

PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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December 3, 2002

Dr. Jane Lubchenco
Oregon State University
5088 Cordley Hall
Corvallis, OR 97331-4501

Dear Dr. Lubchenco:

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) would like to extend an invitation to you to make a presentation on March 12, 2003 during its meeting at the Columbia River DoubleTree Hotel in Portland, Oregon. The Council has been considering marine reserves as a possible fishery management tool since the spring of 1999 and marine reserves are the subject of two groundfish fishery programmatic Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) currently under development - a programmatic EIS guiding the board spectrum of management options and a groundfish Essential Fish Habitat EIS. We feel your expertise in this area would be of great value in considerations for establishing marine reserves on the West coast, and hope you will accept our invitation.

Research such as that summarized in the recent Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans report, "The Science of Marine Reserves" seems to clearly indicate that for species with certain life history characteristics, biomass within no-take marine reserves will tend to increase. What is of great interest to the Council is the effect of marine reserves on fish and fisheries outside the reserve, particularly when reserves are put in place where there is an active and effectively enforced fishery management system. Most case studies on external effects of marine reserves that have been presented to the Council thus far were studies of reserves placed in areas where there was no effective fishery management system or where reserves were established at the same time that effort reduction measures were imposed. There appears to be little doubt of an edge effect that results in higher catch per unit of efforts in the areas around the reserve, however, the overall impact on harvest production from the marine system is unclear.

In terms of the kind of presentation that would be most useful to the Council, we would appreciate a presentation focused on the effects of marine reserves on system productivity and yield in the presence of an effective fishery management program. If information is still inadequate to address this issue, identification of the types of actions the Council might take to support development of the needed information may be of interest.

The Council is aware there are reasons for creating marine reserves other than the possible enhancement of fishery management and production. Protection of habitat and providing hedges against uncertainty regarding stocks for which we have little information are two

such reasons. There may also be advantages for protecting low productivity stocks that are part of a multispecies harvest complex. The value of marine reserves in managing a multispecies harvest complex in the context of uncertain information, as compared to traditional fishery management techniques, would be a useful secondary topic for your presentation.

Finally, we ask if you would be willing to make your presentation in a forum in which another scientist would make a presentation on the limits of the use of marine reserves in fishery management. When multiple perspectives are presented on a controversial topic at once with the opportunity for questions and comment, there is often a better chance for improved understanding and less opportunity to delay action on the basis of uncertainty about the information presented.

We anticipate making up to 30 minutes available for your presentation, as well as providing 30 minutes for follow-up questions and answers. Please let us know if this amount of time will be adequate. We will also need to know what audio-visual aids you would like available.

Enclosed for your information, please find the Council's Phase I Report on marine reserves and a review conducted by our Scientific and Statistical Committee on the size of reserves recommendation made by the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Science Advisory Panel.

Thank you for your consideration to assist the Council improve its understanding of this controversial issue. Please contact Mr. Jim Seger at the Council Office as to whether you can accept our invitation, or if you have any further questions on this matter.

Sincerely,



D. O. McIsaac, Ph.D.
Executive Director

JLS:dsh

c: Council members
Council staff officers
Habitat Committee
Paul Engelmeyer

Enclosures

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January 24, 2003

Dr. David Fluharty
University of Washington
School of Marine Affairs
3707 Brooklyn Ave NE
Seattle, WA 98105

Dear Dr. Fluharty:

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) takes pleasure in inviting you to its upcoming meeting in Sacramento, California on March 12, 2003 to make a presentation to the Council on the subject of marine reserves. The umbrella working title for this agenda item is "Considerations for Integrating Marine Reserves with Effective Fishery Management." The context of fishery management is specific to West Coast marine fisheries as it exists and is developing under the Sustainable Fisheries Act.

This presentation would be in tandem with a presentation by Dr. Jane Lubchenco and possibly Dr. Mark Hixon of Oregon State University. We have asked Dr. Lubchenco and Dr. Hixon to focus their presentation on the effects of marine reserves on system productivity and yield in the presence of an effective fishery management program and the value of marine reserves as a fishery management tool in multispecies fisheries. We would like you to consider addressing the integration of marine reserves with fishery management from a policy point of view in the context of Council processes, current Council mandates, recent federal fishery management actions, and typical goals and objectives for the creation of marine reserves. We would like to ensure there is ample time for questions from the Council; and therefore, ask that you try to keep your presentation to 20 minutes or less.

The Council will cover your travel expenses, and information on making travel reservations will be provided under separate cover. Thank you for considering this invitation to improve fishery management in West Coast marine fisheries.

Sincerely,



D. O. McIsaac, Ph.D.
Executive Director

DOM:kla

c: Ms. Sharon Conyers
Dr. John Coon
Mr. Jim Seger
Ms. Kerry Aden

