

From: Mike Thompson,

Date: July 16, 2008

Subject: At the request of Don Hansen and some of my peers, I would like to nominate myself for the MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group

My name is Michael Richard Thompson and I'm interested in representing my industry on the South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group. I have been fishing in Southern California waters since was eight years old, and started working as a deckhand while in highschool. In 1970, while attending college, I acquired my 100 ton Captain's license. After graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology, from the University of California at Irvine, I decided to pursue fishing as a career. I am currently on the eighth issue of my Captain's license, which represents almost 40 years at the helm of various fishing vessels throughout the Southern California Bight and Northern Baja California. Along with recreational fishing in the CPV fleet, which has been my main occupation, I have also fished commercially for albacore and groundfish. Currently, in the off-season, I operate one of our vessels as a lightboat in the Market Squid Fishery.

I have been co-owner and Vice President of Newport Landing Sportfishing in Newport Beach, California since 1988 and co-owner of Davey's Locker Sportfishing, also in Newport Beach, California since 2007. This represents six passenger-carrying vessels and their associated crews, which my partner and I own, as well as six other vessels that also operate from the two facilities. These vessels carry 65-70 thousand fisherpersons per year. I have been a member of the Board of Directors of the Sportfishing Association of California for many years. One other point of interest is our participation in the hook-and-line rockfish survey being conducted for the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Service. For the last six years we have been committing our knowledge and resources in an effort to help them develop groundfish stock assessment models for the Southern California Bight.

We have the resources to make all the information provided during this process available to our passengers, crews, fishing clubs, tackle shops, and vendors with whom we do business via E-mail, internet postings, word-of-mouth, and postings in our offices. I believe my experience and knowledge would be a positive influence in this process upon which we are about to embark. Hopefully, a result can be achieved that everyone can live with and embrace.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Thompson
Newport Landing Sportfishing

Balboa, CA 92661