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November 26, 2007

MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force Chair Susan Golding Announces Statewide Interests Group

Chair Golding welcomes members, offers thanks for commitment to participate

SACRAMENTO — California Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Blue Ribbon Task Force Chair Susan Golding announced the selection of xx members to the MLPA Statewide Interests Group. This group will advise the task force and MLPA staff to the initiative on the overall process to develop a redesigned system of marine protected areas along the California coast.

"This group represents a wide range of perspectives and will provide a valuable mechanism to enhance communication with stakeholders about the MLPA process," said Golding. "This group has been assembled to help advise the task force on process issues and to help us get the word out to ensure that different viewpoints are being reached," he added.

All members of the Statewide Interests Group were nominated by various interests involved in the MLPA process. The group will not vote or otherwise take formal positions on any procedural or substantive issues, but instead will alert the task force to issues and opportunities that may improve public involvement in the process. The first meeting of the group will be held on December 3 by conference call.

Executive Director Ken Wiseman said, "This is an outstanding group of stakeholder representatives who will enhance the progress of the MLPA Initiative, as evidenced by the level of active participation we saw yesterday."

The MLPA Initiative depends on the active involvement of stakeholders and the general public to succeed. Various opportunities are available for such involvement, including meetings of the task force and a science advisory team that will be open to the public.

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The California Marine Life Protection Act Statewide Interests Group members:

C, Ca

D, Marine

Steve Campi, Central California Council of Diving Clubs

Don, UC

Kevin B. Cooper, San Diego Freedivers

-more-

Eric, Ca

Dr. H

Kate Wing, Natural Resources Defense Council

Vern Goerhing, California Fisheries Coalition

Roger Thomas, Golden Gate Fishermen's Association

Joel Greenberg, Recreational Fishing Alliance

Joel Geever, Surfrider Foundation

Pam, Marine

Bill G. James, commercial nearshore fisherman

Ken Kurtis, Reef Seekers Dive Co.

Shelly Walters, California Association of Sanitation Agencies

Dr. James Liu, United Pier and Shore Anglers of California

K, K.

Co, Aq

Tom Raftican, United Anglers of Southern California

Mi, commercial fisherman

Steve Scheiblauer, California Association of Harbor Masters and Port Captains

Angela Haren, California Coastkeeper Alliance

Ben, Coa

For more information about the MLPA Initiative, please visit the MLPA Initiative website at http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa.