



## Pacific Fishery Management Council

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Donald K. Hansen, Chairman | Donald O. McIsaac, Executive Director

April 22, 2008

Vice Admiral Conrad Lautenbacher  
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere  
NOAA, HQTR Route: A  
BLDG: HCHB RM: 5128  
14th and Constitution Avenues NW  
Washington, D.C. 20230-0001

Re: Funding for a West Coast Ecosystem Fishery Management Plan

Dear Vice Admiral Lautenbacher:

On behalf of the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Pacific Council), I am writing to request your support for the funding necessary to continue the Pacific Council's efforts to implement an Ecosystem Fishery Management Plan (EFMP). At its April 6-12, 2008 meeting, the Pacific Council and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary initiated a cooperative effort to consider additional protective measures within the Sanctuary, including marine protected areas. The Pacific Council believes an EFMP will be an effective tool in achieving shared ecosystem-based management goals and objectives of the Pacific Council, National Marine Fisheries Service, and the National Ocean Service within and outside National Marine Sanctuaries and is requesting your support for its completion.

In November 2006, the Pacific Council initiated development of an EFMP. The EFMP is intended to serve as an "umbrella" plan over the four existing fishery management plans (FMPs), helping with coastwide research planning and policy guidance, and creating a framework for status reports on the health of the West Coast's California Current Ecosystem. The plan envisioned by the Pacific Council would not replace the existing FMPs, but would advance fishery management under these FMPs by introducing new science and new authorities to the current Pacific Council process.

The Pacific Council has successfully employed spatial management concepts for years and has recommended closed areas to rebuild overfished species, minimize bycatch, and preserve essential fish habitat. However, these efforts are somewhat limited under the Pacific Council's existing fishery management authority because they are based on single species or species complex management under the Pacific Council's existing plans. The authority to manage fishery related impacts across all living marine resources is fundamental to achieving broad ecosystem-based protective measures. It is thought that an EFMP could play an important, long-term role in coordinating the Pacific Council's efforts to protect habitat, regulate fisheries, establish marine protected areas and marine reserves, and minimize bycatch, with the shared goal of preserving the health and productivity of the California Current Ecosystem.

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The Pacific Council has worked with the National Marine Fisheries Service and the National Ocean Service in preparing a joint proposal to support and fund the Pacific Council's EFMP initiative. The cost is \$400,000 and the Pacific Council stands ready to begin this important endeavor as soon as funding is available. The Pacific Council respectfully requests any assistance you can provide in launching this effort which will accrue benefits to NOAA, the Pacific Council, and those interested in improved fishery management on the West Coast.

Should you or your staff have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me or Mr. Mike Burner, lead Pacific Council staff on this matter.

Sincerely,



D. O. McIsaac, Ph.D.

MDB:kam

**Council Members**

Dr. Jim Balsiger, NOAA Assistant Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service  
Mr. Jack Dunnigan, NOAA Assistant Administrator, National Ocean Service  
Mr. John Oliver, NMFS, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations.  
Mr. Alan Risenhoover, NMFS, Director, Office Sustainable Fisheries  
Mr. D. Robert Lohn, NMFS, Northwest Regional Administrator  
Mr. Rod McInnis, NMFS, Southwest Regional Administrator  
Mr. Daniel Basta, Director, National Marine Sanctuary Program  
Mr. William Douros, National Marine Sanctuary Program, West Coast Regional Director  
Mr. Paul Michel, Superintendent, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary  
Ms. Carol Bernthal, Superintendent, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary  
Mr. Chris Mobley, Superintendent, Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary  
Mr. Dan Howard, Superintendent, Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary  
Ms. Maria Brown, Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary  
Dr. John Coon, Deputy Director, Pacific Fishery Management Council  
Mr. Mike Burner, Staff Officer, Pacific Fishery Management Council