

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA SANCTUARY PROCESSES INCLUDING KRILL BAN

Situation: The National Marine Sanctuary Act requires that sanctuaries review their management plans at least once every five years. Three Sanctuaries – Cordell Bank, Gulf of the Farallones, and Monterey Bay – are currently reviewing their management plans and considering a wide array of issues, including marine reserves. Work groups for each of the Sanctuaries have been developing action plans that will be presented to the Sanctuary Advisory Councils and eventually folded into the revised management plans. The target for release of a final joint management plan is the summer of 2004.

On April 29, 2003, the Council sent a letter to the superintendents of the Monterey Bay, Gulf of the Farallones, and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries expressing interest in coordinating to address federal fisheries issues within Sanctuary boundaries (Attachment 1). On May 28, the Council received a letter from the three Sanctuaries (Attachment 2). The letter describes in detail the activities being undertaken at each of three Sanctuaries, and includes a timeline for implementation. The Sanctuaries have expressed a desire to work with the Council in determining the proper time to involve the Council in developing Sanctuary action plans.

Representatives of the Sanctuaries will be present at the June meeting to provide a brief overview of activities in the Sanctuaries and answer any questions the Council may have.

A ban on krill harvesting in the waters of all three Sanctuaries may be included in an action plan. Krill are not covered under Council fishery management plans, and the group evaluating the ban has questions about the degree to which the Council would like to be involved in consideration of the ban and when consultation should occur. That recommendation may soon be brought to the Council for its consideration, but there is no action item on this topic at this meeting.

Council Task:

1. Council Discussion (no action required).

Reference Materials:

1. Letter from the Council to the three Sanctuaries dated April 29, 2003 (Attachment 1).
2. Letter from the three Sanctuaries to the Council dated May 28, 2003, with attachments (Attachment 2).

Agenda Order:

- a. Agendum Overview
- b. Brief Overview and Question and Answer Session
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comments
- e. Council Discussion

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PFMC
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