

PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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April 29, 2003

Mr. William Douros, Superintendent
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
299 Foam Street
Monterey, CA 93940

Mr. Ed Ueber, Superintendent
Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

Mr. Daniel Howard, Manager
Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary
PO Box 159
Olema, CA 94950

Gentlemen:

I am writing to express the Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) interest in coordinating with the Monterey Bay, Gulf of the Farallones, and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries (Sanctuaries) to address federal fisheries issues within sanctuary boundaries. This issue was discussed at the Council's March meeting in Sacramento, California. The discussion occurred in the context of an agenda segment updating the Council on the Joint Management Plan Review effort currently underway by the Sanctuaries. The Council is requesting clarification on a few matters that came up in discussion and would like to express interest in working collaboratively with the Sanctuaries on any fishery regulation matters of mutual concern.

Modification of Designation Documents

We understand the Sanctuaries' designation documents do not currently provide for the authority to regulate fisheries. In this regard, there has been some confusion created by a recently released document entitled "Regulatory Coordination Between the National Marine Sanctuaries Program and Fishery Management Agencies" (attached). There was particular discussion about the statement, "However, sanctuaries may manage fishery resources within their boundaries by imposing specific Sanctuary regulations on certain fishing methods and gear or preventing the taking of fish when it is determined to be necessary..." The process outlined in this document seems to apply to National Marine Sanctuaries that are permitted by their designation documents to regulate fisheries. However, it is not clear whether the Sanctuaries you have responsibility for are considering modification of their designation documents to allow regulation of fisheries. The process for this important step in regulatory coordination does not seem to be covered in the paper. We would appreciate some clarification about any intent of the Sanctuaries to modify designation documents, how designation documents would be modified, and the need to extend Sanctuary authority to include fisheries regulation.

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Currently, we are not aware of any action the Sanctuaries have requested of a fishery management agency under the current designation document for which they have not received a positive response. If that understanding is not correct, please let us know.

If the Sanctuaries decide to seek a change in their designation documents in order to allow for regulation of fisheries, the Council would like to be involved. Please let us know how the Council can best participate in the process.

Fishing Regulations in Sanctuary Waters

The Council would like to work cooperatively with you to coordinate the development and implementation of any fishing regulations needed for federal waters of the Sanctuaries as a result of the Joint Management Plan Review. For example, we understand one of the working groups is considering an action plan recommendation to ban krill harvest in one of the sanctuaries. In this regard it would be helpful to have a clear statement of the goals of the Sanctuaries regarding fisheries management, the parts of the management plan revisions under current consideration that pertain to user management, any update on your process timeline, and the range of possible results (relevant to fisheries management) from this process.

Next Pacific Council Meeting

We appreciate your attention to our concerns. We have tentatively scheduled an agendum to consider these matters at our next Council meeting in Foster City, California during the week of June 16 - 20. We would like to include your response in the briefing book for our next Council meeting so as to allow for its full consideration; materials for this purpose are due in the Council office by May 28. If you would like to make a brief presentation to the Council at the June meeting, please consider this letter an invitation to do so, and contact me at your earliest convenience for logistical details.

Should you have any questions on the substance of this letter, please feel free to contact me or Ms. Jennifer Gilden at the number above.

Sincerely,



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

JDG:kla

Enclosure

c: Dr. Hans Radtke	Mr. Eric Larson	Ms. Marija Vojkovich
Mr. Donald Hansen	Mr. Duncan MacLean	Ms. Anne Walton
Mr. Daniel Basta	Mr. Sean Morton	Ms. Patricia Wolf
Dr. John Coon	Mr. Jim Seger	
Ms. Jennifer Gilden	Mr. Roger Thomas	

Dr. Daniel Basta, Chief
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