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DEC 13 2002

PFMC

110 Victoria Commons
Newark, DE 19716
December 9, 2002

Executive Director Don McIsaac
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200
Portland, OR 97220-1384

Dear Mr. McIsaac;

I am writing to you to encourage your support for the establishment of a network of fully protected marine reserves within federal waters, in the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. Once an area abundant with white abalone, rockfish, cowcod, bocaccio, prawns and lobsters, these species now face the threat of extinction, due to commercial fishing diminishing the resilience of kelp forests and marine life. The need for reserve enforcement and monitoring is essential to the future existence of this fragile ecosystem.

As of late November, the California Fish and Game Commission approved a plan that will create a network of marine reserves off the coast of California. This plan will ultimately protect nearly 20 percent of state waters as no-take reserves in the Channel Islands. The importance of this marine reserve will be providing a refuge for many fish and wildlife species, which have been declining dramatically. Some species, such as Giant sea bass, sheepheads, sharks and rockfish, popular industry fish, have had populations decline as high as 90%. Protecting portions of the waters within the Channel Islands is the only option to help restore this once abundant and thriving biodiversity. Scientific studies have shown that large set aside reserves are the only way to achieve the twin goal of protecting underwater habitats and creating a spillover effect to help economically suffering fisheries to rebound. Also, studies have shown that the total weight of organisms inside reserves significantly doubles in comparison to unprotected waters. Therefore, although the islands receive necessary protection as a National Marine Sanctuary, additional measures must be enforced in order to restore declining species and kelp beds.

As a certified scuba diver who enjoys spending many hours in the ocean, I have a personal concern towards protecting this unique ecosystem. Home to an abundant amount of species and diversity, it is essential we preserve these waters within the Channel Islands for future generations to enjoy.

Please support the finalization of the marine reserve network recently approved by the California State and Fish and Game Council, by protecting remaining federal portions within this key ecosystem. This plan will ultimately provide a balance between short-term impacts on the fishing community and restoration of the sanctuary's resources over the long term. If you would be so kind, please keep me informed of your decision pertaining to this issue.

Sincerely,



Natalie Piszek

235 East Fairmount Avenue
State College, PA 16801

December 3, 2002

7700 NE Ambassador Place
Suite 200
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384
Dear Pacific Fishery Management Council,

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DEC 20 2002

PFMC

I write to encourage your support for the establishment of a network of fully protected marine reserves within the federal waters of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. Fully protecting portions of the waters around the Channel Islands within a network of marine reserves is the only real way to help the once thriving marine life around the Islands rebound and thrive. The islands receive important protections as a National Marine Sanctuary, however new measures are needed to restore declining fisheries and preserve habitat.

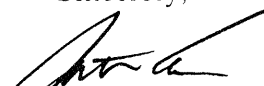
We are already losing the battle to restore and preserve wildlife since President Bush lowered the restrictions upon deforesting. Former President Clinton had the right idea to set up strict guidelines to follow to deter forest cutting. However, due to our executive's and several legislatures' greediness and lack of information, a dire consequence may face our nation. Let us not make the same mistake twice.

There is now compelling scientific evidence that an appropriately designed system of marine reserves can help restore damaged rockfish and invertebrate populations. To ignore these problems at this time simply invites a more severe crisis in the future. Our Channel Islands support diverse marine habitats and a unique ocean ecosystem. I strongly urge that you support a configuration of fully protected marine reserves, which protects the Islands' many habitats, including rocky reefs, sandy seafloor, and subsea canyons. By leaving a portion of our coastal waters undisturbed, marine reserves can restore biological diversity and prevent the extinction of individual species. The resulting protected areas can also provide tangible, long-term benefits to commercial and recreational fishermen.

Please finish the marine reserve network recently approved by the California State Fish and Game Commission, by completing the federal portion of this carefully-negotiated, science-based protection for key ecosystems at the Channel Islands.

Thank you for your attention to this pressing matter.

Sincerely,



Justin Edwab

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JAN 22 2003

Adrian Bellomo

941 Addison Ave. , Palo Alto, California 94301

January 15, 2003 01:21 AM **PFMC**

Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200
Portland, OR 97220

Subject: Support for Preferred Alternative Marine Reserve Network at the Channel Islands

Dear Pacific Fishery Management Council:

I'm a high-school student from Palo Alto, Calif. who cares about the environment. I write to encourage your support for the establishment of a network of fully protected marine reserves within the federal waters of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. The preferred alternative is fully supported by the CEQA document and by the California Fish and Game Commission.

Fully protecting portions of the waters around the Channel Islands within a network of marine reserves is the only real way to help the once thriving marine life around the Islands rebound and thrive. The islands receive important protections as a National Marine Sanctuary, however new measures are needed to restore declining fisheries and preserve habitat.

There is now compelling scientific evidence that an appropriately designed system of marine reserves can help restore damaged rockfish and invertebrate populations. To ignore these problems at this time simply invites a more severe crisis in the future. Our Channel Islands support diverse marine habitats and a unique ocean ecosystem. I strongly urge that you support a configuration of fully protected marine reserves, which protects the Islands' many habitats, including rocky reefs, sandy seafloor, and subsea canyons. By leaving a portion of our coastal waters undisturbed, marine reserves can restore biological diversity and prevent the extinction of individual species. The resulting protected areas can also provide tangible, long-term benefits to commercial and recreational fishermen.

Please finish the marine reserve network recently approved by the California State Fish and Game Commission, by completing the federal portion of this carefully-negotiated, science-based protection for key ecosystems at the Channel Islands.

Thank you for your attention to this pressing matter.

Sincerely,


Adrian Bellomo

*Thanks for your time.
-adrian*

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FEB - 6 2003

PFMC

Bryan Mulvaney

5307 W Poinsettia Drive , Glendale, Arizona 85304

February 03, 2003 04:53 PM

Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200
Portland, OR 97220

Subject: Support for Preferred Alternative Marine Reserve Network at the Channel Islands

Dear Pacific Fishery Management Council:

I write to encourage your support for the establishment of a network of fully protected marine reserves within the federal waters of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. The preferred alternative is fully supported by the CEQA document and by the California Fish and Game Commission.

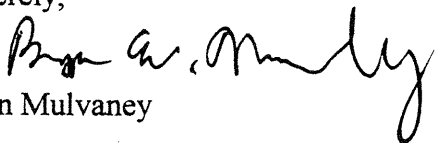
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Please finish the marine reserve network recently approved by the California State Fish and Game Commission, by completing the federal portion of this carefully-negotiated, science-based protection for key ecosystems at the Channel Islands.

Thank you for your attention to this pressing matter.

Sincerely,



Bryan Mulvaney

As of February 21, 2003, 26 copies of this letter were received.