

MICHAEL CARPENTER

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Michael has been a Sea Urchin diver since 1986 on the north coast, has thousands of hours of bottom time diving in communities from San Diego to Alaska, and has seen firsthand the marine environment in its ever-changing state.

Michael served on the California Urchin Processors Association Board (CUPA) representing Albion Harbor. He has also been an avid sport fisherman since his childhood growing up in Ukiah, fishing on the Russian River almost daily. Michael has always shown a deep respect for the outdoors and wildlife and its preservation. When El Nino hit in the late 1990's, he chose to work in a different field, making a choice not to keep fishing while resources were stressed. Michael is a journeyman tool-and-die mold maker, and went back to this trade for several years, where he got the chance to become an Engineering Applications Specialist, which required him to travel the world on a moments notice to work with major corporations, and to work with different cultures and belief systems. Mike showed a great ability to bring angry people together and resolve their problems in a calm and peaceful manor. An injury suffered in 2002 left him unable to continue to do this work.

In January, of 2008, he went back to his real love - the outdoors, the ocean, and diving - which has given him a way to be productive again and go back to work. When he learned of the MLPA coming to the north coast, Mike knew something had to be done. Mike had the idea to have a concert and seafood tasting benefit to raise awareness and help get the message out to people of the North coast that everyone needed to get involved in the MLPA process. Michael's ability to understand and effectively communicate important issues to his community, and his ability to quickly act and organize others, shows that he has the temperament and the willingness to work within this process.