

November 27, 2009

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
C/o California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, Ca. 95814
Attn: NCRSG nominations

Via facsimile and U.S. mail

**Re: Nomination of Aaron L. Newman
to North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group:**

Greetings:

My name is Aaron L. Newman.

I have been a commercial fisherman working out of Eureka, California since my high school summers; I am a graduate of Humboldt State University (class of '98; B. A. in geography). In addition to operating my own commercial fishing vessel since 1997, I have been a recreational fisherman and diver since I was old enough to hold a fishing rod.

Because of my passion for the diverse marine resources of the North Coast Region of California, I would be a committed member of the North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group for the California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative.

My knowledge of the region is extensive as I am a native of the Humboldt County coast with commercial, recreational, and conservationist interests in the welfare of our coastal community. I have developed detailed first hand knowledge of the area as a geography student at Humboldt State University, and through commercial fishing as well as recreational fishing and diving virtually the entire North Coast since childhood.

Because I understand and appreciate the importance of a healthy North Coast ecosystem, I believe I am uniquely capable of balancing my local knowledge with a North Coast Regional perspective. Additionally, I am currently involved with a number of different stakeholder groups here on the North Coast as set forth below.

I believe my prior and continued involvement in marine issues demonstrates my concern, commitment and willingness to serve as well as an ability to listen to and convey the interests of multiple stakeholders. My background in geography along with my involvement in fishery and conservation politics has given me the ability to work collaboratively with, and integrate the interests of, the varied stakeholders involved. Further, as president of Humboldt Fishermen's Marketing Association,

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trustee of California Fisheries Coalition, and my work with North Coast Tribal and Conservationist interests, I am already in a position to effectively communicate with many stakeholders who do not necessarily attend public meetings.

The following are affiliations I have with stakeholder groups active in marine resource management. These are groups I will communicate with if I am selected as a North Coast Regional Stakeholder.

- President: Humboldt Fishermen's Marketing Association since 2003 representing over one hundred commercial fishers in the North Coast Region
- Trustee: California Fisheries Coalition
- Member: Board of Directors Pacific Coast Federation of Fisherman's Associations
- Northern California Director: Western Fishboat Owners Association
- Member: California Salmon Council
- Commercial Fishing Representative: PG&E Wave Connect Humboldt Working Group for cooperation in the development of energy buoys
- Member: Marine Fish Conservation Network
- Support of and lobby for: Save Our Wild Salmon; Earth, Justice, and Taxpayers For Common Sense

In addition to the foregoing, my involvement with the MLPA has been intensive as the process has reached the North Coast Region. I have been participating in North Coast stakeholder working groups consisting of commercial and recreational fishers and divers, Native American Tribes, and conservation groups to reach a community-based effort from which to approach MLPA proposals.

Educating fishermen about the MLPA has been a key focus of mine, while working with Ecotrust to gather data to minimize the socio-economic effects of the implementation of the MLPA. I have traveled to numerous hearings and testified during the previous implementations of MLPA regions.

As a political leader for the commercial fishing community, I have experience participating in collaborative public processes like the MLPA. These have included working with PG&E on the development of wave energy buoys, the Pacific Fishery Management Council on resource management decisions, the California Salmon Council on salmon resource promotion, as well as lobbying with conservation groups to protect and enhance fishery resources through policy changes and other actions like the MLPA.

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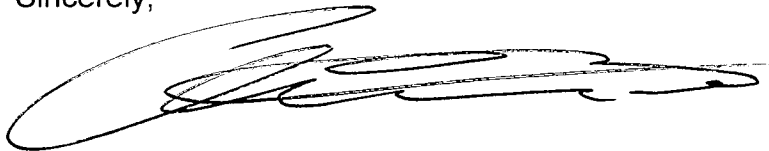
Understanding that MLPA implementation will have a lasting effect not only on my work with and enjoyment of our marine resources but upon the health and enjoyment of generations of Californians to come is the ultimate incentive for my absolute commitment and my full participation in this process.

If selected as a North Coast Regional Stakeholder I will fully and faithfully participate in the completing the regional stakeholder group process in the north coast by November 2010. One of the keys to succeeding in this collaborative process is open communications. Using e-mail, phone tree, and regular meetings of the various associations and groups I am part of and/or work with, I will make every effort to keep all parties informed as to the progression of the MLPA process.

I look forward to hearing from you and hope my qualifications; experience and perspective can help advance the goals of the MLPA. I may be reached as follows:

Aaron L. Newman
3150 F Street
Eureka, Ca. 95503
Cell 707-496-5158
E-mail kay6v71@aol.com
Home 707-497-6043

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aaron L. Newman', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Aaron L. Newman