

INTERNAL USE ONLY

**NOAA Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary
Environmental Review Process to Consider Marine Reserves**

Proposed Activities and Timeline

March 2003

- ◆ Sanctuary prepares Notice of Intent to Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)
- ◆ Brief Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) on Sanctuary initiation of Environmental Review Process (completed)
- ◆ Brief Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) on Sanctuary initiation of Environmental Review Process (completed)

April 2003

- ◆ Sanctuary releases Notice of Intent to prepare DEIS in Federal Register
- ◆ Sanctuary submits letter to PFMC describing Environmental Review Process for discussion at April PFMC meeting

May/June 2003

- ◆ Sanctuary hosts Scoping Meetings - contemporaneously at SAC May meeting and PFMC June meeting, additional scoping likely in Ventura County
- ◆ Sanctuary sends consultation letters to PFMC, NOAA Fisheries, State of Calif. and other entities regarding appropriate proposed change to the terms of designation¹ of the Sanctuary (*60 day response period*)
- ◆ Sanctuary notifies PFMC of opportunity to prepare draft National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA) fishing regulations – (*NMSA regulations allow for 120 days for PFMC response; seek PFMC resolution by the Nov. Council meeting (approx. five months)*)

June – November 2003

- ◆ Sanctuary, in cooperation with PFMC, State of Calif. and SAC, develops DEIS, appropriate proposed regulatory changes and related proposed change to the terms of designation
- ◆ PFMC considers preparing draft NMSA fishing regulations and if it chooses prepares draft regulations

December 2003 / Early 2004

- ◆ Sanctuary releases DEIS, proposed regulations and related proposed changes to the terms of designation
- ◆ Conduct public review of the DEIS, and proposed regulations and related proposed changes to the terms of designation. This will include an opportunity for public comment of at least 45 days and must include at least one public hearing if the rulemaking necessitates a change in a term of designation

¹ The terms of designation of a Sanctuary include its geographic area, the characteristics of the area that give it conservation, recreational, ecological, historical, research, educational, or esthetic value, and the types of activities that are subject to regulation to protect those characteristics.

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Proposed Activities and Timeline (cont'd)

Spring/Summer 2004

- ◆ Sanctuary prepares responses to comments

Summer 2004

- ◆ Sanctuary drafts Final EIS, and if necessary for chosen action, drafts final regulations and revises Designation Document

Fall/Winter 2004

- ◆ Sanctuary releases the Final EIS by publishing a notice of availability in the Federal Register and by providing copies to interested parties. After a 30-day “cooling off” period, the final regulations appear in the Federal Register and the Sanctuary sends the final regulations to Congress and to the governor’s office, if State waters are involved. The final regulations will take effect after the close of a review period of 45 days of continuous session of Congress. If State waters are involved, and the governor certifies that the change in terms of designation (and therefore the final regulations or portions thereof) is unacceptable, the affected final regulations will not take effect in State waters.