

James Hudnall
P.O. Box 8030
La Jolla, CA 92038-8030
July 18, 2008

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
Attention: Ken Wiseman, Melissa Miller-Henson
c/o California Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: James Hudnall nomination for South Coast
Regional Stakeholder Group**

Dear Mr. Wiseman, Ms. Miller-Henson,

I have been nominated by the San Diego Coastal Habitats Coalition to join the South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group. By this letter I am pleased to advise you that I am willing and eager to serve with this Stakeholder Group to formulate, propose and negotiate MLPA(s) for the South Coast Region. I believe my participation and knowledge will contribute in a significant and positive way to the overall effort.

Please find attached the application-specifics required for consideration. A letter from the San Diego Coastal Habitats group regarding my nomination will also follow today.

Sincerely,

James Hudnall

Encl: 4-page "Nomination for South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group"

Nomination for South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group

Nominee: James Hudnall

**Nominated by: San Diego Coastal Habitats Coalition
Primary Contact: Ellen Shively**

Address:



Applicant James Hudnall meets each of the selection criteria as follows:

- 1. "Able to bring first-hand knowledge and perspective to bear on the marine resources of the MLPA South Coast Study Region,"**
and
- 2. "Able to balance a south coast regional perspective with localized knowledge:**

James Hudnall grew up in La Jolla and during his teenage years was a recreational abalone diver, recreational spear fisherman, recreational snorkeler and recreational surfer. He continues to snorkel and surf to this day. Hudnall has spent many hours exploring the La Jolla Underwater Reserve, La Jolla Submarine Canyon upper reaches and neighboring coastline.

Hudnall's undergraduate collegiate education, at Pomona College, was in the field of geology, with emphasis on shore processes. Employment immediately after graduation from college was at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, in the field of marine geology under the auspices of Dr. Robert Fisher, involved in mapping the sea floor of the Gulf of California, mapping of the floor of the Indian Ocean, and review of the first

underwater photos from the bottom of the Marianas Trench.

During the early Vietnam War era, Hudnall joined the Navy (after receiving a draft notice), completed Officer Training at Newport, Rhode Island, and became Antisubmarine Warfare Officer on the USS Richard S. Edwards (DD950), a San Diego-based destroyer. Many days were spent training in the waters off the Southern California South Coast, around San Clemente Island and north, south and west. During training exercises in this region, Hudnall developed an in-depth understanding of South Coast underwater terrain.

Upon completion of active military duty, Hudnall returned to employment at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, where he trained and was certified as a Scripps scuba diver under the auspices of well-known professional diver Jim Stuart. Subsequent to this employment, he attended the University of Washington, doing graduate studies in Oceanography before moving on to initiate an ecotourism business (Clayoquot Cruise & Charter) on the west coast of Vancouver Island, B.C.

Eventually Hudnall's ecotourism business became a concession (Eco Works Ltd.-Sea Lion Cruise and canoe rental) in Pacific Rim National Park, south of Tofino, B.C., and, as Hudnall's crew discovered feeding gray whales along the coast, became the first de facto whale watching business in western Canada.

Hudnall's first-hand knowledge of gray whales and ecotourism caused him to be employed as a marine naturalist by H&M Landing, San Diego (a usual sport fishing business) during the winter months on week-long whale-watching trips to San Ignacio Lagoon, Baja California, led by Dr. Ted Walker. Hudnall's first trip to San Ignacio Lagoon, on the H&M vessel Searcher, pioneered exploration of the Lagoon entrance channel.

Hudnall later worked as a naturalist for other employers chartering H&M Landing vessels for week-long whale-watching trips to Baja. Although the emphasis during these trips was on the gray whales of San Ignacio Lagoon, stops were made at islands along the Baja coast to view harbor seals, sea lions and elephant seals in their rookeries.

3. "Willing to express fundamental interests (as opposed to fixed positions) and to clearly convey the interests of one or more stakeholder groups:"

In the mid-1970's Hudnall closed his National Park Concession in Canada and moved to Hawaii to conduct the first underwater studies of humpback whales in their Hawaiian wintering grounds. Working for the National Geographic Society and partially funded by the National Audubon Society, Hudnall was the first to observe singing humpbacks underwater, the first to determine the sex of a singing humpback, and the first to film underwater courtship behavior of humpbacks. Hudnall's underwater work in Hawaii was

featured in the hour-long National Geographic Special, The Great Whales, which became a favorite on Public Television for about 20 years.

