

Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries
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Haven Parker

October 19, 2023

Sanctuary Advisory Council Coordinator

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS)

Sent via email to haven.parker@noaa.gov

RE: Support of Tim Obert to be the primary SAC commercial fishing representative

Dear Ms. Parker,

The Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries (ACSF) is a 22-year-old 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, founded for the general purposes of educating the public on fisheries issues, connecting fishing men and women (“fishermen”) with their communities, and representing fishing interests in state and federal processes. One of the specific reasons for the creation of the ACSF was/is to have the definitive, organized voice to the MBNMS for fishing issues. The ACSF is a regional organization, with commercial fishing leaders, representing Monterey, Moss Landing, Santa Cruz, Morro Bay, Pillar Point, and Port San Luis, on our Board of Directors. Port communities, several recreational fishing organizations, and the California Wetfish Producers Association (squid, sardines, etc), also have representatives on our Board. Thus, the ACSF represents a large cross-section of fishing and community interests for the Central Coast of California.

Several years ago the ACSF Board of Directors set standards for a commercial fishing SAC representative. The Board was concerned that the fleet be well-represented for sanctuary issues, and not be represented by someone with minimal actual connections to our industry. The ideal candidate will have most, if not all, of these qualifications:

- 1) Direct experience with multiple fisheries
- 2) A history of being active in fishery management
- 3) On-the-record support from the broad region’s commercial fishing organizations
- 4) An ability to communicate with key constituencies
- 5) Knowledge of the history of the relationship between California commercial fishermen and the sanctuary program helpful
- 6) Time to devote to SAC business

The ACSF nominates and strongly supports Tim Obert to fill the position of SAC commercial fishing representative. We believe Tim meets these qualifications. Tim is a full-time fisherman out of Santa Cruz, supporting his family by fishing for salmon, Dungeness crab, albacore, and open-access for black cod and the groundfish complex.

He is the current president of the Santa Cruz Commercial Fishermen's Association; is a member of the State's Dungeness Crab Task Force and Whale Working Group; serves on the California Salmon and Steelhead Advisory Committee; Board member of the Monterey Bay Salmon and Trout Project; Advisor to the Monterey Bay Fisheries Trust; Board member for the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations; California representative and instructor for the Alaska Marine Safety Association; member, California Salmon Council; and, Board member, representing Santa Cruz, of the Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries.

The ACSF has, for past SAC nominations, provided evidence of support from most California and West Coast fishing organizations. We can provide this further support for Tim Obert's nomination if the MBNMS wishes this evidence. Please let us know.

We are also continuing to recruit for a qualified Alternate for this position and request that this remain open until a representative is identified.

Thank you,



Frank Emerson

Co-Chair

CC ACSF Board of Directors



Alan Alward

Co-Chair

Supporting Associations & Organizations

- Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara
- Ventura County Commercial Fishermen's Association
- Port San Luis Commercial Fishermen's Association
- Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen's Organization
- Monterey Commercial Fishermen's Association
- Fishermen's Association of Moss Landing
- Fishermen's Marketing Association
- Santa Cruz Commercial Fishermen's Association
- Half Moon Bay Fishermen's Marketing Association
- Western Fishboat Owners Association
- West Coast Seafood Processors Association
- Federation of Independent Seafood Harvesters
- Golden Gate Fishermen's Association

California Fisheries Coalition
California Wetfish Producers Association
Recreational Fishing Alliance
Carmel River Steelhead Association
Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations