HABITAT COMMITTEE COMMENTS ON REVIEW PROCESS FOR CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY AND UPDATE ON OTHER MARINE RESERVES PROCESSES

The Habitat Committee supports the concept of creating a review committee such as the committee proposed in Exhibit D.1. If such a committee is formed, the Habitat Committee would be interested in providing a representative. The Habitat Committee feels it is important for the Council to be involved with the Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary process, because there are important links between potential marine reserves and Council responsibilities for groundfish rebuilding, essential fish habitat (EFH), and habitat areas of particular concern (HAPCs). Involvement will provide Council constituents a link into the marine reserve process, and helps ensure that fishermen’s knowledge of the resources is incorporated into the discussion of marine reserves. Further, it will provide a framework for review of other marine reserve processes; and will facilitate communication between the Council and other entities proposing marine reserves. If the Council chooses not to convene such a committee, it should work to ensure that review of the Channel Islands Marine Reserves Process is incorporated into the existing Council advisory body structure.

PFMC
04/09/02