

June 28, 2006

California Fish & Game Commission
ATTN: Michael Flores, Chairman
1416 Ninth ST
Sacramento CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL STAKEHOLDERS GROUP PACKAGE #1 IN
IMPLEMENTING THE MARINE LIFE PROTECTION ACT

In the 1970's, the People of California passed the Coastal Act creating landmark legislation, to protect our coast, preserve traditional coastal uses such as commercial fishing and support businesses, and enhance public access and recreation on the coast.

This year, the Fish and Game Commission will establish a new landmark in coastal management as you adopt a preferred network of improved and consistent Marine Protected Areas in California waters. We recognize that there is tremendous pressure on the Commission to adopt the most protective of the proposed networks, regardless of the resultant impacts on recreation, public access and commercial fishing businesses. This action would not take into account the concept of adaptive management, or the on-going dispute over best available science and the larval transport and size spacing theories.

The potential costs to stakeholders and the effect of their support on the success of the MPAs is also an important point to consider. Some MPAs advocates refuse to accept a "win" of protecting 15% of the Coast and are pressing for more. We urge the Fish and Game Commission to determine what the real costs will be to implement a plan that maximizes the number and size of MPAs.

The City of Morro Bay is a small coastal town with a historically flourishing regional harbor. Our commercial and recreation fishing industry has provided a livelihood for many local businesses, as well as supplying fresh, sustainably-caught seafood for our community, the state and the nation. Our identity and economy are tied to the ocean, and we want to protect it for all uses. We believe this can be done, although we recognize the political and economic challenges to be met.

Package #1, meets the Science Team guidelines, the requirements of the law, the goals and objectives of the MLPA while preserving needed commercial and recreational fishing access. All of the other proposed packages include more protected areas than are required by law and would result in the loss of many more family owned, local fishing businesses.

The Fish and Game Commission has always attempted to balance all interests in considering issues. We ask that you review Package #1, as presented by the broad base of the Regional Stakeholders Group, as the balanced proposal in this instance, and that you support its adoption.

Thank you for your consideration and for your on-going work for the people of California

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janice Peters". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Janice Peters
Mayor

cc: City Manager
City Council
Harbor Advisory Board