August 22, 2001

PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
7700 NE. AMBASSADOR PLACE, SUITE 200
PORTLAND OR. 97220

COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Attention: JIM SEGER, PATTY WOLF, SEAN HASTINGS.

OREGON SOUTH COAST FISHERMEN will be opposed to any marine reserves, without substantiated biological and ecological data.

We feel that establishing reserves along the coast would place a larger concentration of fishermen into the non-reserve areas, thus impacting the fishery. We would like to go on record as strongly opposing any marine reserves at this time.

Sincerely,

Dick Sutter, President
Oregon South Coast Fishermen
Paul Reilly
Department of Fish and Game
20 Lower Ragsdale Drive, Ste. 100
Monterey, CA 93940

Dear Mr. Reilly,

As an avid, long time recreational Southern California fisherman, I cannot tell you of the countless hours of enjoyment I have had as a boy, young man and now, as a mature father, and grandfather of children I have taught to fish off of the Southern California coast.

I, and numerous others I know and associate with, have seen the proposals for the Marine Parks, reserves and conservation areas, and can only see doom and disaster for the thing that means so much to us. Most sport fisherman are avid “catch and release” “only what we need” and “if it isn’t used for food, release it”. I have seen commercial net boats take in one night what would take a year or more to take by every sport fisherman in California.

We have fished from Point Conception to the Mexican border and all the islands off our coast, and to think of the closed areas that are being proposed, saddens us beyond belief.

I hope you will re think and re plan what needs to be done, reduce limit amounts, look at size limits, etc., by far, we would all be willing to help in any way possible. Please look again at the impact the current proposals would have. With 307 square nautical miles of California waters and 130 nautical miles of shoreline proposed as Marine Protected Areas, most of which excludes recreational fishing, there must be some other way to ensure our fisheries for the future.

I hope you will take into consideration, I am only one of a vast thousands that have the same belief that you will come up with an alternative plan that will accomplish the same thing without the closure.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Alex B. Valdez

cc. Governor Gray Davis
State Capitol Building, Sacramento CA 95814

Robert Hight, Director
California Dept of Fish and Game
1416 9th Street Sacramento, CA 95814

James H. Lone, Chairman
Pacific Fishery Management Council
2130 SW Fifth Ave Ste 224 Portland, OR 972901
COMMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL ON BEHALF OF THE AUDUBON SOCIETY OF PORTLAND AND THE SURFRIDER FOUNDATION

RE: Implementation of Pacific Fishery Management Council Marine Reserves Objectives

September 11, 2001

Dear Council Members,

We would like to thank the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) for allowing us this opportunity to comment on marine reserves and for the meeting time you have devoted to this important issue. Both the Surfrider Foundation and the Audubon Society of Portland currently are working to protect resources in the Pacific Ocean in order to preserve ocean biodiversity, obtain sustainable fisheries, protect wildlife habitat, provide recreational opportunities, and increase the overall health and diversity of marine ecosystems. Our combined organizations represent tens of thousands of members on the West Coast and we strongly support implementation of a scientifically sound network of marine protected areas in our area. We as surfers, divers, birders, beachgoers, and swimmers – people who spend a significant amount of time on the coast and in the ocean – recognize that protection of marine ecosystems equals a diverse and healthy marine environment. The protection of marine or ocean wilderness benefits not only diverse fish and wildlife populations, but also the people who enjoy and depend upon them. Whether a diver who enjoys looking at rockfish in a kelp forest off of Oregon’s wild coast, or a fisherman who enjoys the benefit of “fishing the line” adjacent to a marine reserve, the protection of fish communities and entire marine ecosystems is an investment in our future.

We are very concerned about the loss of biodiversity on the coastal and open ocean environment of the West Coast, including the overfished status of many groundfish species in the Pacific Ocean. The Council is to be commended for recommending the strategic use of marine reserves in its Groundfish Fishery Strategic Plan, “Transition to Sustainability,” and creating the Marine Reserves Committee. It is unfortunate, however, that the Council has not placed greater priority on the implementation of its marine reserves objective. We support the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Marine Reserve Committee that “The Council should put high priority on seeking the money and personnel needed to pursue Phase II.” (Marine Reserve Analysis Cover Letter, 8-7-00 emphasis added), and urge the Council to move forward with Phase II of the Marine Reserves Technical Analysis in order to adequately implement the Groundfish Strategic Plan and protect the integrity of marine ecosystems.

Sincerely,

Kevin Ranker
Surfrider Foundation
www.surfrider.org

Avalyn Taylor
Audubon Society of Portland
www.audubonportland.org