From: Merit McCrea
Sent: Thursday, July 17, 2008 6:42 PM
To: Diane Pleschner-Steele; MLPAComments
Cc: Melissa Miller-Henson; Marija Vojkovich; Marci Yremko; Sonke Mastrup
Subject: RE: Nominations for the SCRSG submitted by the California Fisheries Coalition

Dear Sir or Madam,

I would like to support the list of nominees nominated by the California Fisheries Coalition attached. As one of those nominees my personal information is as below:

Nominations should include the following information:

- Nominee name and complete contact information, including email address,
  - **Merit H McCrea**
  -
  - **Santa Barbara, CA**
    - **93103**
  -
  -
  -

- A short statement to confirm how the applicant meets **each** of the selection criteria listed above,

  Members of the MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group are expected to have the following attributes:

1. Able to bring first-hand knowledge and perspective to bear on the marine resources of the MLPA South Coast Study Region,

See CV below

2. Able to balance a south coast regional perspective with localized knowledge,

see CV below

3. Willing to express fundamental interests (as opposed to fixed positions) and to clearly convey the interests of one or more stakeholder groups,

Yes

4. Capable of working collaboratively, seeking to integrate the interests of the full range of constituencies,

Yes, see CV below

5. Able to access and use an effective communication network to reach stakeholders not attending the public meetings, and

Have contacts within the Recreational Fishing Alliance, United Angler's of Southern California, Sportfishing Association of California (SAC_1) (past board member, see CV), California Fisheries Coalition, Marine Science Institute at the University of California at Santa Barbara (UCSB) (Graduate student there, Dr. Robert Warner, Dr. Milton Love), Geography department at UCSB member of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS), Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC_2) and assistant chair of their Recreational Fishing Working Group, have recreational fishing media contacts.

6. Committed to completing all aspects of the charge of the regional stakeholder group.

Yes

Note: Knowledge or experience with geographic information systems (GIS) is helpful but not required.

Yes, studied under Dr. Michael Goodchild at UCSB Geography, presented poster on the spatial distribution of fishing effort at "Spatial at UCSB" inauguration, presenting same at ESRI UC 08.

-

- Where appropriate, identify current and past affiliations with stakeholder groups active in marine resource management,

Past board member Sportfishing Association of California

CINMS SAC Marine Reserve Working Group

CINMS SAC member

United Anglers

Recreational Fishing Alliance

CPFV operators in the Channel Islands area

MSI, UCSB (science, not stakeholder)

- A brief summary of past involvement in the MLPA or similar collaborative public processes to provide advice on natural resource policy or planning,

See above

- Willingness to commit the time for full participation,

Yes

- Descriptions of the organizations and individuals with which the nominee will communicate,

See above

- Specific communication and outreach mechanisms to be utilized (give examples),

  Communication through above mentioned contacts

- Areas of knowledge or expertise relevant to the project.

  See CV below

Nominations must be *received* no later than 5:00 p.m. on **Thursday, July 18, 2008** at one of the following:

CV:

Merit H. McCrea

Marine Science Institute,
University of California at Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara, California, 93106

Education

B.S. Aquatic Biology College of Ecology, Evolution and Marine Biology at the University of California at Santa Barbara, 2005.
Graduate student currently

Distinctions:
Distinction In The Major
Honors
Nuremberg Award (UCSB research diving program)
Profant Scholarship (Santa Barbara City College, awarded to one student each year within the biology department)

Professional experience:

2003-2006, Lowe Lab, CSULB, Long Beach, CA
Research Technician

- Facilitated the capture and transmitter tagging of over 140 rockfish and lingcod at Santa Barbara Channel area oil production platforms, some of which were trans-located off capture site and released.
- Operated CSULB Lowe lab research vessels.
- Deployed and recovered acoustic monitors by scuba and using acoustic release technology.
- Participated in on vessel recording of acoustic transmitter transmissions.

2003-2008, Love Lab, UCSB, MSI Santa Barbara, CA

Research Technician, Graduate Student

- Supervised and participated in the collection and dissection of over 1,000 Pacific Sanddabs (*Citharichthys sordidus*).
- Assisted with data gathering (size and spp.) using direct observation of fish along transects both by scuba and from the Delta manned submersible in depths ranging from near surface to 220m.
- Participated in experiment design planning and deployment for comparing predation of prey fishes at an oil production platform and a natural reef.
- Deployed, operated and recovered various pieces of scientific monitoring gear including Acoustic Doppler Current Meters, Niskin bottles, Microcat Conductivity, Temperature and Depth recorders, plankton net tows (Bongo),
- Operated UCSB research vessels

2003-2008 Condor Cruises Santa Barbara, CA

Captain

- Piloted and managed crew for the 149 passenger, 30 knot, quad-jet vessel Condor Express.
- Interpretive narration of cruises sighting marine mammals and other sea life of interest and the Santa Barbara Channel Islands
- Spotted whales and other marine life of interest increasing business success

1984-2001 Santa Barbara Sportfishing Santa Barbara CA

Owner

- Restored original 55 foot vessel Seahawk and established a strong client base for fishing the Santa Barbara Channel and surrounding areas.
- Reconnaissance and exploration of the local waters for reef sites covering areas not well known or documented in the Western Channel.
- Restored and brought on-line 65 foot vessel Seahawk LXV including full re-power ($160,000 in 1994), application for and receipt of grant funding for a second full re-power installing low emission diesels in 1995 ($150,000).
- Participated in the multi-year scientific work assessing and monitoring the effects of the Goleta Sanitary Districts sewage outfall at Goleta Beach using Van Veen benthic grabs, Seabird microcat water profile package (CTD, DO, light transmissivity), flux current meters, mooring placement for same, Bio-accumulation sites using Japanese (market) oysters and California Bay Mussels within containments suspended mid-water from bottom moorings (Brown and Caldwell).
- Expanded public recognition for recreational fishing opportunity out of Santa Barbara Harbor and garnered cover photo placement within several issues of popular recreational fishing publications (Western Outdoor News and South Coast Sportfishing).

1979-1984 SEA Landing Santa Barbara, CA

Captain

- Master of vessels and managed crews, maintenance and daily operations for vessels to 99 gt. and 90 ft.

- Expanded the commercial passenger vessel operations frontier westward in the Channel to the West Bank at San Miguel and to Pt Arguello.

- Participated in State of California Department of Fish and Game rockfish (*Sebastes spp.*) tagging efforts (Rucker Hartmann, CA DFG).

Professional affiliations include member of the Sportfishing Association of California's board of directors from 1988 to 2001.

Presentations include 19xx and 19xy Oil and Gas Production Platform Decommissioning Workshop, as well as many presentations on recreational fishing to various groups.

Community service includes:

- 2003-2008: Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS) Sanctuary Advisory Council Recreational Fishing Seat holder and Chair of the Recreational Fishing Working Group.

- 1999-2001: CINMS Marine Reserves Working Group.

Certification, licensure:

PADI Open Water dive certification
AAUS research diver certificate (to 100ft. depth)
Marine Radio Operator license
CPR certificate
UCSB, CSULB Research Boat Captain
U. S. Coast Guard Master of vessels to 100 gross tons (6^{th} issue, >25yrs.)

