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Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
C/O California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

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Attention: NCRSG Nominations

As a commercial fisherman for twenty years and a resident of the North Coast for forty, I am extremely interested in the implementation of the MLPA on the North Coast. The economic viability of the fishing community as well as the larger North Coast community is dependant on access to our natural resources. My knowledge of the study region can help minimize the economic impacts to the study area. I have been active in the MLPA process since the passage of the bill, serving on two previous regional stakeholder groups in previous implementation attempts.

I am the owner and operator of several commercial fishing boats holding permits for crab, salmon, shallow near shore rock fish, and deeper near shore rockfish. I also hold a limited entry access permit for commercial surf fishing on Redwood National and State Park, and participate in the open access lingcod and sable fish fisheries. I have a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Management with an emphasis in Fisheries from Humboldt State University. My work and studies have given me an intimate knowledge of fish biology, habits, habitat, management and stock status from Shelter Cove to the Oregon border. Humboldt State University recognizes my depth of knowledge asking me to serve as a guest lecturer in their Fisheries Department and as a fishing instructor in their Extended Education Program.

In my free time I take children and seniors fishing to educate them about the ocean, fishing and regulations. My work and play has enabled me to create a huge network of both recreational and commercial fishermen, as well as fisheries related businesses and educators. Working in Trinidad I have direct contact with the Cher-Ae Heights Tribe and charter fishermen. When not gathered around a tailgate in front of Englund Marine to exchange the latest news, we network by email, and phone tree. I am also able to reach stakeholders and other constituents through my local newspaper column and local fishing websites.

I have been actively involved in the MLPA process since 2000. Recently I have spent hours in consultation with Ecotrust to insure we obtain the most accurate socio-economic data for the North Coast study region. I'm president of the California Commercial Beach Fishermen's Association, where I was instrumental in obtaining federal legislation guaranteeing commercial beach fishing access for 17 members. I'm a member of Trinidad Bay Fishermen's Association, and elected to the California Dungeness Crab Task Force for Trinidad where I work collaboratively with conservationists, processors and fishermen to adopt policies to benefit the Dungeness Crab Fishery.

I would like to be considered for the North Coast Regional Stakeholders Group for the MLPA. I am committed to completing the charge and willing to attend regularly scheduled meetings. I am familiar with the science regarding MPA's. I can relate scientific issues to lay people in public venues, as illustrated in my newspaper column in the McKinleyville Press titled "Fish and Politics". I have a comprehensive understanding of the MLPA process and the role of the Stakeholder Group. My local knowledge of fish and fisheries, will be an invaluable asset on the Stakeholder Group. Please consider my placement on the Stakeholder Group for the North Coast Region.

Sincerely,

Mike Zamboni