

Bob Fletcher

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT
ON MARINE RESERVE PROPOSALS FOR CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) 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 (Exhibit E.1.b, Draft Letter, September 2002). The HMSAS commends the Ad Hoc Marine Reserves Policy Review Committee for their thorough consideration of the issues. The draft letter effectively expresses the findings of the review committee and should be considered by the Council in developing their recommendations to the CFGC. The HMSAS discussed the suggested additional paragraph appended to the end of the draft letter. The HMSAS is uncertain of the intent of this paragraph. Is the intent of the paragraph to provide consistency in how "pelagic fish" are defined or is it proposing to exempt recreational fisheries for pelagic species? If this paragraph is incorporated into the letter to CFGC, the HMSAS encourages the Council to revise the paragraph such that its intent is clear.

PFMC
09/11/02