Qualification summary

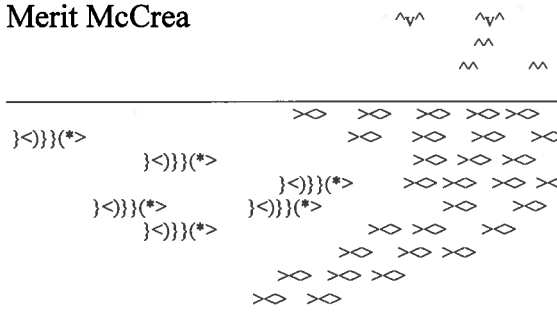
Skills and experience include: Employee management, personnel; compliance including permitting, licensing, inspections and regulations (USCG, BATF, EDD, ABC, PUC, Ca. DFG, FCC); provision and stock management; food service management (vessels had food service); small business management; public relations, promotions and advertising; financing and controlling, purchasing; vessel maintenance including, coatings, marine construction, systems engineering, diesel-electric power generation, diesel engine installation, maintenance and repair, plumbing systems, AC and DC electrical systems, marine electronics installation, operation and maintenance, computer systems and interface installation and maintenance, structural and cosmetic fiber reinforced plastic construction and repair; operation of scientific data gathering devices including water column profilers (Seabird) that collect dissolved oxygen, temperature, conductance (salinity), light transmissivity, depth, Dopler current meters, flux current meters, water collection bottles (Van Dorn, Niskin), bottom grabs (Van Veen), otter trawls, bio-accumulation units using live organisms; other scientific methods and tools including photo spectrometry, gas chromatography, IR spectrometry, enzyme restriction and electrophoresis, heat shock induction, chlorometry, metabolic rate assessment, statistical data analysis and summary; extensive experience with marine environmental policy and regulation with a focus on marine protected area consideration, siting, and perspectives; extensive experience and knowledge of Santa Barbara area marine environment; fisheries practices and skills; navigation skills; boat handling and seamanship skills and instructional skills (small boat, trailer, larger craft to 100 ft., single, twin, quad engine, screw

and jet); meteorology; local knowledge (harbors, anchorages, bearings, weather, fishing); computing skills include hardware installation, some networking, some html (maintained and updated business web-site), some computer AV experience (video editing/mastering, media transfer), ARCdesktop GIS software and affiliated geographic skills, advanced bio-statistics.

Personal interests include:
Family (college aged daughter); ecology, wetland habitats and waterfowl, land use issues and wildlife conservation, marine conservation, marine fisheries management, habitat and resource management; retriever training; recreational fishing

Best Regards,

Merit McCrea



PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE OCEANS

Recreational Fishermen Protecting California's Ocean Resources

July 21, 2008

Mr. Ken Wiseman, Executive Director
Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
c/o California Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Wiseman:

On behalf of the Partnership for Sustainable Oceans (PSO), I am writing to express the PSO's support for the following nominees to represent the recreational fishing community on the South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (SCRSG):

Mr. James Alley, San Diego Sportfishing, Inc.
Mr. Donald C. Brockman, Owner - Freelance
Mr. Buck Everingham, Everingham Bros Bait Company
Mr. Joe Exline, angler
Mr. Robert Fletcher, Sportfishing Association of California
Mr. Michael Gauger, Seaforth Sportfishing Inc.
Mr. Mike Hansen, Dana Wharf Sportfishing
Mr. Fred Huber, Captain and Owner of the Half-Day Boat Daily Double
Mr. Paul Lebowitz, Kayak Fishing Association of California
Mr. Merit McCrea, Marine Biologist and former sportfishing boat owner
Mr. Marc Mills, Okuma
Mr. Jim Pearce, Lead Masters
Mr. Vic Romano, Leisure Sales Inc
Mr. Cody Shedd, AFTCO Bluewater
Mr. Norris Tapp, Captain and former manager of Davey's Locker Sportfishing
Ms. Wendy Tochihara, Izorline
Mr. Joe Villareal, Sportfishing and Squid Lightboat Operations

To ensure balanced representation of the recreational fishing community on the SCRSG, it is important that an adequate number of members from all sectors of the recreational fishing community be nominated, including individual anglers, the sportfishing industry, charter/party

boats, live bait fishermen, kayak fishermen, and pier and shore fishermen. Please contact us with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Gordon C. Robertson

Gordon Robertson, Vice President
American Sportfishing Association

cc: Members of the Partnership for Sustainable Oceans

CFC
CALIFORNIA
FISHERIES
COALITION

July 9, 2008

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
c/o California Resources Agency
Attn: Melissa Miller-Henson

On behalf of the 26 member associations and businesses comprising the California Fisheries Coalition, we are pleased to nominate the following fishing community representatives for the south coast Regional Stakeholder Group (SCRSG) to participate in the MLPA Initiative in southern California. For commercial fisheries, we have strived to recommend regular and alternate members representing all major gear types (i.e. trawl, dive, traps, round-haul, hook and line), whose aggregate local knowledge blankets both the northern and southern regions in the south coast study area. We also support the nominations of several fishermen with broad knowledge and constituencies representing recreational fisheries.
To simplify the appointment process and improve communications within and outside the SCRSG, we've asked individuals volunteering to serve as regular members to identify their own alternates, if possible, so as to facilitate smooth internal and external communications and to expand local knowledge of the extensive area now under consideration for MPAs. We hope you will give serious consideration to these recommended pairings in your appointments. Thank you very much for your consideration of this request.

First please find a summary list of nominees for regular and alternate positions. Contact information for each individual and a brief statement of qualifications follow this list.

REGULAR MEMBER	LOCAL KNOWLEDGE	ALTERNATE MEMBER	LOCAL KNOWLEDGE
Mike McCorkle S.CA. Trawlers Association	Pt. Sal to Mexico Many fisheries	Gary Burke SCTA, Comm'l Fishermen of SB, Inc.	OR to Mexico Many fisheries
Dave Rudie Catalina Offshore Products + CSUC	S.CA. Bight – San Diego area	Bruce Steele CINMS AC alt., CSUC alt.	S.CA. Bight – CI, SB coast
Rodger Healy Dana Cove Fishermen's Assoc.	S.CA. Bight – S.coast, Islands	Phil Beguhl Traps, many fisheries	S.CA. Bight – SB coast, CI
Ciro Ferrigno San Pedro wetfish - CWPA	S.CA. Bight – S.coast / Catalina	Neil Guglielmo Pt. Hueneme wetfish - CPSAS	Monterey to Mexico CI, N.coast
Gerry Richter Pt.Conception Groundfisherman's Assoc.	Monterey to Mexico Fixed gear groundfish	Chris Hoeflinger Ventura Co. Comm'l Fishermen	S.CA. Bight – Nearshore, spot prawn
Joe Villareal SAC Board CPFV + squid light	S.CA. Bight Vent-Ox- CI	Merit McCrea CPFV – CINMS AC - GIS	S.CA. Bight SB - CI
Joel Greenberg RFA So.Cal.	S.CA. Bight	To be determined	
Don Brockman Charter + squid light	S.CA. Bight CI, S. coast	Richie Ashley Live bait +	S.CA. Bight Mugu / Catalina
Bob Bertelli CA Sea Urchin Comm. president	S.CA. Bight LA-San Pedro		

1621 B Thirteenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 • Telephone (916) 444 - 8194

REGULAR MEMBER **MIKE McCORKLE** ., Summerland, CA 93067

Provide first-hand knowledge:
Mike McCorkle has fished full-time in southern CA since 1956 on the F/V Pieface and Theresa Ann: his experience includes all gear types except diving and purse seine, and his knowledge extends to virtually every finfish species harvested in the south coast study area, as well as crab, lobster, squid and various shrimp species. In his 52 years on the ocean Mike has amassed encyclopedic knowledge of habitats, as well as marine flora and fauna, in the area from Pt. Sal to the Mexican border.

Balanced perspective – SC region with local knowledge:
Mike's in-depth understanding of fish and fishermen in the south coast study area well qualifies him to provide a balanced regional perspective as well as detailed local knowledge.

