

it should be filed
under D.3.c
March 10, 2003
per
Chairman
Radtke

Dear Kathy,

I am writing to you as my representative on the Ad Hoc Marine Protected Areas Committee for the PFMC. I am writing you about the Channel Islands Marine Reserve Project. The Scientific and Statistical Committee for the PFMC reviewed the Environmental Document for the proposed CINMS reserve network prepared by CINMS and DFG to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act.

The reviewers suggested that their comments were partially designed to flag issues that needed to be addressed in the federal phase of the CINMS project under NEPA.

Currently fishermen from our region are mounting a legal challenge to the project based on the CDFG and CINMS failing to address this initial peer review along with formal comments from the fishermen on the adequacy of the range of alternatives and the lack of an adaptive management plan for the project's implementation.

Part of my experience with this project as a fisheries representative, I participated as a field researcher in the social and economic survey for this project. In this project we developed GIS maps that show the relative economic yield, by the harvested species spatially as a product of our survey. This information was developed under a system that required fishermen to sign a waiver to release their confidential fishing records from the DFG for verification. The survey was done on standard NOAA charts in a habitat-mapping format with a resolution of 1x1 square nautical miles to describe habitat value for harvest.

Unfortunately we developed a protocol for releasing the data that the scientific advisors in our project felt was too much of a constraint. We required that the Science Advisory Panel provide complete transparency in their models for reserve designs.

We were not effective in using our database as a bargaining chip to insure an open process. However that being behind us now I am asking you to request that the SSC committee review this spatial data and the methodology we used. With the goal of developing this survey and improving on it as a spatial information base that can be utilized in monitoring our reserve network. I believe that this will help to address many of the comments of the SSC review of our project and assist the PFMC in developing a collaborative approach to our project with the fishing community as a pilot adaptive management program for MPA's. In looking at the development (our reserve network), I feel the spatial database is needed for context in assessing statistical projections of economic impact.

This information has potential to be applied also in the context of essential fish habitat. As well as used as a reference for getting more specific information in stock surveys.

Sincerely,

Chris Miller, Vice-president, California Lobster and Trap Fisherman's Assn.