

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL STATEMENT ON
PLANNING FOR FEDERAL WATERS PORTION OF THE
CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) met with representatives of the National Marine Sanctuary system to discuss planning for the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS) and central California sanctuary processes. In the interest of time, the GAP has incorporated its statement on agenda item G.2 into this agenda item.

GAP members and sanctuary personnel held a lengthy discussion on the pros and cons of creating a network of marine reserves in federal waters within CINMS. While we appreciate the expressed intent of sanctuary personnel to address our comments in their management plan review, the GAP does not at this time support the sanctuary request for a change in the sanctuary designation documents. The authority to regulate fishing with sanctuaries should remain entirely with state agencies and the Pacific Fishery Management Council through the National Marine Fisheries Service. Further, while marine reserves should continue to be a tool which can be used appropriately, the decision to establish a marine reserve should remain with states and Fishery Management Councils. A decision to establish a marine reserve is a *de facto* decision to regulate fishing; such regulation is not within the range of authority or expertise of national marine sanctuaries.

The GAP also discussed a possible ban on krill fishing within the Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary. While the GAP has no comment on whether such a fishery would be desirable, the GAP notes that the fishery would be regulated under California state law if it is prosecuted by California vessels or if catches are landed in California. The GAP sees no reason why a sanctuary - which has no authority over fishing - should attempt to regulate a krill fishery or any other fishery.

PFMC
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