

CORDELL BANKS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

The Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary (CBNMS) will present information about proposed measures to protect benthic invertebrates and submerged lands within CBNMS. The Sanctuary is consulting with the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) because the proposed measures could affect Council-managed fishing activities within the 50 fm isobath around CBNMS. As per the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, the CBNMS will be requesting that the Council prepare draft sanctuary regulations to achieve the goals and objectives of the proposed actions.

Proposed measures to protect benthic invertebrates and algae would modify CBNMS regulations by changing an exception that currently allows incidental take of benthic invertebrates and algae during “normal fishing operations.” CBNMS is proposing to change the exception to allow incidental take while using vertical hook and line gear within the 50 fm isobath.

Proposed measures to protect submerged lands would restrict anchoring and fishing, but would allow for incidental disturbance while using vertical hook and line gear, within the 50 fm isobath. CBNMS is proposing an exception for anchoring and lawful fishing activity for the remainder of the waters of CBNMS.

Based on the information presented by CBNMS, guidance from advisory bodies, and public comment, the Council could provide guidance relative to the proposed management alternatives, analytical components of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) being developed by CBNMS, and proposed regulatory language. In response to the Sanctuary’s request, the Council will also consider preparing draft sanctuary regulations for the proposed management actions related to CBNMS. If the Council should decide to draft these regulations, they would be considered as part of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Sanctuary’s revised management plan, which will be released in Spring of 2005.

Council Task:

- 1. Council Guidance on CBNMS Proposals to Protect the Benthic Environment within the Sanctuary.**
- 2. Council Guidance for Developing Draft Regulatory Language.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item H.2.b, Supplemental CBNMS Report.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Report of the Sanctuary Staff
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. Council Guidance on a Range of Alternatives to Protect the Benthic Environment within the Sanctuary

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