

Shad Catarius

Commercial Fisherman, President of the Sand Diego Ocean Foundation

Since I began making a living as a commercial fisherman 8 years ago, I saw the importance of staying involved politically so that I have a voice in conservation and decision making. I also began my involvement with the Oceans Foundation, where I am now president. I spend most of my time fishing off coast of southern California, fishing mostly for lobster. I hold a limited entry lobster permit

I was also very involved in the southern MPA baseline study project, focusing on lobster and working with scientists to create a diverse project that included collaboration between fishermen and scientists. As a result, we just completed the largest study on lobster in recent history.

In addition, I served on the Lobster Advisory Committee, which was put together by the Department of Fish and wildlife. The purpose of the committee was to put together a lobster fishery management plan proposal with input from multiple user groups.

I will be speaking about my experiences on the LAC, how we came to proposal ideas, and my experiences working with the department in a focus group format.