Convey interests and work collaboratively:
Mike is affiliated with numerous fishing organizations, including but not limited to: president, Southern CA Trawlers Association; board member, PCFFA; member, Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara Inc.; board member, Institute for Fisheries Resources; Member, PFMC groundfish open access committee; Member, DFG white seabass management plan advisory committee, and other groups.
Mike has substantial experience in collaborative decision-making and is committed to conveying interests of his numerous affiliated constituencies and working to achieve a balanced outcome to achieve MLPA goals.

Communication network:
Mike has committed to network with his many affiliations via email and dockside communications to reach stakeholders not actively engaged in the MLPA Initiative process.

Commitment:
Mike is willing, able and committed to fulfill all responsibilities of the SCRSG.

ALTERNATE For Mike McCorkle

GARY BURKE ., Santa Barbara CA 93105

Provide first-hand knowledge:
Owner-operator of the *FV Tytan*, Gary Burke has fished commercially since 1972; his experience spans virtually all gear types, including diving, troll, hook & line, gillnet and harpoon, as well as trawling. Captain Burke has fished from OR to Mexico for abalone, albacore, shark, ridgeback shrimp, rockfish, salmon, swordfish and white seabass, all species abundant in southern CA waters. Gary has in-depth knowledge of marine life and habitats in the south coast study region, including all eight Channel Islands.

Balanced perspective – SC region with local knowledge:
Gary's experience fishing in all the waters of southern CA, as well as in the SB Channel area, enable him to balance a broad regional perspective with specialized local knowledge.

Convey interests and work collaboratively:
Gary is a member of the Southern CA Trawlers Association, member and former officer of Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara Inc., member of DFG's white seabass management plan advisory committee and alternate on DFG's white seabass hatchery program, and member of the Fishermen's Oil Response Team. He is willing and able to convey interests of varied fishing constituencies, as an alternate for Mike McCorkle. Because of Gary's experience working with commercial fishing groups and DFG advisory committees on regional and statewide issues, he has substantial experience in the collaborative decision-making process and is committed to work for integration of MLPA goals with a full range of interests.

– more –

Communication network:
Gary is actively connected to the fishing community through his associations, and is willing and able to network and communicate via email, VHF radio, dockside meetings and on the grounds, reaching out to stakeholders not otherwise engaged in the MLPA process.

Commitment:
Gary has committed to dedicate time to the south coast MLPAI process, willing to serve as Mike McCorkle's alternate on the SCRSG to help achieve the goals of the MLPA.

* * *

REGULAR MEMBER **DAVE RUDIE** San Diego, CA 92110

Provide first-hand knowledge:
Dave Rudie has SCUBA dived throughout southern California since 1972. During that time he spent thousands of hours underwater, first as a sport diver in the 1970s, then as a commercial sea urchin diver in the 1980s and '90s, and more recently as an underwater photographer. Dave has dived from Santa Rosa Island to the Mexican border, with the majority of his dive experience in the southern area, including San Diego, Orange County and Catalina Island. During this time Dave has amassed in-depth knowledge of underwater habitats, including extensive knowledge of rocky reefs and kelp bed communities, a popular subject for his underwater photographs.

Balanced perspective – SC region with local knowledge:
Dave has extensive, first-hand knowledge of marine habitats throughout the south coast study region, with emphasis on the southern area and is well qualified to balance a regional perspective with his local knowledge.

Convey interests and work collaboratively:
Dave opened a seafood company, Catalina Offshore Products, 30 years ago and now employs 85 workers. He buys sea urchin and lobster from more than 40 fishermen. He also served on the DFG Director's Sea Urchin Advisory Committee (DSUAC) from 1986 until its termination a few years ago. He then represented processors on the California Sea Urchin Commission, where he serves now as alternate member.
Dave is well able to convey the interests of all these constituencies, and fully capable of working collaboratively, working to integrate all interests to achieve the goals and objectives of the MLPA.

Communication network:
In addition to the stakeholder constituencies noted above, Dave is in regular communication with the sport-diving community and underwater photographers through his membership in the San Diego Underwater Photographers Society. His communications network includes sea urchin fishermen and processors, members of the California Sea Urchin Commission, as well as lobster and nearshore fishermen, the recreational diving community, including members of the SDUPS, and other interested parties throughout the greater San Diego area.

Commitment:
Dave is committed to participate in the MLPA Initiative process in southern CA with the goal to achieve a science-based and equitable outcome for all involved.

ALTERNATE for Dave Rudie

BRUCE STEELE Buellton, CA 93427

Provide first-hand knowledge:
Bruce Steele has dived commercially for sea urchins in southern CA since 1974. In his 34 years underwater 'blowing bubbles', he has acquired intimate knowledge of underwater habitats and marine species, especially in the northern part of the south coast study region, including northern Channel Islands and coast from Pt. Conception to Malibu. He is a good alternate for Dave Rudie as Bruce's in-depth knowledge of the northern part of the study area compliments Dave Rudie's expertise in the south, and they communicate with each other frequently. Bruce has also trolled for salmon and fished for albacore during his tenure as a commercial fisherman in southern CA.

Balanced perspective – SC region with local knowledge:
Bruce's 34 years underwater provide 'up close and personal' local knowledge of marine flora and fauna, especially re: the northern Channel Islands and coast. He represented both commercial and recreational fishermen as a member of the CINMS Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) during the Channel Islands marine reserve process, and currently serves as alternate on both the CINMS SAC and the CA Sea Urchin Commission, giving him a broad, balanced perspective of the south coast region as a whole.

Convey interests and work collaboratively:
Bruce has had extensive experience in marine resource management. collaboration and consensus building as a member of the Director's Sea Urchin Advisory Committee (DSUAC), a member of the Sea Grant Living Marine Resource Committee, past member and current alternate on the CINMS SAC, with active participation in the Channel Islands Marine Reserve process and Working Group (MRWG). He was voted alternate representing Santa Barbara harbor on the CA Sea Urchin Commission (CSUC) in 2008. He is a good negotiator with proven ability to work collaboratively to integrate all interests to achieve the goals of the MLPA.

Communication network:
Bruce has regular communications with stakeholders as a representative on the CINMS SAC, and with the sea urchin and fishing communities through the CSUC. He is willing to network and reach out to members of the fishing community not actively participating in the MLPA Initiative process.

Commitment:
Bruce believes the involvement of industry is essential to the effectiveness of any conservation approach. He also thinks the observations of his fellow fishermen are very important in gauging the health and productivity cycles of CA's local waters, and therefore he has committed to participate in the MLPAI and assist Dave Rudie in fulfilling all responsibilities on the SCRSG.

* * *

REGULAR MEMBER **RODGER HEALY** Capo Beach, CA 92624

Provide first-hand knowledge:
Rodger Healy is a 38-year old commercial fisherman out of Dana Point. He has fished commercially in southern CA for the last 20 years, beginning as a deckhand for a lobsterman at age 19, and starting his own business the following year. He has fished primarily for lobsters, but has also trapped nearshore fish, rock and spider crab and moray eels. Also an avid diver, Rodger has collected marine aquaria creatures and tidal invertebrates for research and for profit. He obtained a sea urchin permit through the lottery and dives sea urchins seasonally. He has also crewed on local gillnet and swordfish harpoon boats, as well as spent two summers trapping spot prawns at San Clemente and Catalina Island. Rodger has experience in a wide range of fisheries and knowledge of varied habitats in the south coast study area, especially in the southern region.

Balanced perspective – SC region with local knowledge:
With his breadth of experience in several fisheries, Rodger can well balance both localized knowledge and a broad regional perspective.

