

## MARINE RESERVES

Situation: The Council has specified a two-phase process for considering whether or not to recommend marine reserves be created on the West Coast. The first phase is a conceptual evaluation that will conclude with the Council's decision on whether or not marine reserves have a role in fishery management. During the first phase, an Ad-Hoc Marine Reserve Committee (MRC) was appointed by the Council to develop management objectives for marine reserves and options to meet the objectives. The MRC's objectives were accepted by the Council. A technical assessment of expected impacts of marine reserves (Attachment C.1.a.) has been developed to assist the Council in its decisions. The drafters of the technical assessment have recommended some revisions to the objectives (see page ES-2 and Appendix A in Attachment C.1.a.). The MRC endorsed these recommendations. The Council should review the revised objectives, as presented in the technical analysis and determine whether or not it concurs with the recommended changes. The MRC has made a number of other recommendations for Council consideration (MRC Report C.1.). The Council may wish to consider requesting public comment on the report of the MRC along with the comment on the technical analysis.

During the second phase, if pursued by the Council, options for the design and location of marine reserves would be developed. An attachment to the MRC report identifies many of the policy issues that would need to be considered in Phase II.

On May 31, 2000, an Executive Order on marine protected areas was issued. A copy is attached for your information. (Attachment C.1.b.).

### **Council Action:**

1. **Consider the technical report for release for public review.**
  - **Consider edit suggestions.**
  - **Consider revised objectives recommended by the MRC and technical drafters.**
  - **Consider identification of preferred or nonpreferred marine reserve options.**
2. **Decide whether or not to circulate the MRC report along with the technical report.**

### **Reference Materials:**

1. Marine Reserves to Supplement Management of West Coast Groundfish Resources, Phase I Technical Analysis (Attachment C.1.a.).
2. Executive Order on Marine Protected Areas (Attachment C.1.b.).
3. Report of the Ad-Hoc Marine Reserve Committee (MRC Report C.1.).
4. Public Comment C.1.