

## UPDATE ON OTHER MARINE RESERVES PROCESSES

Situation: State level processes for considering marine reserves in ocean areas are ongoing in Oregon and California. Information on these processes is summarized here. Both specify a role for the Council in the state process.

Also provided in this situation summary is a reiteration of information provided to the Council in April 2002 on processes that may generate proposals for marine reserves in National Marine Sanctuaries on the West Coast (other than the Channel Islands process discussed under agenda item F.1).

Last year the Council requested approximately \$1.5 million per year over three years to support Council lead consideration of marine reserves for the West Coast. The Council received a response from NMFS (Exhibit F.2, Attachment 1).

There has been substantial discussion among Council constituents referencing "The Shipp Report." This study of no-take marine reserves is a report to the Fish America Foundation by Dr. Robert L. Shipp. As part of this exhibit, a copy of this report is provided for Council member reference (Exhibit F.2, Attachment 2).

### Oregon

The following is excerpted from Oregon's Ocean Policy Advisory Council website:

The Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC) is responding to a request from Governor Kitzhaber to assess the controversial issue of marine reserves and provide him with a report and recommendations. The OPAC has set a deadline of August 2002 to report to the Governor.

To carry out this assessment, the OPAC formed a working group of members to gather information and ideas and prepare a draft recommendation for the full OPAC. The Working Group submitted its draft report and recommendations to the OPAC on April 26, 2002. The OPAC approved a draft proposal to be reviewed at a series of public Open Houses to hear comments. The OPAC Working Group will then meet to review the comments and make any adjustments before the full OPAC once again considers the report and recommendations to the Governor at its meeting in August [2002].

OPAC's draft proposal is provided as an informational item (Exhibit F.2, Attachment 3). The proposal recommendations are comprised of a policy section and process section. The policy section recommends "a limited system of reserves be established to test the effectiveness of marine reserves to achieve state marine conservation goals and policies and to provide baseline information on marine environmental conditions and species." The process section recommends that "OPAC would adopt the coastwide framework design, objectives, criteria, etc., for state waters and would work with the Governor to recommend appropriate parts ... to the **Pacific Fisheries [SIC] Management Council** and other federal entities for implementation in federal waters."

### California

In addition to the consideration of marine reserves for the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, California is considering marine reserves under processes specified by the California Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA). The MLPA requires the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) to develop a master plan for Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in California. The following is excerpted from the CDFG webpage on the MLPA.

In late June 2001, the Department introduced Initial Draft Concepts for MPAs to meet the MLPA goals and requirements. . . . One of the most frequent and important comments . . . [received] . . . was that the Department [CDFG] had not effectively involved the public in early planning, and that

future drafts needed to have significant levels of constituent input.

As the next step, the Department will launch a series of facilitated constituent workshops. . . .The Department plans to establish one or two groups in each of four planning regions, with representatives from recreational and commercial fishing, diving, environmental, and ecotourism interests, harbor districts, scientists, and research/education and military organizations. . . .Through facilitated regional workshops, the goals of MLPA will be reviewed, and alternatives for MPA sites will be developed from the ground up. . . . While the workshops will be open to the public, comments will be received through constituent representatives allowing a working discussion. . . . Certain State and Federal agencies or organizations will be represented either on the Working Groups, or as consultants at the meetings. These include: . . . . **Pacific Fishery Management Council** . . . .The individual agencies will choose representatives for these groups.

## **National Marine Sanctuaries**

### **National Marine Sanctuaries Joint Management Plan Review for Northern and Central California**

The following text is from the April 2002 Council situation paper on this issue (there is no update):

The National Marine Sanctuary Program is undertaking a joint review of the sanctuary management plans for Cordell Bank, Gulf of the Farallones, and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries. The review will include evaluation of sanctuary regulations and boundaries. Scoping meetings have been held to identify issues and management problems. The scoping process concluded January 31, 2002. The next steps are for the sanctuaries to summarize the scoping comments, seek advice from the sanctuary advisory councils, and use work groups to develop "action plans." Action plans will provide the basis for developing draft amendments to the sanctuary management plans. Changes to allow the creation of marine reserves would require amendment of the sanctuary designation documents to allow the regulation of fisheries.

#### **Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary**

The following text is from the April 2002 Council situation paper on this issue (there is no update):

The Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) intends to review its sanctuary management plan, however, the OCNMS staff indicates their review will lag the California sanctuary processes by a few years.

#### **Council Task:**

1. Discussion and direction to staff as appropriate.

#### **Reference Materials:**

1. Letter from NMFS (Exhibit F.2, Attachment 1).
2. No Take Marine Protected Areas (nMPAs) as a fishery management tool, a pragmatic perspective (Exhibit F.2, Attachment 2).
3. OPAC Draft Proposed Recommendations to the Governor (Exhibit F.2, Attachment 3).

#### **Agenda Order:**

- a. Agendum Overview
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. Council Discussion

Jim Seger

Groundfish Fishery Strategic Plan (GFSP) Consistency Analysis

The GFSP 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."

PFMC  
06/05/02