Convey interests and work collaboratively:
Rodger has been an active member in both the California Lobster and Trap Fisherman's Association (CLTFA) and the local Dana Cove Commercial Fishermen's Association (DCCFA) for many years. Three years ago he was elected president of the DCCFA and is still working proactively to improve and protect regional fisheries. He is willing and able to convey the interests of diverse fishery groups, and understands the complexities of individual fisheries as well as their regional differences. He is also capable of working collaboratively to achieve the goals of the MLPA while considering the full range of stakeholder interests.

Communication network:
Rodger's membership in CLTFA and DCCFA, as well as his knowledge of and rapport with many of fishery participants in the southern CA region provide an active communications network to disseminate news. Rodger is willing to commit time and energy to communicate via email, on the grounds, and through his associations to reach stakeholders not otherwise engaged in MLPA meetings.

Commitment
Rodger is committed to fulfilling all charges of the SCRSG, and would be honored to be the representative for trap fisheries and southern fishing communities on the south coast stakeholder group.

ALTERNATE for Rodger Healy

PHILIP BEGUHL Santa Barbara, CA 93160

Provide first-hand knowledge:
A native Californian, Phil has fished since 1957 and fished commercially since 1969. His knowledge encompasses hook & line groundfish, abalone, lobster, crab and gillnet fisheries for halibut, white seabass, shark and swordfish. Phil graduated with a B.S. in forestry with minor in fisheries from U. of Washington in 1975. He is a preeminent author and historian of west coast sport-fishing lore, with an extensive collection of rare fishing tackle. He worked as a fisheries technician for DFG, and has served on the Santa Barbara County Fish and Game Commission for 25 years. Phil is also a founding member of the Joint Oil-Fisheries Liaison Committee. Phil has detailed local knowledge of marine habitats, flora and fauna in the northern part of the south coast study area, including coast from Santa Barbara to Pt. Arguello and the northern Channel Islands. He is a good fit to serve as alternate for Rodger Healy, representing trap and nearshore fisheries.

Balanced perspective – SC region with local knowledge:
Phil is active in the Santa Barbara County fishing community, and communicates routinely with other fishing interests in southern California, particularly with trap fishermen members of CLTFA. His knowledge and experience in a wide variety of fisheries qualify him to balance his local knowledge with a broad regional perspective.

Convey interests and work collaboratively:
As an active fisherman in the Santa Barbara fishing community and with his associations with CLTFA, Phil is able to clearly convey interests of a wide segment of the local fishing community. His science background and experience on the SB County Fish and Game Commission enable him to work collaboratively to consider all interests while working to achieve a science-based common ground outcome in the MLPA.

Communication network:
As noted above, Phil's communications network includes a broad range of fishermen in the Santa Barbara County area, along with members of CLTFA. He is committed to communicate with stakeholders not actively engaged in the MLPA process.

Commitment:
Phil is committed to serve as alternate to Rodger Healy and assist in fulfilling all charges of the SCRSG.

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REGULAR MEMBER **CIRO FERRIGNO** , San Pedro, CA 90732

Provide first-hand knowledge:
Ciro crewed on his father's purse seine vessel as a youth, and began fishing full-time in 1981 on the F/V Ferrigno Boy, fishing for sardines, anchovy, mackerels, market squid, bonito and tunas in southern California. Ciro has extensive knowledge of habitats in the Southern California Bight including Catalina, San Clemente and the northern Channel Islands.

Balanced perspective – SC region with local knowledge:
Ciro has in-depth knowledge of the habitats surrounding the northern Channel Islands as well as fishing experience in the southern part of the SC study area, although his 'home grounds' focus is the south coast and Catalina Island.

– more –

Convey interests and work collaboratively:
With his extensive knowledge of fishing grounds gained over generations in a long-established fishing family, Ciro is well respected among both recreational and commercial fishermen and others. He is an acknowledged leader in the San Pedro fishing community. He understands and respects different perspectives and is willing to work collaboratively with others.

Communication network:
As noted above, Ciro is a leader in the San Pedro fishing community as well as the San Pedro fishermen's representative on the CWPA Board of Directors. He has regular communication with recreational and commercial fishing interests in the San Pedro and Terminal Island harbor communities, and is capable and willing to network with other fishermen throughout the MLPAI process.

Commitment:
Ciro has pledged his commitment to fulfill the responsibilities of the Regional Stakeholder Group. As a professional fisherman for 27 years, Ciro has the desirable balance of knowledge of southern CA fishing grounds (especially the southern Channel Islands including Catalina) and the respect of the fishing community, including both recreational and commercial fishermen. His knowledge, ability to communicate with others would be an asset on the SCRSG.

ALTERNATE for Ciro Ferrigno

NEIL GUGLIELMO Camarillo CA 93012

Provide first-hand knowledge:
Neil has fished full-time for 47 years, his experience encompassing purse-seine, gillnet and trap fisheries for the wetfish complex including squid, mackerel and sardines, as well as crab, lobster, bonito and herring. Neil has fished from the Mexican border to north of San Francisco, and fished extensively "between the points", the region between Point Arguello and Point Conception.

Balanced perspective – SC region with local knowledge:
With his balance of knowledge focused in the northern part of the SC study area, Neil is ideally suited to serve as Ciro's alternate on the SCRSG.

Convey interests and work collaboratively:
Neil represented wetfish fishermen on the Channel Islands Marine Reserves Working Group (MRWG), attending monthly meetings for approximately 20 months. In addition, he participated on the RSG in the south central coast MLPA Initiative process. He also represents fishermen on the PFMC Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Panel. He has extensive experience in working collaboratively with agencies, fishermen and other marine interests.

Communication network:

Neil is on the Board of Directors of CWPA, as alternate representing Ventura/Port Hueneme wetfish fishermen. He also represents fishermen on the PFMC's CPS Advisory Subpanel, as noted above, and is well known and respected in the fishing community. He has regular communications with recreational and commercial fishermen in the SC study area, and is willing to reach out to stakeholders not directly involved in the process.

Commitment:
Neil's breadth of knowledge, both of the region and its resources as well as his experience on the Channel Islands MRWG, would be a valuable asset to the MLPA south coast stakeholder process. Neil communicates regularly with Ciro and is committed to assist in meeting RSG responsibilities and charges as Ciro's alternate on the SCRSG.

* * *

– more –

REGULAR MEMBER **GERRY RICHTER** Santa Barbara CA 93105

Provide first-hand knowledge:
A commercial fisherman in southern CA for 32 years, Gerry Richter has extensive experience fishing for various groundfish such as blackgill, vermilion, lingcod and various other deeper nearshore rockfish. Gerry also fishes with hook and line for halibut and barracuda, and fished shark in the past. Gerry knowledge of fishing grounds extends from Monterey to Mexico. He is the current and longstanding member of the PFMC's Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP), representing fixed gear commercial groundfish fishermen in S.CA. He also has participated on numerous Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panels for such groundfish species as vermilion, bocaccio, cowcod, gopher, blackgill and chilipepper rockfishes, as well as California scorpionfish and lingcod, all of which are harvested in southern CA.

Balanced perspective – SC region with local knowledge:
Gerry has in-depth knowledge of the resources and habitats in the south coast study area, and he balances this local knowledge with a regional perspective: his roles on the GAP includes communicating with all open access and limited-entry fixed gear groundfish fishermen from Morro Bay to the Mexican border to gather input in order to advise the PFMC in making management decisions.