During this time Hudnall operated the Maui Whale Research Institute, which hosted students desiring to participate in whale research as interns. A shore-based student team directed by Hudnall and utilizing knowledge from Hudnall's underwater observations was instrumental in directing hydrofoil boat traffic away from nursing humpback mother & calf pairs using Maalaea Bay.

As Hudnall's knowledge base regarding humpbacks' use of Hawaiian waters grew, he saw the need for imminent protection of the whales, and so he initiated the **Hawaiian Humpback Whale Sanctuary** process in 1977 by submitting his non-governmental proposal to the Federal Government. The proposal's submission resulted in a number of public hearings, in which Hudnall took part, and considerable lobbying of Hawaiian officials.

Supported by numerous national and international conservation group leaders, many with whom Hudnall was communicating, the Sanctuary became a reality after years of effort by many Federal officials and NGO's. Hudnall's experience in creating the Hawaiian Humpback Whale Sanctuary has prepared him for the long process of negotiation and understanding needed to create a MLPA in Southern California.

4. "Capable of working collaboratively, seeking to integrate the interests of the full range of constituencies:"

In the 1980's Hudnall lived in Santa Cruz, California, owning and operating a marine-mammal film library for the television industry. During this time he conducted three or four expeditions a year to collect new marine wildlife footage, including the first underwater gray-whale feeding footage ever shot and the first underwater blue whale footage.

When aging parents required Hudnall's return to La Jolla in 1986 he became a member of the La Jolla Town Council's Parks and Beaches Committee, dedicating his conservationist efforts to local planning and protection. During this period Hudnall renewed his contacts with the San Diego community and refreshed his understanding of the Southern California coastal area.

In 1999 the City of San Diego proposed to dredge Casa/Children's Pool Beach in La Jolla. Hudnall, realizing that the beach was home to a number of rarely-seen-ashore harbor seals of ecological value to the nearshore ecosystem and of special interest to the public, initiated in March of that year an effort to prevent the dredging and protect the seals. Through Hudnall's networking with others, La Jolla Friends of the Seals (a 501c3) was born, thousands of San Diegans testified in favor of harbor seal protection at Casa

Beach, and a barrier rope was erected on the beach to separate people and seals.

Since 1999, Hudnall has worked collaboratively with the San Diego Sierra Club, WildCoast, the Animal Protection and Rescue League, San Diego Animal Advocates, San Diego Coastkeeper, the Rake-A-Line Program and La Jolla Friends of the Seals to educate the public about harbor seal activities at what is now known to be the only South Coast harbor seal rookery, and to inform the public and government officials of the need to protect this rookery for ecological and public education/entertainment (recreational seal watching) reasons. Hudnall has also met privately and/or in small delegations numerous times with representatives of City, State and National government to discuss the issues surrounding this rookery, as well as testifying on a number of occasions at San Diego City Council meetings.

Because Hudnall has communicated over a period of many years and in many different types of circumstances with the general public, Federal officials and politicians (including two ex-Presidents of the United States), State and City level officials and politicians, as well as with environmental/conservation leaders, he is quite qualified to work collaboratively with a range of constituencies, including fishermen, understanding their needs and desires, as well as those of the conservation community to shape the most desirable MLPA(s) for the South Coast.

5. "Able to access and use an effective communication network to reach stakeholders not attending the public meetings:"

Hudnall is competent in the use of e-mail, fax, and phone to communicate and has an extensive list of personal contacts from his previous work. Further, he is known to the media and conversant in interview technique, having been interviewed and featured on TV and in film on numerous occasions. Finally, Hudnall, from high school days, is a personal acquaintance of Steve Fletcher, President of the California Sportfishing Association, thus providing an option for personal contact with a constituency-leader whose concerns must be addressed.

6. Committed to completing all aspects of the charge of the regional stakeholder group:"

Hudnall is currently retired from professional work. He is in good health at age 67 and has sufficient resources, time and energy to be a full stakeholder-representative participant in the South Coast MLPA process, from start to finish.
