



PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

August 1, 2006

Mr. John Ugoretz, Nearshore Ecosystem Coordinator
Marine Region
20 Lower Ragsdale Drive, Suite 100
Monterey, California 93940

Re: MLPA CEQA Scoping Comments

Dear Mr. Ugoretz:

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments during the scoping period for the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) analysis of proposed State water marine protected areas (MPAs) in California. The Council remains supportive of the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) and has recommended the implementation of area closures and MPAs in Federal waters as effective tools for managing fisheries, protecting healthy stocks, and rebuilding depleted species.

As you assemble your CEQA equivalent draft environmental document regarding the central California coast MPA network, the Council requests you include analyses of the effects of the proposed State action on Federally managed fisheries and fish stocks under the Council's jurisdiction. Specifically, the Council requests the document include sections covering potentially adverse and beneficial biological effects on Federally managed fish stocks and socioeconomic effects on communities and fishery participants with interests in Federally managed fisheries.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment. The Council requests the opportunity to review the resulting environmental document and looks forward to working with the State of California on the continued implementation of the MLPA. Should you have any questions, please contact me or Mr. Mike Burner at the Council office.

Sincerely,

D. O. McIsaac, Ph.D.
Executive Director

c: Council Members

Mr. Mike Chrisman, Secretary for Resources, State of California
Mr. L. Ryan Broddrick, Director, California Department of Fish and Game
Mr. Robert Treanor, Executive Director, California Fish and Game Commission
Mr. Gary Stacey, Regional Manager, California Department of Fish and Game