



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
299 Foam Street
Monterey, California 93940

February 15th, 2008

Dear Members of the Sanctuary Advisory Council:

SUBJECT: Concepts for Process for MPA Identification and Assessment

At the December 13th and 14th Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) meeting in Monterey, you provided your perspectives on the need for marine protected areas (MPAs) in Federal waters. That input was invaluable and I want to again thank you for your insights. Having found after careful consideration that there is a need for MPAs in Federal waters (see separate decision document), the MBNMS is now focused on the process ahead. At the December meeting, many of you also provided thoughts on how any process to move forward with MPAs should look. The attached draft list of concepts for a process builds upon what I heard from SAC members and can help define the road ahead. I would like to ask you to consider these concepts and provide preliminary input and advice at the February 15th meeting and, after a chance for further consideration, again at the April 18th meeting. In the meantime I will be meeting with NOAA Fisheries and the Pacific Fishery Management Council to receive their ideas and advice about the process for MPA identification and assessment and about how to best coordinate with them as well.

Our goal is to establish a process that builds on the hard work and time investment by the MPA working group over the last five years. Carrying on from this point with well defined parameters and timelines will help ensure that the continuing effort remains inclusive and deliberate, but is also targeted and efficient. Thank you and I look forward to your input.

Sincerely,

Paul Michel
Superintendent



Concepts for a Process to Move Ahead with MPAs in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

The following concepts are draft and are put forward by the MBNMS for consideration and feedback from the Sanctuary Advisory Council:

1. Over the last 5 years, much work has gone into the consideration of MPAs including the development of tools, products and goals. To the maximum extent possible, the process ahead should capitalize on this previous work
2. The membership of the MPA working group should remain approximately the same, although some adjustment to stakeholder representation may be warranted (i.e. add groundfish representation)
3. Science members should remain involved but serve as subject matter experts, not as stakeholders. A separate but public science panel should be convened to evaluate eventual proposals
4. Working group meetings should be professionally facilitated
5. Working group and science panel meetings should be public and any products made publicly available
6. The MPA planning process should provide for appropriate PFMC input and coordination
7. There is a need for socioeconomic study to understand the impacts of Federal water MPAs
8. A starting point for discussions should be the Areas of Interest previously identified by the working group that are adjacent to MPAs in state waters
9. Adjacent State and Federal waters MPAs should generally have parallel regulations
10. Once the planning process begins, the working group will have approximately 6 meetings over 6 months to develop proposals to forward to the Sanctuary Advisory Council. The SAC will then provide it's advice to the MBNMS, and the MBNMS will consult with the PFMC regarding implementation
11. Any decision regarding how MPAs will be implemented under the NMSA, the MSA, or both will be made in the future in close coordination with NOAA Fisheries, and PFMC

DRAFT DECISION PROCESS AND TIMELINE for the MONTEREY BAY NMS CONSIDERATION OF MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

