HABITAT STEERING GROUP COMMENTS ON THE MARINE RESERVE PROPOSALS
FOR THE CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

The Habitat Steering Group (HSG) received a briefing on the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS) reserve proposal process from Ms. Patty Wolf, California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) and Mr. Sean Hastings, CINMS staff. It is our understanding that CDFG staff are in the process of developing proposed regulation language for the options identified by the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission). The Commission may take public input on these options at its December meeting in Long Beach, California with final adoption potentially scheduled for its February 2002 meeting. If marine reserves at the Channel Islands are adopted by the Commission, then the next step would be for CINMS to propose complementary closures in federal waters for the Council’s consideration.

The HSG would like to reiterate its support for active participation by the Council in marine reserve initiatives. The HSG plans to continue to track the CINMS marine reserve process and receive periodic updates from CDFG and CINMS staff on their progress. The HSG also intends to support the Council by working with the Ad Hoc Marine Reserves Committee and will review any marine reserve proposals which are developed outside of the Council process and presented to the Council for consideration.

PFMC
09/11/01