Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries
P O Box 1309, Carmel Valley, CA 93924 (831) 659-2838

October 13, 2003

Dan Basta, Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, Room 11523
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Bill Douros, Superintendent
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
299 Foam Street
Monterey, CA 93940

Dear Director Basta and Superintendent Douros:

We are writing to advise you that the fishing community does not support the inclusion of the Davidson Seamount into the boundaries of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, or any other sanctuary.

We continue to believe that there are mechanisms available through the Pacific Fishery Management Council to assure that any destructive extractive practices on the bottom of the seamount may be prevented. We are convinced that the Program has no ability to provide the guarantees that we need into the future that sanctuary status will not be used as a justification to lead to ever-increasing restrictions on fishing, including fishing at or near the surface. We further observe that the problems which we have experienced in the management of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, which really stem from a lack of clarity in the Management Plan and the National Marine Sanctuary Act, must be substantially addressed before the Sanctuary Program could credibly entertain the idea of expanding its territory. Lastly, at some 5300 square miles, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is already too large by many measures for thorough management.

If the Sanctuary Program is looking for more to do, may we respectfully suggest that there is significant work to be done on resource abundance assessments, which we hope the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary will do in partnership with the fishing industry. This information could be provided to the fishery management agencies, providing a basis for improved decision-making - a goal we all share.

In addition to the Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries, we want to point out the list of supporting members of our organization. In addition to this general support, this letter has been specifically endorsed by:

- Western Fishboat Owners Association
- Ventura County Commercial Fishermen's Association
- Santa Barbara Commercial Fishermen's Association, Inc.
- Port San Luis Commercial Fishermen's Association
- Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen's Association
- Monterey Commercial Fishermen's Association
- Fishermen's Association of Moss Landing
- Santa Cruz Commercial Fishermen's Marketing Association
- Half Moon Bay Fishermen's Marketing Association
- Federation of Independent Seafood Harvesters
- The Fishermen's Alliance
- Coastside Fishing Club (recreational)
- Recreational Fishing Alliance
- Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations (PCFFA)
- United Anglers of California, Inc.

Please be very clear that recreational and commercial fishermen do not support the inclusion of the Davidson Seamount into the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

Sincerely,

Mike Ricketts
Co-Chair, ACSF

Kathy Fosmark
Co-Chair, ACSF

Supporting Associations & Organizations
- Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Association
- Port San Luis Commercial Fishermen's Association
- Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen's Association
- Monterey Commercial Fishermen's Association
- Fishermen's Association of Moss Landing
- Santa Cruz Commercial Fishermen's Marketing Association
- Half Moon Bay Fishermen's Marketing Association
- Fishermen's Alliance
- Western Fishboat Owners Association
- Ventura County Commercial Fishermen's Association
- Federation of Independent Seafood Harvesters
- Golden Gate Fishermen's Association
- Port San Luis Harbor District
- City of Morro Bay Harbor
- City of Monterey Harbor
- Moss Landing Harbor District
- Santa Cruz Port District
- Pillar Pt. Harbor, San Mateo County Harbor District

C:
- The Honorable Sam Farr
- The Honorable Anna Eshoo
- The Honorable Lois Capps
- The Honorable Elton Gallegly
- The Honorable Bruce McPherson
- Admiral Conrad Lautenbacher, USN (ret.)
- Don Hanson, Chair, PFMC
- SAC for Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
- SAC for Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary
- SAC for Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary