

HABITAT COMMITTEE REPORT ON
CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

The Habitat Committee (HC) discussed the objective of managing the water column within the sanctuary under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), and is supportive of initiating an ecosystem-based fishery management planning effort. The HC believes such a plan could have many benefits in addition to achieving the objective of managing the water column under the MSA. The HC believes that ecosystem-based fishery management is a much broader topic that is appropriate for the Council to consider on its own merits.

At the same time, the HC thinks that pursuing a “research reserve” would be faster and could also have other benefits. The HC presumes that if the Council wishes to pursue a research reserve concept, appropriate legal counsel input would occur to ensure it can be done under the MSA.

PFMC
11/15/06