

Jim Seger

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
MARINE RESERVE PROPOSALS FOR CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) reviewed the draft letter to the California Fish and Game Commission (CFGC) regarding marine reserves in state waters of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS; Exhibit E.1.b, Draft Letter, September 2002). The CPSAS discussed the contents of the letter, and CPSAS representatives who attended the Ad Hoc Marine Reserves Policy Review Committee provided their perspective on that meeting. A majority (7 of 8) of the CPSAS cannot endorse the draft letter, because it does not address the concerns raised by the CPSAS in June 2002, nor mention the analytical shortcomings noted by the Scientific and Statistical Committee. Moreover, a majority of the CPSAS is concerned about the Council endorsing the flawed process undertaken by the State of California (i.e, the Marine Reserve Working Group process).

A minority (1 of 8) of the CPSAS supports the guiding philosophy in the draft letter, because it is appropriate for the Council to defer to the state on management issues within state waters, as it has done in the past. The minority is generally supportive of the use of marine reserves as a way to both conserve biodiversity and provide insurance for management mistakes in unassessed fisheries such as the market squid fishery, which is monitored under the coastal pelagic species fishery management plan.

PFMC
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