

FISHERY REGULATIONS WITHIN CHANNEL ISLANDS
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

The Habitat Committee (HC) received a presentation from Council staff regarding potential means of creating marine protected areas at the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS) under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA). While the most appropriate pathway has not yet been identified, the possibility of extending state law into Federal waters and creating “research reserves” was presented as perhaps the most feasible option. If the Council wants to consider a fishery management plan (FMP) amendment dealing with research and monitoring as a method to justify Council management of the water column, the HC supports this. Addressing research and monitoring in FMPs may have many benefits outside the context of the CINMS situation. However, it would be useful to clarify in an FMP how research fits into the fishery management system. The HC supports creating research reserves to the extent that they are useful for monitoring fish populations, habitat health, or achieving other MSA goals. If the Council is going to move towards FMP amendments that allow for the creation of research reserves, it would be helpful to do this for all the FMPs. For the long term, this fits into ecosystem-based management and could become part of an Ecosystem Based Management FMP. In the long run, however, the HC believes the focus should be on more than just this specific sanctuary issue.

PFMC
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