

DEVELOPMENT OF COUNCIL MARINE RESERVE POLICY OPTIONS—  
COUNCIL BODIES AND DEFINITIONS

**Related Policies and Responsible Bodies**

**Marine Reserve Policy (Ad-Hoc Marine Reserve Committee)**

The Ad-Hoc Marine Reserve Committee is involved in a two phase process for considering marine reserves: Phase I--Develop conceptual options and make recommendations on appropriateness of marine reserves as part of a long term Council fishery management program (Phase I to be completed by November 1999). Phase II--If Phase I ends with a decision to proceed, develop specific proposals for marine reserves.

**Pacific Ocean Perch (POP), Bocaccio, and Lingcod Rebuilding Programs (Ad-Hoc Allocation Committee)**

The Ad-Hoc Allocation Committee will recommend rebuilding programs for POP, bocaccio, and lingcod. These programs may include recommendations for areas closed to all groundfish fishing. The Council must make its recommendations on rebuilding by November 1999. Thus, recommendations by this group will likely precede the completion of the Phase I of the Ad-Hoc Marine Reserve Committee process and final action will coincide with the completion of Phase I. The rebuilding programs may incorporate either the creation of specific area closures or a policy statement that area closures will be created in the near future as part of the rebuilding program. In the former case, the timing of the final action on the rebuilding program will not coincide with the Ad-Hoc Marine Reserve Committee process. In the latter case, the two processes could complement one another.

**Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (Habitat Steering Group)**

The Habitat Steering Group (HSG) will recommend habitat areas of particular concern for adoption by the Council. Once these habitat areas are designated, decisions will be needed on appropriate policies and regulations for the areas. Marine reserves may be one option for protecting portions of these habitat areas. The results of the process of designating habitat areas of particular concern may be available for use in the second phase of the Ad-Hoc Marine Reserve Committee process for designating marine reserves. In this case, the Ad-Hoc Marine Reserve Committee and (HSG) processes will complement one another. Depending on the criteria used for designating habitat areas of particular concern, marine reserves (if created) may include areas outside of habitat areas of particular concern, for example to protect stocks under rebuilding programs. The HSG is also looking at habitat rebuilding areas for POP, lingcod, and bocaccio--this effort will feed into the rebuilding plan process for these species.

**Terminology**

*Marine Reserve*

*Marine Sanctuary*

*Marine Protected Area*

These terms may take on different meanings depending on the context of the discussion. The meanings generally differ in terms of the types of activities allowed and restricted. Restricted activities may range from restrictions on certain types of nonfishing activities; to restrictions on target species or fishing gears used; to restrictions on all fishing and other human activities in an area. To avoid misunderstanding and confusion, the Ad-Hoc Marine Reserve Committee agreed that for the purpose of its discussion, the minimum standard for the definition for marine reserves would be a no-take area with observation and research permitted.

*Habitat Areas of Particular Concern*

The term "habitat areas of particular concern" (HAPC) was developed to allow the Councils and NMFS to make distinctions between "essential fish habitat" as defined by that Magnuson-Stevens Act (waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity), and habitat that is

either critical to the life-cycle of overfished stocks, ecologically unique, or particularly sensitive to change from fishing and nonfishing activity. Defining an area as an HAPC would not necessarily result in designating that area as a no-take area. Rather, designating an area as an HAPC will allow the Council and NMFS to better understand how particular stocks and species use their habitats, and how human activities may affect those habitats. The following is from the EFH FMP Amendment Guidelines published by NMFS in the *Federal Register*.

Overview of EFH FMP Amendment Guidelines. . . .

Essential fish habitat that is judged to be particularly important to the long-term productivity of populations of one or more managed species, or to be particularly vulnerable to degradation should be identified as "habitat areas of particular concern" (HAPC) to help provide additional focus for conservation efforts. . . .

600.815(a)(9) Identification of habitat areas of particular concern. FMPs should identify habitat areas of particular concern within EFH. In determining whether a type, or area of EFH is a habitat area of particular concern, one or more of the following criteria must be met:

- (i) The importance of the ecological function provided by the habitat.
- (ii) The extent to which the habitat is sensitive to human-induced environmental degradation.
- (iii) Whether, and to what extent, development activities are, or will be, stressing the habitat type.
- (iv) The rarity of the habitat type.

(Interim Final Rule on EFH, FR, 62(244):66531. December 19, 1997).

PMFC  
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