

## REVIEW OF WEST COAST MARINE RESERVE EFFORTS

Situation: There are four topics for Council consideration under this agenda item:

- (1) A staff report on jurisdictional authorities for creating marine reserves.
- (2) The status of the Ad Hoc Marine Reserves Steering Group.
- (3) The status of the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) effort to review scientific issues related to reserve size.
- (4) Solicitation of nominations for a Federal Advisory Committee on Marine Protected Areas.

At its June meeting, Council members asked staff to augment the review of current efforts to develop marine reserves on the West Coast by identifying agencies with jurisdictional authorities. A brief summary of jurisdictional authorities has been added to the overview of West Coast activities.

In June, the Council also authorized appointment of an Ad Hoc Marine Reserves Steering Group to coordinate the Council response to proposals for marine reserves generated outside the Council process. This group is comprised of representatives from each Council advisory body, including technical teams and enforcement consultants. The group is being asked to develop a recommendation for the Council on how it can best go about serving its coordinating role, given the limit on funds and staff to support meetings of the group. A report from this group is expected at the November Council meeting.

Additionally, the Council accepted the SSC offer to form an ad hoc subcommittee to review scientific issues related to the appropriate size for marine reserves on the West Coast. The SSC intends to focus its first effort on reviewing recommendations of the science panel that provided advice to the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS) area Marine Reserve Working Group. This CINMS panel recommended that 30% to 50% or more of the CINMS area be placed in marine reserves. The SSC is trying to schedule a meeting with CINMS science panel members for early October.

A *Federal Register* notice opening a second round of nominations for the Federal Advisory Committee on Marine Protected Areas was published Friday, August 10, 2001 (Exhibit D.1.d, *Federal Register* Notice). The Department of Commerce is establishing this advisory committee pursuant to Executive Order 13158 on Marine Protected Areas and is seeking nominations for membership. The department is seeking "a diverse group of approximately 25 highly qualified individuals." Nominations are sought for non-federal scientists, resource managers, and persons representing other interests or organizations. The deadline for nominations is September 15, 2001.

**Council Task: Review information provided, assure Council member understanding of West Coast marine reserve efforts, provide additional guidance as needed.**

Reference Materials:

1. Status of Efforts to Consider Marine Reserves on the West Coast (Exhibit D.1.a, Staff Report).
2. List of Members on the Ad Hoc Marine Reserves Steering Group (Exhibit D.1.b, Attachment 1).
3. Notice of Request for Nominations (Exhibit D.1.d, *Federal Register* Notice).
4. Public Comment (Exhibit D.1.f, Public Comment).

Groundfish Fishery Strategic Plan (GFSP) Consistency Analysis

The GFSP strategic plan calls for the Council to "use marine reserves as a fishery management tool that contributes to groundfish conservation and management goals, has measurable effects, and is

integrated with other fishery management approaches.”