the previous regional stakeholder group, Regional Working Group, as the recreational diving (consumptive) representative for District 1. I have continued to be involved with the MLPA process through attendance of various MLPA related meetings in person, phone conference and/ or webcast as well as networking with other user group's i.e. commercial, recreational and tribal fisherman as well as environmental groups involved in this process. I have also attended DFGC meetings where CA fishery regulations were discussed since 1999.

My club/organization memberships include Humboldt Skin-divers (6th oldest chartered dive club in the State, previously have served as club President, Vice President and Secretary), Central California Council of Dive Clubs aka CenCal (competitive participation, kayak based, requiring one to learn regulations, fish identification, habitat, behavior, shore access areas, etc), and Recreational Fishing Alliance aka RFA (will be providing input on their external array). I am also an active NAUI certified dive master, working as a dive master aboard a dive charter vessel that specializes in SCUBA, Free-diving/Spearfishing, and Eco Tour excursions. I participate on online forums such as the Freedivelist and Spearboard. In conjunction with direct email contact, these online forums as well as my group affiliations will be some of the mechanisms I would use for communication regarding the development and implementation of Marine Protected Area's (MPA's) along the North Coast.

As a business owner of more than twenty years, I fully understand and accept the commitment required of the process. I am committed to the establishment of MPAs through a balanced, collaborative, and science based process. I have a comprehensive understanding of the MLPA process and the role of the stakeholder. I feel my knowledge of the region, the local fish, and my connection to the consumptive diving community will be an invaluable asset on the stakeholder group. I would appreciate your consideration as a member of the North Coast Regional Stakeholders Group representing the recreational diving (consumptive) constituency.

Sincerely,

Brandi Easter
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