

California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group Panel Member Short Biographies
September 28, 2005

Don Canestro is director of UC Santa Barbara's Ken Norris Rancho Marino Reserve, where he facilitates research and education, and works with researchers and classes from throughout the state that use marine intertidal and subtidal habitats. He is a SCUBA instructor and a USCG Captain. Don has logged over 2000 research dives during the past 25 years and was previously the scientific diving and boating safety officer for UC Santa Cruz. He also was a research associate in subtidal marine ecology at UC Santa Barbara and worked on the kelp forest monitoring program at Channel Islands National Park. Don was a member of the 2002 MLPA Morro Bay Regional Working Group.

Tom Mattusch is owner/operator of the Huli Cat charter boat operating out of Pillar Point Harbor. He is an IGFA Certified Captain who has fished the West Coast since 1967, and was an avid skin diver and competition freediver. Tom holds positions on the California Salmon Stamp Committee, the DFG License Agent Advisory Committee, and NOAA's California Sportfishing Action Team. Tom's collaborative research efforts have included working with NOAA, PRBO Conservation and Scripps Institution of Oceanography in tagging and gathering various fish species. Tom holds board of director positions with the Golden Gate Fishermen's Association and Coastside Fishing Club, and works closely with the Recreational Fishing Alliance, PCFFA, Half Moon Bay Fisherman's Marketing Association, and United Anglers. Prior to being a charter boat operator, he worked in the healthcare management field.

Marla Morrissey has extensive experience in stakeholder processes for resolving resource management issues. She developed Partners for the Conservation of the Los Osos Coastal Dunes, which brought together elected representatives; federal, state, and local agencies; local communities; and the private sector. This group received a Coastal America Partnership Award from Vice President Al Gore in 2000. Marla has created similar groups for steelhead and Western snowy plover recovery along the central coast. She is also a stakeholder on the Marine Interest Group of San Luis Obispo County and on the Morro Bay National Estuary Program. She has won numerous awards for her efforts from the USEPA, the 33rd Ca. Assembly District (Woman of the Year), and local groups. Marla is a small business owner and sandwiches in her family between a father (88) and son (13) who live for recreational fishing.

Jeremiah O'Brien is a well-known commercial fisherman with a home port of Morro Bay. He is the president of the Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen's Association, has been active in fishing politics on the central coast for many years, and is a member of the Coastside Fishing Club.

Jesús C. Ruiz was certified as an open water diver in 1971 and has accumulated over 3000 dives in his 34 years of diving. He is a SCUBA Instructor Trainer with three international certification agencies, and a trained research diver with the American Academy of Underwater Sciences. He is also the designated California State Coordinator for the YMCA of the U.S.A. National SCUBA Program. He is a business member of the Diving Equipment and Marketing Association (DEMA), the World Trade Association for divers. He has been a guest speaker at DEMA regarding the MLPA and was nominated by DEMA and the YMCA SCUBA Program for appointment to the MLPA SIG and CCRSG. Jesús was a stakeholder representative in the 2001 MLPA effort and has been active in the process since.

Steve Scheiblauer has worked and played his entire life at California's seashore. He was a beach lifeguard for 10 years, Harbormaster at Santa Cruz Harbor from 1975-95, and has now been Harbormaster for the City of Monterey since 1995. Steve surfs, skin dives, and is SCUBA certified. He doesn't fish.