

STAFF REPORT ON PHASE I CONSIDERATIONS
OF MARINE RESERVES AS A MANAGEMENT MEASURE

Situation: The Council is evaluating marine reserves as a fishery management tool. The Council adopted a two-phase process in April, 1999. The first phase is a conceptual evaluation of the utility of marine reserves. The second phase, if pursued, would involve the siting of specific marine reserves.

The Ad-Hoc Marine Reserve Committee (Committee) has met four times. The Committee developed objectives and a conceptual framework for marine reserves to guide the technical analysis. The last meeting of the Committee was September 14, 1999 and another meeting will be held April 4, 2000. The National Marine Fisheries Service Southwest Fisheries Science Center provided the Council staff with the support needed to conduct an analysis of the Committee's conceptual framework.

The analysts will present a summary of their findings and recommendations to the Council. The intent of this initial presentation of findings and distribution of a preliminary draft to Council committees, is to move the process forward by stimulating committee and Council discussion prior to a final decision on Phase I in June 2000.

Council Direction: Provide guidance, if needed.

Reference Materials: None.

PFMC
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