



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

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PFMC

Dr. D.O. McIsaac
Executive Director
Pacific Fishery Management Council
2130 SW Fifth Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97201

Dear Dr. McIsaac:

Thank you for your letter inquiring about funding support from the National Marine Protected Area (MPA) Center for the Pacific Fisheries Management Council's (Pacific Council) marine reserves initiative.

We apologize for our late formal response. When we received your letter, we had informally discussed the National MPA Center's inability to respond to the Pacific Council's needs due to its lack of an annual budget. Using funds from the Center's FY 2002 appropriation of \$3 million, we are seeking partnerships to develop MPA tools, education, and science that can be shared with the entire community of MPA stakeholder groups. For example, the Center is working with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council to develop education workshops on MPA science for fishers. Similar possibilities for partnership projects may exist within the Pacific Council's larger proposal.

We are interested in collaborating with the Pacific Council on its plans to evaluate marine reserves as a management tool. Representatives from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Department of Interior (DOI) will be attending the Annual Council Chair and Executive Directors' meeting in Sitka, Alaska, in May 2002, to provide a presentation on the National MPA Center and its activities. Joseph Uravitch, the Acting Director of the National MPA Center, and Rebecca Lent, the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries will be contacting you to set up an evening meeting in Sitka to discuss strategies of mutual benefit.

We look forward to continuing to work with the Councils, as well as other stakeholders, to develop additional information, tools, and strategies for effective use of MPAs.

We appreciate your continued interest in promoting the sustainable use of our Nation's valuable marine resources.

Sincerely,

William T. Hogarth, Ph.D.
Assistant Administrator
for Fisheries

Margaret A. Davidson
Acting Assistant Administrator
for Ocean Services and Coastal
Zone Management