Convey interests and work collaboratively:
Gerry is very well qualified to convey the interests of south coast fishermen, and he has extensive experience in working collaboratively. For example, Gerry assisted the PFMC in negotiations during development of the Rockfish Conservation Areas (RCA) to protect specified rockfish species.

Communication network:
Gerry has developed an extensive network of fishing contacts from his work on the GAP, and he also serves as VP of the Point Conception Groundfishermen's Association. He maintains routine email and dockside communications with south coast fishermen and is willing to reach out to fishermen not directly involved in MLPA.

Commitment:
Gerry is well respected in south coast fishing communities as well as with DFG and the PFMC. His experience with resource protection and his interactions and collaboration with diverse stakeholders and resource agencies would be a welcome addition to the SCRSG. He is committed to fulfilling the time-intensive responsibilities involved in serving as a regular member on the RSG.

ALTERNATE for Gerry Richter

CHRIS HOEFLINGER Newbury Park CA 91320

Provide first-hand knowledge:
Chris has fished in southern California continually for 42 years from nearshore to off shore, with both Recreational and Commercial participation in diving, clamming spear fishing, long lining, harpooning, trapping and trolling. Currently he works full time as a commercial fishermen trapping golden spot prawns; he also fishes shrimp, swordfish, shark, white seabass, halibut, rockfish, rock crab and sheephead. Chris has fished from Oregon to Mexico, and nearshore to Hawaii, including all Channel Islands. He has in-depth knowledge of habitats and marine life in the south coast study area, as well as a strong understanding of fishery management, MPA and reserve design principals and processes. He was appointed by CDFG to serve as a regional stakeholder during the original Marine Life Management Act process, and was actively involved in the development of the Nearshore Fishery Management Plan.

– more –

Balanced perspective – SC region with local knowledge:
Chris currently fishes out of the port of Los Angeles. He has a strong understanding of bottom habitats as well as oceanic conditions that influence the productivity of southern California waters. He is especially interested in achieving a science-based outcome in the MLPA and also preserving the cultural heritage and productivity of the commercial fishing industry in southern California. His outreach as well as knowledge base strongly complements that of Gerry Richter to provide expanded coverage of habitats and fisheries in the south coast study area.

Convey interests and work collaboratively:
Chris believes fishery sustainability and ecosystem integrity can only be achieved when stakeholders work collaboratively in an open, transparent, and fair process that is guided by sound objective science and a non-biased governance structure. For more than a decade he has volunteered his knowledge to achieve this objective. The intent of the Marine Life Management Act (MLMA) is to achieve fishery sustainability and ecosystem integrity by following sound scientific management principals. Originally the MLPA was an important component of the MLMA. MPAs were intended to complement fishery management and help achieve ecosystem integrity. Chris wants to see that the MLPA is implemented in a fashion that complements the MLMA, and he has extensive experience working collaboratively with others to achieve those purposes.

Communication network:
Chris networks extensively among south coast harbor communities; his outreach includes participation in the following associations and processes.
1) Member Ventura County Commercial Fishing Organization
2) CDFG Nearshore Fishery Management plan advisory committee during development of the NFMP.
3) CDFG Ground Fish task Force member.
4) Commercial Fishing seat (one term) on the Channel Island National Marine Sanctuary, Sanctuary Advisory Council. (SAC)
He is willing and able to network with and provide information to stakeholders not actively engaged in the MLPA process.

Commitment:
Chris is committed to work with the other stakeholders, the BRTF, the CDFG, the science advisory panel and the Fish and Game Commission to develop a network of MPAs that protects habitats and marine life and complements the objective of maintaining sustainable fisheries and infrastructure that support them.

In summary, Chris is committed to achieve a successful science-based outcome balanced with protection of southern California fishing communities. He is fully committed to serve on the Regional Stakeholder Group for the south coast MLPA process as an alternate for Gerry Richter.

* * *

REGULAR MEMBER **JOE VILLAREAL** Thousand Oaks CA 91362

Provide first-hand knowledge:
Joe Villareal has been a commercial and recreational fishermen in the S.CA. Bight for 30 years. He owns/operates the CPFV Mirage, and also operates it as a light boat, lighting for the commercial squid fishery during season. Joe has served for 10 years on the Board of Directors of the Sportfishing Association of California (SAC). He has played a major role in the S.CA. Bight hook and line groundfish survey for the past five years.
Joe has in-depth knowledge of habitats and marine resources, particularly groundfish and squid, in the south coast study area, including the coast and around the Channel Islands.

Balanced perspective – SC region with local knowledge:
Joe has developed decades of local knowledge of the study area and has a broad, balanced perspective of the region as a whole. His knowledge extends to commercial as well as recreational fisheries.

– more –

Convey interests and work collaboratively:
Joe is able to articulate the perspectives of both CPFV fleet and commercial squid fleet. His experience participating on the H&L groundfish survey has given him a clear ability to work collaboratively with others, which will facilitate developing a balanced MPA network proposal that achieves the goals of the MLPA.

Communication network:
As a board member in SAC and active in both the recreational and commercial fisheries, Joe has developed an extensive communications network and is willing to use email, dockside meetings as well as disseminate information to fishermen on the grounds and other stakeholders not actively engaged in the MLPA process.

Commitment:
As a career fisherman with active interest in the marine resources of southern California, in part demonstrated by his active participation in collaborative research as a participant in H&L groundfish survey, Joe is well qualified to serve on the south coast regional stakeholder group, and he is dedicated to make the necessary time commitment to fulfill the responsibilities of a regular member, if he is appointed.

ALTERNATE for Joe Villareal

MERIT McCREA Santa Barbara CA 93103

Provide first-hand knowledge:
Merit McCrea has fished and dived the waters of southern CA since at least 1979. He captained CPFV vessels at SEA Landing in Santa Barbara: he restored the 55-foot vessel *Seahawk*, piloted the 149-passenger quad-jet vessel *Condor Express*, and expanded the recreational CPFV fishing frontier to the West Bank of San Miguel Island and to Pt. Arguello. Merit explored local waters for undocumented reef sites, expanding local knowledge of marine habitats in the Channel. He conducted interpretive cruises, sighting marine mammals and other sea life in and around the Channel Islands.
With a dual interest in marine biology, Merit has also assisted with data gathering of marine fish using direct observation along transects both by SCUBA and from the Delta manned submersible in depths ranging from near surface to 220 m. As a research technician, Merit has facilitated the capture and tagging of more than 140 rockfish and lingcod, and he operated the CSULB Lowe lab research vessels. From 2003-2006 he studied marine biology at the Lowe Lab, CSULB, in Long Beach CA. He is currently enrolled in graduate studies at the Love Laboratory, at UCSB's Marine Science Institute,.
Merit also studied geographic information systems (GIS) at UCSB and presented a poster on the spatial distribution of fishing effort at the "Spatial UCSB" inauguration, ESRI UC '08.

Balanced perspective – SC region with local knowledge:
With nearly 40 years of marine experience in the CPFV fleet, conducting and participating in fishing trips, marine sightseeing excursions, underwater research and marine study, Merit is well qualified to balance his local knowledge with an overarching perspective of the south coast study area.

Convey interests and work collaboratively:
Merit has participated actively on the Channel Islands MRWG, and he is a member of the CINMS Sanctuary Advisory Council, assistant chair of their recreational fishing working group. Merit's affiliations include United Anglers, Recreational Fishing Alliance, Sportfishing Association of California where he served on the board from 1988 to 2001. He also has communications within the science community as a graduate student at the Marine Science Institute at UCSB. In short, Merit is well qualified to understand and convey the interests of multiple stakeholder groups and is committed to collaborating to achieve a science-based and well-balanced outcome in the MLPA Initiative process.

