

**NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL
THE OCEAN CONSERVANCY
AMERICAN OCEANS CAMPAIGN**

February 21, 2002

RECEIVED

Dr. Donald McIsaac
7700 NE Ambassador Place
Portland, OR 97220-1384

FEB 22 2002

PFMC

Dear Dr. McIsaac,

The California Department of Fish & Game (Department) has released its draft regulatory package, which the Council should have in its March briefing book. In the Initial Statement of Reasons for Regulatory Action, the Fish & Game Commission has set an adoption date of August 2, 2002.


For the past two years, the Council has received updates on the process to establish marine reserves in the Channel Islands, culminating in the formal discussions by the Council and its advisory bodies at the October 2001 meeting. At this time, the Council drafted a letter requesting the California Fish & Game Commission provide the Council with the opportunity to comment on the alternative proposed for state waters, before the Commission makes a final decision. We are pleased the Council has initiated its role under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act by taking this first step of coordinating with the State of California's effort to designate marine reserves within the state waters of the Sanctuary.


The Commission's adoption schedule gives the Council three meetings—March, April, and June—to formally consider the regulations. This provides ample opportunity for both the Council and its advisory bodies to review and comment on the regulations. Many additional opportunities also exist for dialogue between the State and members of the Council. For example, Dr. Cindy Thomson, of the SSC, gave a presentation at the Commission meeting in February. The Council should take full advantage of the next five months to ensure that their comments meet the Commission's deadlines. We urge you to examine the draft regulations as soon as possible and begin passing them on to your advisory bodies, even if you have not yet received the full CEQA analysis. This will ensure that the entire Council family is prepared to make any comments to the State by your June meeting, and help the Council with its role in developing federal regulations for the Sanctuary.

We strongly encourage the Council to support the preferred alternative drafted by the Department and the federal managers of the Sanctuary, in recognition of the extensive public process, and socioeconomic and ecological analysis behind that alternative. The preferred alternative is the only alternative that marginally meets the guidelines established by the MRWG Science Panel, which were endorsed by the SSC. We also ask the Council to provide its recommendations to the Commission by the Commission's June 20th meeting. In light of the ongoing involvement of the Council in this process, we believe that the people of California deserve a timely response.

Sincerely,


Kate Wing
Natural Resources Defense Council


Joe Geever
American Oceans Campaign


Greg Helms
The Ocean Conservancy

Subject: Fwd: RE reserves in Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary

Date: Thu, 13 Dec 2001 14:12:41 -0800

From: "PFMC Comments" <pfmc.comments@noaa.gov>

To: jim.seger@noaa.gov

Subject: RE reserves in Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary

Date: Wed, 12 Dec 2001 21:12:26 EST

From: <Sedwa4@aol.com>

To: pfmc.comments@noaa.gov

As a private citizen who enjoys fishing in CINMS I am very concerned about the process that is leading to closures at the islands. My training is in business so I must confess that I can't begin to assess the data and studies that are being cited as supporting large areas of closure but I am very good at sensing when someone is trying to pull the wool over my eyes. That is the situation that I think exists now with Mr. Pickett et al. I am quite sure that Mr. Pickett and his minions would prefer no fishing in CINMS (probably in all of California) and they are more than happy to foist these studies and data on all of us as supportive of their position. The plight of fishing in California, in my opinion, is more a function of overpopulation and attendant pollution and not likely to be solved by shutting the populace out of major areas. With implementation of MLPA/MLMA and the huge closures at the islands most of the fishable waters of California will be off limits to us common folks. It makes you wonder. Steve Edwards/1308 Ocean Drive, Oxnard, California - 805-985-6677