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PFMC

Shifting Management's Perspective.
Approaching fisheries management utilizing area closures.

I wish to make clear that this paper is an attempt to open discussion, not present a finished product. I expect others to finish this contribution and create solutions. I am trying to help fishing communities regain the lost benefits of their recently closed ocean resources. While at the same time, rebuilding stocks of fish as required by law. To this end I would propose to change the way we account for and control fishing effort in selected areas of the ocean.

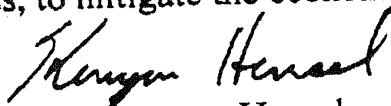
Closing the entire range of an over fished species is not necessary. Even over fishing part of a habitat should not completely inhibit a rebuilding plan for a species as long as some part of that specie's habitat is closed.

MPA science supports this idea. If X percent of habitat is closed to fishing, then MPA science would support that you have an X percent chance of rebuilding that protected area's species as fast as possible. Roughly, with 100% of the shelf closed, we have instituted a rebuilding plan that should rebuild shelf species to 100% as fast as possible. Since management is not required to rebuild stocks to 100%, we should be able to open some percentage of this closed area.

Following this theory, the percent of catch from an open area should not affect the closed area's ability to rebuild. Instead the open area with a presumed lower density of population should be a refuge from overcrowding. Thus, open areas should benefit both from the seeding of spawn from the closed area, and the migration out of the closed area by fish looking for less crowded habitat and the lower competition found there.

Areas reopened to fishing, could still be protected from complete depletion. Though with closed areas protecting stocks, depletion should not be the over riding factor triggering control of effort. Other catch controls such as gear, time on water, size, and catch per unit effort could be used as management tools.

We could substantially help individual ports by opening parts of now closed areas without sacrificing fisheries protection and rebuilding plans. Current management tools may lead to more and greater closures. We need a need a new management structure to deal with closure size, and when economically we should be looking at opening select areas for access, to mitigate the economic pain total closures cause.


Kenyon Hensel

Cover Page

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Fax from Kenyon Hensel

Northern area representative for the Ground fish Advisory Panel

707-465-6858

To

Pacific Fisheries Management Council

503-820-2299

Public comment for April meeting

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MAR 17 2003

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02/11/11

**Donald McIsaac
Executive Director
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 Northeast Ambassador Place
Suite 200
Portland, Oregon
97220-1384 United States of America**

Dear Dr. McIsaac:

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 ignores a more severe crisis in the future. The 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 your 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Gilmour". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "K".

Kenneth John Gilmour
3 - 195 Simcoe Street
Peterborough, Ontario
K9H 2H6

CANADA