Communication network:
As noted above, Merit has developed an extensive communications network, also including recreational fishing media contacts. He is committed to network and communicate with these groups as well as stakeholders not directly involved in the MLPA process.

– more –

Commitment:
Merit is willing to participate actively in the MLPA Initiative process and feels his lifetime fishing experience and knowledge of marine biology and habitats, as well as his experience with GIS, would be best suited as an alternate to Joe Villareal, with whom he communicates routinely. Merit believes the regular voting member should be the one whose livelihood depends directly on their spatial access to the fishing grounds. Merit is committed to serve as Joe's alternate, assisting Joe however possible to fulfill the duties of a stakeholder member on the RSG.

* * *

REGULAR MEMBER **JOEL GREENBERG** Valley Village CA 91607

Provide first-hand knowledge:
Joel Greenberg has served as chair of the southern CA chapter of the Recreational Fishing Alliance (RFA) for nearly six years. Joel is also an original member of the DFG Groundfish Task Force and a member of NOAA's California Saltwater Sportfishing Action Team. In addition, Joel is active in the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Fishing Working Group.

Balanced perspective – SC region with local knowledge:
Joel is well qualified and capable of balancing his working knowledge of local habitats and species with a regional perspective. He has participated actively in resource protection processes, involved in numerous meetings of the CA Fish and Game Commission and MLPA Initiative.

Convey interests and work collaboratively:
Joel is capable of conveying the interests of the recreational angler and balances these skills with the ability to work collaboratively. Joel is well-known to the MLPA Initiative staff and BRTF, having spent nearly four years as a SIG member during the SCC and NCC phases of the MLPAI.

Communication network:
Joel has extensive contacts within the fishing community, both recreational and commercial, and is able to network with recreational groups including RFA, UASC, SAC, United Pier and Shore Anglers of CA (UPSAC) and Partnership for Sustainable Oceans. Joel also is an active member of the California Fisheries Coalition and is able to communicate effectively to stakeholders through numerous channels, including email, dockside conversations and meetings.

Commitment:
With his knowledge of the MLPA Initiative process as well as resource and habitat protection issues, Joel is committed to dedicate himself to fulfill the time commitment and duties required of a regular member on the SCRSG.

ALTERNATE For Joel Greenberg – To be determined

* * *

REGULAR MEMBER **DON BROCKMAN** Newport Beach CA 92661

Provide first-hand knowledge:
Don Brockman has fished full time for 32 years in the charterboat industry and 22 years as a commercial squid lightboat and live bait provider. He has fished extensively from the Mexican border to Point Conception, including the Channel Islands, and has in-depth knowledge of the habitats and marine resources in the south coast study area.

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Balanced perspective – SC region with local knowledge:
Don has solid understanding of the perspectives of both recreational and commercial fishermen and is well able to balance a south coast regional perspective with local knowledge of the habitats utilized in both recreational and commercial fisheries.

Convey interests and work collaboratively:
Don is President of Davey's Locker and Freelance Sportfishng, on the board of the Sportfishing Association of California and an associate member of the California Wetfish Producers Association. He is willing to convey the interests of all these groups. His prior collaborative experience includes active participation in the Channel Islands marine reserve process and as a member of the DFG Squid Fishery Advisory Committee.

Communication network:
Don communicates regularly with the above groups and interested public at his sportfishng landing, as well as on the fishing grounds. He is willing to provide information through these network connections and his business associations to reach stakeholders not actively involved in MLPA meetings.

Commitment:
Don works closely with recreational and commercial fisherme from several harbor communities in southern CA. He understands the process and is committed and dedicated to achieve a balanced outcome in the MLPA Initiative.

ALTERNATE for Don Brockman

RICHARD ASHLEY

Long Beach CA 90808

Provide first-hand knowledge:
Richie Ashley is a third generation fisherman who has spent his life fishing in southern CA, following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather. Richie began his career working for his father's sportfishing / live bait operation. Since 1994 he has branched out to establish his own bait company, Long Beach Bait Co.; he also owns/ operates four vessels: *FV Provider, Long Beach Carnage, Pacific Carnage and More Carnage.* Richie now supplies live bait for his father's sportfishing enterprise as well as his own, fishing squid, sardine and mackerel for live bait and also supplying wetfish markets. He has developed in-depth knowledge of the southern CA coastline from Pt. Arguello to Mexico and especially the northern and southern Channel Islands. He considers the coast Point Mugu to Oceanside as 'home turf' and Catalina as his home island.

Balanced perspective – SC region with local knowledge:
Richie has broad experience fishng throughout the south coast study area, so can bring a regional perspective to the table, balanced with specialized knowledge of the Channel Islands and coast from Pt. Mugu to Oceanside.

Convey interests and work collaboratively:
As owner of a bait company supplying his father's sportfishing business, as well as owner of three market squid vessel permits, a squid brail permit and two CPS finfish permits, Richie's interests span both sides of the fence in the fishing community. He is committed to find a balance between all stakeholder interests to achieve a science-based outcome in the MLPA Initiative.

Communication network:
Richie is in routine communication with fishermen both in recreational and commercial fisheries, as well as with organizations such as CWPA. He is dedicated to network with fishermen on the grounds and via normal communications, i.e. radio and dockside meetings, to communicate news of the south coast MLPA process.

Commitment:
Richie feels it is his duty to fulfill the time commitment required of the regional stakeholder group. He has made his livelihood on the ocean in southern CA and he has much "at stake". He is committed to share his knowledge to help achieve a successful, balanced outcome in the MLPA south coast process.

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REGULAR MEMBER **BOB BERTELLI** , Seal Beach CA90740

Provide First Hand Knowledge:
Bob has 50 years of diving experience in California's ocean waters. He has been a sports diver, a Scuba instructor and a dive shop operator.

Since 1975, he has been a commercial shellfish diver, fishing for abalone, sea urchin, coral and sea cucumber. In years past he has also fished trammel nets and for herring. Currently he focuses his commercial fishing on sea cucumbers and sea urchins.

Balanced perspective – SC region with local knowledge:
Bob has extensive knowledge of the Channel Islands and Coastal areas which he currently fishes from the San Pedro/Long Beach harbor. Previously he fished out of Santa Barbara and northern California. He has actively worked representing his fisheries and coordinating with other fishery groups in exploring and developing alternative fishery policies and solutions since 1977.

He currently serves as the Chair of the California Sea Urchin Commission, created with oversight from the CA Department of Food & Agriculture. In addition, he serves as the Sea Urchin Commission's Port Representative for Los Angeles and Orange Counties. In this capacity he is able to collaborate with other fishery representatives in addressing local concerns, learning about the needs of others, sharing information and solving problems.

Convey interests and work collaboratively:

As a leader in the sea cucumber and sea urchin fisheries, Bob frequently finds himself in the position of representing and working closely with fishermen from other fisheries, including lobster, live fish, squid and recreational marine users on local and regional issues. For example he has taken a lead on tracking and understanding the Department of Defense proposal to modify fishing access to San Clemente Island. In addition, Bob took the lead in working with the Department of Fish & Game over the past year to amicably resolve a delicate issue with landing reports.

Bob has a BA degree in History from Cal State Fresno and was active on the college debate team – all of which will serve him well in working dynamically with others on the RSG.

Communication network:
If appointed to the RSG, Bob will be able to coordinate and share information using the Sea Urchin Commission's printed and electronic newsletters, local and statewide sea urchin meetings, and frequent contacts on the docks with fishermen from all of the regional fisheries.

