

PROGRESS REPORT FROM THE AD-HOC MARINE RESERVE COMMITTEE

The Ad-Hoc Marine Reserve Committee met May 11-12, 1999 and developed recommendations on objectives for marine reserves for the West Coast. The committee agreed that for the purpose of discussion, the minimum standard for the definition for marine reserves would be a no-take area with observation and research permitted.

The design of marine reserves may vary depending on the degree of emphasis placed on each objective. After agreeing on the objectives, the committee prioritized the objectives to guide the development of two options. At its next meeting the committee will work on design characteristics for the marine reserve options.

Recommendations on Objectives for Marine Reserves

Primary Objectives

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| 1.a. | Overfishing | Rebuild overfished stocks. |
| 1.b. | Biological Productivity | Enhance long-term biological productivity over what would otherwise occur. |
| 1.c. | Economic Productivity | Enhance long-term economic production over what would otherwise occur. |
| 1.d. | Insurance | Provide insurance against errors in fishery management and resource protection for major variations in the natural environment. |
| 1.e. | Habitat | Conserve and protect habitat for the purpose of natural enhancement. |
| 1.f. | Research and Education | Provide unfished areas for research. |

Secondary Objectives

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| 2.a. | Insurance | Provide insurance against errors as a partial alternative to other precautionary fishery management policies. |
| 2.b. | Economic Productivity | Achieve long-term economic productivity with the least short-term negative economic impact possible for all users while still meeting the major goals for marine reserves. |
| 2.c. | Research and Education | (1) Use research results to adjust reserve system and fishery management measures, if necessary.
(2) Educate by disseminating research results.
(3) Education by providing opportunity to observe the natural marine system. |

Prioritized Objectives

	Option A	Option B
1.	Insurance	1. Stock Rebuilding
2.	Stock Rebuilding	2. Productivity—biological
3.	Habitat	3. Habitat
4. and 5.	Productivity (biological and economic)	4. Research and Education
6.	Research and Education	5. Insurance
		6. Productivity—economic

The committee discussed but rejected an option which would have had habitat protection as the first priority. It was noted that other Council actions under the Sustainable Fisheries Act may be more properly applied to habitat protection (i.e., actions related to essential fish habitat or habitat areas of particular concern designation).