

REVIEW OF RATIONALE FOR MARINE PROTECTED AREAS IN THE MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY (MBNMS)

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS, Sanctuary) has initiated a process to consider criteria, rationale, and scientific justification that would define the need for marine protected areas (MPAs) in Federal waters of the Sanctuary for additional resource protection. At the April 2008 Council meeting, Sanctuary Superintendent Paul Michel presented three principal needs for MPAs as follows: “1) There is a need for areas where the natural ecosystem structure and function are restored and maintained; 2) there is a need for research areas to examine human impacts to the marine environment; and 3) there is a need to preserve some areas in their natural state for future generations.” Superintendent Michel reported that additional rationale and scientific basis for MPA consideration will be available for review by the Council and its advisory bodies at the June 2008 meeting of the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council).

In an April 23, 2008 cover letter (Agenda Item I.1.b, Attachment 1) Superintendent Michel presents for Council review an April 15, 2008 letter to the MBNMS Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) providing additional rationale and scientific justification for considering MPAs (Agenda Item I.1.b, Attachment 2), a draft decision process and timeline for Sanctuary consideration of MPAs (Agenda Item I.1.b, Attachment 3), and concepts for a process to move ahead with MPAs in the MBNMS (Agenda Item I.1.b, Attachment 4). Additionally, the Council received a letter dated May 21, 2008 from Mr. Frank Emerson, Co-Chair of the Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries (ACSF), a Monterey, California-based group which advocates for the heritage and economic value of fishing to California coastal communities. In his letter, Mr. Emerson requests the Council review a variety of reports and analyses on the subject of legal authority to regulate fisheries within National Marine Sanctuaries and the science, rationale, and public opinion for MPAs in the MBNMS (Agenda Item I.1.e, Attachments 1 through 6).

At this meeting, the Council should take into account statements of the Scientific and Statistical Committee and other Council advisory bodies and public testimony, and consider providing advice to the MBNMS on rationale, scientific justification, and legal authority for further consideration of MPAs Federal waters of the MBNMS. Further, the Council may wish to provide guidance on future collaboration with the MBNMS on their MPA consideration process.

Council Action:

1. Adopt Recommendations to the MBNMS

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item I.1.b, Attachment 1: April 23, 2008 Cover letter from Mr. Paul Michel to Dr. Donald McIsaac.
2. Agenda Item I.1.b, Attachment 2: April 15, 2008 letter from Mr. Paul Michel to the MBNMS SAC regarding clarification on the authority and scientific justification for moving forward with MPA planning.

3. Agenda Item I.1.b, Attachment 3: Draft Decision Process and Timeline for MBNMS consideration of MPAs.
4. Agenda Item I.1.b, Attachment 4: Concepts for a Process to Move Ahead with MPAs in the MBNMS.
5. Agenda Item I.1.e, Attachment 1: May 21, 2008 cover letter from Mr. Emerson to Mr. Donald Hansen presenting analyses conducted on behalf of ACFS.
6. Agenda Item I.1.e, Attachment 2: Comments of Dr. Ray Hilborn on the MPA proposal by MBNMS.
7. Agenda Item I.1.e, Attachment 3: May 8, 2008 letter from Mr. Walsh regarding legal review of MPA authority under the MSA and NMSA.
8. Agenda Item I.1.e, Attachment 4: ACFS Opinion poll of California residents on fishery management.
9. Agenda Item I.1.e, Attachment 5: ACFS comments on public opinion regarding MPAs.
10. Agenda Item I.1.e, Attachment 6: ACFS comments on MBNMS research needs.
11. Agenda Item I.1.e, Attachment 7: May 21, 2008 letter in support of the MPA process in MBNMS from Mr. Ed Cassano, Deputy Director, Center for the Future for the Oceans, Monterey Bay Aquarium.
12. Agenda Item I.1.e, Attachment 8: May 21, 2008 letter for the California Wetfish Producers Association in support of the ACFS and its findings and documentation.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. MBNMS Report
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. **Council Action:** Adopt Recommendations to the MBNMS

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Paul Michel

PFMC
05/27/08