

November 29, 2009

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

Attention: NCRSG nominations

I would respectfully wish to submit my name for consideration to be placed on the RSG for the North Coast MLPA process. I have been active with the MLPA process for quite a long time and have attended all local meetings with the Eco-Trust Team and Humboldt Bay Harbor District work group, and have participated at their informational workshops and meetings for process and Marine Map array development.

I consider myself worthy of consideration due to my long association with public policy development and personal knowledge of the marine ecology of our coastline. I've worked in the early 1970's as a graduate student in marine biology and marine ecology studying invertebrates in the Fort Bragg region and north coast to the Oregon Border. Our HSU team worked closely with the DF&G to study the biology of the red abalone and participate in fish collections along the north coast. I have in excess of 2,000 hours of SCUBA bottom time on the north coast region. For the past thirty-five years I have served as a public official in the public utility sector and have formulated citizens committees to study various topics of public interest such as wastewater treatment with emergent aquatic marshes, public works projects, incorporation and other related topics. In my responsibilities as a General Manager of a Utility District I have work for decades with other regulatory agencies and have assisted and guided my Board of Directors on the formation and implementation of public policy. All the meetings are public meeting, many being public hearing. I am well versed on conflict resolution methods to bring positive results from widely varying public opinion and strongly held beliefs. I believe this past experience would be a benefit to the RSG to help steer the process to a positive end result.

In my youth I worked for a few years with commercial salmon fishing industry as a DF&G sea sampler in the Eureka region. As a graduate student I worked on projects in Humboldt Bay and in the Fort Bragg regions. Since that time I have extensively fished by hook and line, both as a recreational boat owner and shore fisherman. I am an active SCUBA and skin-diver and have a very good understanding of the habitats for invertebrates, fish and other marine organisms along the coast and in Humboldt Bay. I worked for three years with the Oyster Mari culture operation in Humboldt Bay and was a key member of the staff to implement an oyster hatchery in the Bay. I currently am working with the Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers to promote beneficial fishing ethics and promote safe and responsible resource protection for the north coast region.

I have many decades of experience working with the public on various committees to establish public policy. This requires considerable patience and understanding of the

challenges in working with the public through contentious issues and work to a successful conclusion. I was recently selected to serve as a Recreational Fishing Representative to the PFMC Ground fish Advisory Panel. That body has similar responsibilities in the setting of public policy for “take” and resource allocation in the marine environment. I retired earlier this year and thus have the time to attend the extensive meeting schedules for the RSG responsibilities.

The MLPA is critical to the north coast region and will have impacts on economic and resource conservation concerns. Due to my background and interest in our region I would respectfully ask to be considered for the RSG to help study and promulgate conservation policy for our northern coastal area. I believe my background and experience makes me well suited to work cooperatively with all groups within and without our region for the successful implementation of this Legislative Act.

Thank you for your consideration of my application.

Very truly yours,

Thomas A. Marking