

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL
MARINE SANCTUARY MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) discussed the documents regarding a possible Ecosystem fishery management plan (FMP), and found good reasons to pursue this FMP and also some concerns about how it would work in practice.

An Ecosystem FMP would provide a single plan to deal with multiple proposals from the National Marine Sanctuaries for various closures and fishing regulations. The proposals from the Sanctuaries, and the implementation of the Marine Mammal Protection Act in California, have important consequences for fishery management. An Ecosystem FMP would allow the Council to coordinate all these proposals and integrate them with current fishery management practices. It would allow the Federal marine protected areas process to be conducted under the Magnuson Stevens Act. As we consider management measures for federally managed species, the GAP would like to take into account issues such as climate cycles, pollution, predator-prey relationships, and oceanographic conditions.

The GAP was concerned that since so little is known about ecosystem function, there may be data gaps and uncertainty that could lead to further fishing restrictions. The GAP also wants to consider the Ecosystem FMP separately from the issue of the marine reserves.

PFMC
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