

MARINE RESERVE PROPOSALS FOR  
CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

**Situation:** At its June 2002 meeting, the Council approved Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) comments on technical aspects of the draft California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) analysis on the creation of no-take marine reserves in state waters of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS). These comments were forwarded to California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) for its consideration. The Council also appointed an Ad Hoc Marine Reserves Policy Committee to develop a draft letter to the California Fish and Game Commission (CFGC) with Council comments on CINMS marine reserve alternatives being considered by the CFGC. The ad hoc committee met in El Segundo, California on August 14 and 15, 2002 and :

- developed a draft letter (Exhibit E.1.b, Draft Letter),
- requested that the SSC develop a response to a letter from Leeworthy and Wiley (NOAA/National Ocean Service) (Exhibit E.1.a, Attachment 1; Exhibit E.1.c, Supplemental SSC Report).

Representatives from each of the Council advisory panels and the SSC were invited to attend the meeting and provided comments to the ad hoc committee.

The CEQA document analyzes eight alternatives pertaining to marine reserves for the CINMS, including a status quo alternative and an alternative that would defer action and take the issue up as part of the consideration of marine reserves under the state's Marine Life Protection Act process. The draft letter provides Council perspective on the effects of the alternatives, but does not recommend a specific alternative. The draft letter offers two implementation options for consideration (see second and third to last paragraphs of the draft letter). At or prior to the September 2002 Council meeting, each advisory panel will have an opportunity to review the draft letter and provide additional comments to the Council.

Appended to the end of the draft letter is an additional paragraph proposed by an ad hoc committee member to reflect a portion of the discussion from the meeting that was not covered in the initial draft circulated to the committee after the El Segundo meeting. There was not enough time prior to the briefing book deadline to solicit comment on the proposed paragraph from the ad hoc committee.

The CFGC will be making a final decision on December 6, 2002.

**Council Action:**

- 1. Review the SSC response to Leeworthy and Wiley letter and determine whether or not to include it as an attachment to the draft letter to CFGC.**
- 2. Finalize the draft letter to CFGC with recommendations on marine reserves for the CINMS.**

**Reference Materials:**

1. Letter from Vernon Leeworthy and Peter Wiley to SSC Marine Reserves Subcommittee (Exhibit E.1.a, Attachment 1).
2. Draft letter from Council to CFGC (Exhibit E.1.b, Draft Letter). **Note:** The attachments referred to in the letter are not included, as they have already been reviewed by the Council or will be developed at the meeting. Some copies are available in the Council Secretariat.

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."

Agenda Order:

- a. Agendum Overview
- b. Ad Hoc Marine Reserves Policy Committee Report
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. **Council Action:** Develop Recommendations to the California Fish and Game Commission

Jim Seger

PFMC  
08/26/02