

Chuck Tracy

HABITAT COMMITTEE REPORT ON
MARINE RESERVE PROPOSALS FOR CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

The Habitat Committee (HC) would like to restate its comments from the June 2002 Council meeting (attached). The HC would also like to emphasize that the six marine reserve alternatives would contribute to meeting the Council's federal mandate to protect essential fish habitat (EFH) for the purpose of improving sustainability of fisheries, rebuilding fish stocks, and contributing to ecosystem health.

The HC believes that deleting the word "recreational" from the last (optional) paragraph in the letter, if it is included, would be appropriate.

The HC encourages the Council to recommend that the California Fish and Game Commission move forward with implementation of marine reserves in the Channel Islands. The HC also recommends that evaluation and monitoring be conducted, and adaptive management be an integral part of the process, including the development and implementation of an adaptive management plan by the State of California.

PFMC
09/11/02