

UPDATE ON WEST COAST MARINE PROTECTED AREAS ISSUES

Situation: This update on ongoing marine protected areas (MPAs) activities covers the following areas:

1. Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Marine Reserves Subcommittee White Paper
2. Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS) Marine Reserves Process
3. National Fisheries Conservation Center (NFCC) Marine Reserves Science Conference

SSC Marine Reserves Subcommittee White Paper. The SSC Marine Reserves Subcommittee has been developing a white paper to facilitate Council consideration of marine reserve initiatives in relation to West Coast fishery management. The preliminary recommendations of the subcommittee were reviewed by the SSC at the September meeting. At this meeting, a representative of the SSC will brief the Council on the progress of the white paper.

CINMS Marine Reserves Process. At the September Council meeting, CINMS staff updated the Council on the progress of developing the preliminary draft environmental document and provided a summary of scoping comments received during the environmental review process. Mr. Sean Hastings of CINMS will provide another update for the Council at this meeting.

NFCC Marine Reserves Science Conference. In March 2003, the Council received and endorsed a proposal from the NFCC to hold a workshop to bring marine reserve and fisheries scientists together to resolve differences of basic assumptions about ecological fishery management processes. Preparations for this meeting are underway, and a planning committee is convening in November to develop questions regarding the relationship between marine reserves science and fisheries management techniques. A statement explaining the relationship between the NFCC conference and a workshop series to be organized by NMFS (Santa Cruz Lab) and the National MPA Center is provided as Exhibit B.2, Attachment 1.

Council Task:

1. Council discussion (no action required).

Reference Materials:

1. Exhibit B.2, Attachment 1: *Integrating the Science of Fishery Management and Marine Protected Areas*

Agenda Order:

- a. Agendum Overview
- b. Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) White Paper
- c. Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS)
Marine Reserves Process
- d. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- e. Public Comment
- f. Council Discussion

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10/21/03