

From: Apollo Kollias  
Sent: Saturday, July 12, 2008 6:25 PM  
To: MLPAComments  
Subject: Southern MLPA Regional Task Force

I hereby formally submit myself, Captain Apollo H. Kollias, for consideration for appointment to the MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group.

Apollo H. Kollias  
La Mesa, CA, 91942

I have worked and played on the ocean for over twenty three years. I have fished recreationally; worked on sport fishing boats as a crewman and now captain; worked as a crewman and captain on whale watching boats; and finally as a captain on a commercial market squid light boat. This year alone I have departed from ports across the entire South Coast Region area, from Ventura to San Diego. I am familiar with a large cross section of our regional ecosphere from the topography to the marine life within. I am intimately familiar with the present state closures, marine reserves, commercially restricted areas, and the federal closures and restrictions.

As to the criterion for selection, I bring, foremost, excellent communication skills. While my extensive and detailed knowledge of this region would be, I believe, an invaluable asset. My ability to translate this information into lay terms actually becomes more valuable.

I have fished almost every species of fish from Pt Conception to the Mexican Border and beyond. I have that first hand knowledge you seek, not only in the specifics but also the broader picture, such as how certain restrictions would impact bait procurement which would impact not only the bait companies but all their clients, ie recreation and sport fishing and how that affects the local economy.

I have access to a vast array of groups and media from radio (Rod and Reel Radio), to many fishing organizations from Sportfishingreport.com to the Los Angeles Rod and Reel club to name a few. I have discrete radio communication capability, Nextel walkie-talkie, and satellite communications with the entire sport and commercial fishing fleets. I have almost instant access, feedback and input from all corners of the fishing community.

Many of my constituents, myself included, were very displeased with the process during the last round of closures in the Southern MPA Region. We were not against preservation of our resources. We merely wanted representation in an unbiased forum. I am truly excited about the process that has been instituted and enlivened by the feedback from associates in the recently completed Central and Northern regions. I have found that most people that I talk with simply want balance in process and in the final result. That is a simple, yet difficult, proposition, but one that we think is paramount to the future of our amazing marine life and habitat. Without it, its just salty water.

Thank you for your time and your consideration. I stand willing and waiting to serve.

Sincerely,  
Capt. Apollo H Kollias