Commitment:
Bob is committed to ensuring a fair and balanced science-based outcome in the MLPAI. He recognizes the role MPAs could play in addressing vital concerns facing the marine environment and is interested in exploring and securing consensus on creative solutions.

* * *

Thanks very much for this opportunity to nominate members for the SCRSG. We believe these individuals represent a diversity of fishery interests and regional local knowledge. We appreciate your consideration of these nominations and the pairings we've suggested.

Sincerely,

Vern Goehring

Vern Goehring, Manager

JIM MARTIN
WEST COAST REGIONAL DIRECTOR
THE RECREATIONAL FISHING ALLIANCE
P.O. Box 2420
Fort Bragg, CA 95437
(707) 357-3422

NATIONAL OFFICE:
PO Box 3080
NEW GRETNA NJ 08224
(888) 564-6732

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
c/o California Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814
Attention: Melissa Miller-Henson

RE: SoCal RSG Nominations for the MLPAI

Dear Melissa,

The Recreational Fishing Alliance (RFA) is a national 501(c)(4) non-profit grassroots political action organization whose mission is to safeguard the rights of salt water anglers, protect marine, boat, and tackle industry jobs, and insure the long-term sustainability of our nation's marine fisheries.

We would like to make the following nominations to the South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group for the MLPA process:

Joel Greenberg
RFA SoCal

Valley Village, CA 91607

Joel Greenberg is Chairman of the Southern California Chapter of the Recreational Fishing Alliance (RFA) and has served in that capacity for nearly six years. Besides being an original member of the California Department of Fish and Game Groundfish Task Force, he has also served as a member of NOAA's California Saltwater Sportfishing Action Team and the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Fishing Working Group. Joel has participated actively in resource protection processes, involved in numerous meetings of the California Fish and Game Commission and the MLPA Initiative, where he frequently offered testimony on conservation and fisheries management issues from the standpoint of the recreational angler. Joel is well known to the MLPA I-Team and BRTF, having spent nearly four years as a SIG member during the Central Coast and North Central Coast phases of the MLPAI. With his knowledge of MLPA processes as well as resource and habitat protection issues, Joel is committed to dedicate himself to the duties of a Regional Stakeholder Group primary for the South Coast Region.

Terry Maas

Ventura, Ca, 93003

Alternate: Bill Ernst

Terry Maas has been diving California waters consistently for the last 50 years and is the author two popular books on freediving. As a Board member of SeaWatch, Terry is dedicated to preserving the Sea of Cortez. He is a World Record holder and a National Champion. He was the principal videographer for an underwater series for Outdoor Channel--first 22 shows. Holder of 3 advanced degrees, DDS, MS Oral Surgery, MBA. On the state Abalone Advisory Group for possible abalone take at San Miguel Island. He was an original stakeholder on the first, aborted, MLPA process for So. Cal. Author of many photo-journal articles on sea life including one of the resurgence of the Black Sea Bass and another front page for the "National Geographic of Mexico" on Manta Rays. As an artist, his painting of a white seabass is displayed at Hubbs Research Facility, and his mural of Channel Island Sea Life is displayed at the National Park Visitor Center in Ventura. Terry is also a still photographer--many of his images are used in conservation literature, most notably sharks, rays and turtles caught by line or in nets. Terry is currently working on a kid's show about the wonders of the ocean for PBS.

Wendy Tochihara
National Sales Manager
Izorline International, Inc.

Paramount, CA 90723

Website: www.izorline.com

Wendy is the National Sales Manager for a local fishing line company and a private boater who fishes recreationally as well as competitively. On a regular basis she visits tackle stores, gives seminars and talks to many different stakeholder groups in this region. She can be heard on the air and via the Internet every Sunday night on Rod & Reel Radio as one of the co-hosts of the show. Wendy communicates with anglers, captains, deckhands, surfers, kayakers, boaters, non boaters, tackle store owners, employees, manufacturers and conservationists every day. She will bring first-hand knowledge and perspective to the MLPA South Coast Study Region, and express clearly the interests of the listed stakeholders and work collaboratively, seeking to integrate the interests of the full range of constituencies. She is an open minded individual with many different interests and willing to hear all sides of an issue. Wendy belongs to the following organizations: President, Chuck Byron Memorial Youth Art Foundation; Member: Screen Actors Guild; BASS; Saltwater Bass Anglers; WON Bass; American Bass; South Bay Lady Anglers; Anglers Choice; El Segundo Douglas Rod & Gun Club; Manzanar School Reunion Committee; United Anglers of Southern California; and the American Sportfishing Association.

Merit McCrea

Santa Barbara CA 93103

Merit McCrea has fished and dived the waters of southern CA since at least 1979. He captained CPFV vessels at SEA Landing in Santa Barbara: he restored the 55-foot vessel *Seahawk*, piloted the 149-passenger quad-jet vessel *Condor Express*, and expanded the recreational CPFV fishing frontier to the West Bank of San Miguel Island and to Pt. Arguello. Merit explored local waters for undocumented reef sites, expanding local knowledge of marine habitats in the Channel. He conducted interpretive cruises, sighting marine mammals and other sea life in and around the Channel Islands. With a dual interest in marine biology, Merit has also assisted with data gathering of marine fish. With nearly 40 years of marine experience in the CPFV fleet, conducting and participating in fishing trips, marine sightseeing excursions, underwater research and marine study, Merit is well qualified to balance his local knowledge with an overarching perspective of the south coast study area. Merit has participated actively on the Channel Islands MRWG, and he is a member of the CINMS Sanctuary Advisory Council, assistant chair of their

recreational fishing working group. Merit's affiliations include United Anglers, Recreational Fishing Alliance, Sportfishing Association of California where he served on the board from 1988 to 2001. He also has communications within the science community as a graduate student at the Marine Science Institute at UCSB.

Joe Villareal

Thousand Oaks CA 91362

Joe Villareal has been a commercial and recreational fisherman in the Southern California Bight for 30 years. He owns/operates the CPFV *Mirage*, and also operates it as a light boat for the commercial squid fishery during season. Joe has served for 10 years on the Board of Directors of the Sportfishing Association of California (SAC). He has played a major role in the Southern California Bight hook and line groundfish survey for the past five years. Joe has developed decades of local knowledge of the study area and has a broad, balanced perspective of the region as a whole. His knowledge extends to commercial as well as recreational fisheries. Joe is able to articulate the perspectives of both CPFV fleet and commercial squid fleet. As a board member in SAC and active in both the recreational and commercial fisheries, Joe has developed an extensive communications network and is willing to use email, dockside meetings as well as disseminate information to fishermen on the grounds and other stakeholders not actively engaged in the MLPA process.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jim Martin

Jim Martin
West Coast Regional Director
The Recreational Fishing Alliance

July 18, 2008

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
C/O California Resources Agency
Email: MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov

Subject: SAC Nominations for the Regional Stakeholders Group.

Dear Sir/Madam:

The Sportfishing Association of California (SAC) has since 1972 represented the interests of the southern California commercial passenger fishing (CPFV) vessel industry. As the upcoming southern California phase of the MLPA will have a direct and potentially negative impact on the operations of the 131 CPFVs that SAC represents, we are submitting our slate of nominations for the important RSG.

