

**July 30, 2003 Testimony of Kathy Fosmark before the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council**

My name is Kathy Fosmark and I am the co-chair of the Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries. As our name implies we are an organization of people who fish and other community representatives, who are committed to having well-managed and sustainable fisheries. To that end, we accept and participate in the regulatory authority of the California Department of Fish and Game, NOAA Fisheries, and its Pacific Fishery Management Council. These are the agencies that have the authority, expertise, and public processes in place to manage issues that affect fishing.

There are several issues in the Management Plan that relate directly or indirectly to fishing. I am here to say that people who fish expect the Sanctuary Program to keep the promise made to us in the early 1990's. This promise is represented in numerous sections of the original designation document. To quote two sections "Fishing is not being regulated as part of the Sanctuary regime and is not included in the designation document as an activity subject to future regulation. Fisheries management will remain under the existing jurisdiction of the State of California, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Pacific Fishery Management Council. Sanctuary prohibitions that may indirectly affect fishing activities have been written to explicitly exempt traditional fishing activities." This section concludes with the following, "Should problems arise in the future (and by this we understand this to mean fisheries problems) NOAA would consult with the State, PFMC, and National Marine Fisheries Service, as well as the industry, to find a proper course of action."

Therefore, with regard to any fishing or extractive concerns that the Sanctuary may have regarding the Davidson-Seamount, Krill harvesting, bottom trawling or the use of marine protected areas; these issues should be referred to the proper fishery management agencies. The Sanctuary should collect all of the public comments on these fishery issues and package them up and send them to the proper fishery management agencies. That is the action that is consistent with the designation document.

I might add that regarding MPA's, this does not mean that the fishing community is against MPA's, it is just a matter of letting the appropriate agency do its job. Your vote on the MPA issue is not a vote for, or against, having MPA's in Federal waters. Let the Pacific Fishery Management Council do its job!

I also want to say that I was part of the group that identified ways in which fishermen could work constructively with the Sanctuary Program in education and science research projects. I am heartened by this effort, and will be delighted to see this relationship flourish.

Quotations taken from:  
Federal Register / Vol. 57, No. 182 / Friday, September 18, 1992 / Rules and Regulations, Page 43314