SAC Nominations:

1. Robert C. Fletcher, President, SAC.
   San Diego, CA 92106.

   Robert Fletcher has owned and operated sportfishing charter boats in San Diego. Bob has also fished commercially for tuna and harpooned swordfish. He has also been the Dep. Dir. and later Chief Dep. Dir. of the CA Dept. of Fish & Game. He spent 15 years as a voting member of the PFMC and was Chairman twice; was a Commissioner on the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission; was the first Chairman of the Klamath Fisheries Management Council; is currently a member of MAFAC, the marine fisheries advisory committee to the Secy. of Commerce; he was a member of the Marine Reserves Working Group (MRWG), which worked to adopt a network of marine protected areas for the northern Channel Islands; and he is also currently a U.S. Commissioner on the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission and an advisor to the PSMFC. As you can see, Mr. Fletcher has first hand knowledge of marine resources locally and regionally, is able to balance perspectives, capable of working collaboratively, able to use effective communications and is committed to completing the charge of the RSG.

2. Roy R. (Buck) Everingham Jr., Owner, Everingham Bros. Bait Co.
La Mesa, CA 91943

'Buck' Everingham has been working for his family company since 1963, and is owner of the largest live bait harvesting company in California, and perhaps the world. Buck over the years has held every position in his company, and in 1984 he got his pilot's license so as to be able to spot schools of bait from the air. In his career as a Captain he has operated seven harvesting vessels ranging in size from 42 ' to 118 ' from Point Arena on the north to the Mexican border on the south. He is also an innovator, and has made design changes to his vessels and holding receivers to provide more and better live bait.
Clearly Buck is qualified to bring the live bait harvesters' perspective to the MLPA RSG discussions, and in his travels he has gained broad knowledge that uniquely provides him the ability to convey his industries interests to the RSG. He realizes that the future of his business relies on him working collaboratively while using good communications skills to convey to others in his industry the updates to the MLPA process. Finally Buck is aware that it is only through a commitment to completing the process and the charge of the RSG that he stands the best chance of having a future that he can operate within.

3. Fred Huber, Captain and Owner of the Half-Day Boat Daily Double.
San Diego, CA 92107.

Captain Fred Huber is a San Diego native who has spent his whole life on the ocean. He started his sportfishing career as a deckhand on the DAILY DOUBLE, and is now the owner and Captain, thirty years later. As a long time Captain, Fred is very familiar with the fisheries and habitat of the ocean around San Diego, and is committed to the future of the ocean environment. In addition to bringing first-hand knowledge of the San Diego county coastal waters, Captain Huber has worked on a number of other sportfishing vessels and has a working knowledge of the southern California ocean area and the Baja coastal waters. As a long-time Captain, he is comfortable with communicating with others, and working in a fleet of other sportfishing boats, he is used to collaborating with others. As a boat owner, he is committed to completing the MLPA process, as his future depends on it.

4. James Alley, Owner, San Diego Sportfishing, Inc.

, Coronado, CA 92118.

In addition to owning two sportfishing boats, Jim has been a long-time member of the Coronado Yacht Club Rod and Reel Club. As a result of his ownership of sportfishing boats, Jim has developed a working knowledge of the waters off San Diego, and would bring that first-hand knowledge to the work of the RSG. Jim has also owned a construction company and is therefore equipped to work collaboratively with the other members of the RSG. In addition, Jim has been a member of the Optimist Club of Coronado for 14 years and is a past President, and is therefore an excellent communicator. Being committed to completing the charge of the RSG is clearly in his best interest, as his ownership would be in jeopardy if an unwise decision were made. He would be a cool and constructive force on the RSG, and his leadership skills would allow him to work towards a positive result for all.

5. Michael Gauger, Senior Staff, Seaforth Sportfishing Inc.
   San Diego, CA 92104.

Mike has been a recreational fisherman his entire life. For the last 20 years he has held an important job as one of the senior staffers at the Seaforth Sportfishing Landing in Mission Bay. Seaforth is home to 20 sportfishing boats, and Mike has a thorough knowledge of all aspects of sport boat operations, and is intimately familiar with the coastal waters of southern California and northern Baja. He has a smooth, professional manner and is a great communicator. He is a passionate supporter of recreational fishing and would bring a wealth of experience and great contacts in the sportfishing industry. Any facilitated process in the marine fisheries arena would benefit from Mike's cooperative and collaborative approach to problem solving, and as Mike loves the ocean so thoroughly he would be committed to working through the MLPA process.

6. Norris Tapp, Captain and former manager of Davey's Locker Sportfishing.
   Irvine, CA 92606.

Norris Tapp submitted his nomination separately, and SAC supports his appointment. Norris would be a valuable addition to the RSG.

7. Donald C. Brockman, Owner, Freelance.
   Newport Beach, CA 92661.

Don Brockman submitted his nomination separately, and SAC support his appointment. Operating in both sport and commercial arenas, he would be a valuable addition to the RSG.

8. Mike Hansen, Manager, Dana Wharf Sportfishing.
Dana Point, CA 92629.

Mike Hansen has submitted his nomination separately, and SAC supports his appointment. As a long-time Captain as well as manager of a large landing, Mike would bring a wealth of knowledge to this RSG process.

9. Joe Villareal, Owner, Mirage, Sportfishing and Squid Lightboat Operations.
Port Hueneme, CA 93053.

Captain Joe Villareal, owner and operator of the sportfishing vessel MIRAGE, has spent a lifetime on the water, both as Captain and owner of his sportfishing vessel and as Captain and owner of his squid lightboat while in support of commercial squid operations. In his spare time Captain Joe V has worked with the Northwest Fisheries Science Center of NMFS to conduct cooperative fishery investigations to determine the status and distribution of rock fish in the southern California Bight. For many years Joe has also contributed his time to attend meetings of the Pacific Fishery Management Council and has provided valuable information that has assisted the Council in its consideration of sportfishing regulations in southern California.

Joe V and his boat MIRAGE are considered one of the most consistently successful operations in the northern area of the Bight, and in his leadership role he would be able to not only bring first-hand knowledge of the waters offshore Santa Barbara-Oxnard, but would be able to communicate with others in the CPFV and commercial fishing sectors to gain a broader understanding of their thoughts and concerns. From his time with the PFMC he has gained an appreciation of the importance of working through issues cooperatively, and I am sure he will be committed to completing all aspects of the RSG's charge.

Finally, Joe worked with me throughout the MRWG process in the northern Channel Islands, and he was instrumental in getting industry support for many of the marine reserves the recreational fishing community supported, prior to the time that the Department of Fish & Game disbanded the working group. I have already mentioned the areas of expertise that Joe Villareal would bring to the RSG process, and I encourage the MLPAI staff to give him serious consideration.

10. Merit McCrea, former sportfishing boat owner and current Marine Biologist.
Santa Barbara, CA 93103.

Merit McCrea is an ideal candidate for the RSG, as he combines the experience of a sportfishing boat owner and operator with the educational knowledge through his time in the UCSB College of Ecology, Evolution and Marine Biology, and his time as a research technician at both the CSULB and UCSB. Clearly Merit has that rare combination of on the water experience and formal educational time. In addition, he is connected with a number of recreational fishing organizations, such as UASC, SAC and RFA. To add to his impressive list of accomplishments, he is a member of the Channel Islands NMS SAC. All the foregoing attest to his ability to communicate with those who may not attend the MLPAI public meetings. Merit is a long time recreational fisherman and believes that it is only through the RSG process that a future that includes recreational fishing can be achieved, and he is committed to completing the charge of the RSG. Finally, Merit is so overwhelmingly overqualified for this process and it would be a real loss to the process if he were not selected, even if he were chosen to be an alternate to another sportfishing industry representative. A real plus for Merit is that he studied under Dr. Michael Goodchild a UCSB Geography, and he presented a poster on spatial distribution of fishing effort at "Spatial at UCSB" inauguration, so he has a working knowledge of GIS.

SAC hopes that these nominations will be considered in this process, and we will be happy to answer any questions related to these nominations.

Sincerely,

Bob Fletcher, President