

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON UPDATE ON WEST  
COAST  
MARINE PROTECTED AREAS ISSUES

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) was updated on four ongoing Marine Protected Area (MPA) activities as follows:

**SSC Marine Reserves Subcommittee White Paper** – The delivery of the white paper has been delayed until the March 2004 Council meeting. One reason for this delay is that examples of National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) documentation are being added to the paper.

**Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS) Marine Reserves Process** – The SSC understands the Council will be updated on this process Tuesday, November 4, 2003. The SSC did not receive an update, and, thus, has no comment at this time.

**National Fisheries Conservation Center (NFCC) Marine Reserves Science Conference** – The SSC was informed that conference planning is currently underway and the workshop is tentatively scheduled for early 2004.

**National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) MPA Science Center Integration Project** – As reported to the Council in September 2003, this longer term coordination project is being organized by NMFS (Santa Cruz Lab), NOAA National MPA Center, and the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (Santa Barbara, CA). The NFCC conference and NOAA integration project are being coordinated.

The SSC encourages close coordination between the Council and the NFCC and NOAA projects. In this regard, at the direction of the Council, the SSC is willing to participate in the NFCC workshop and the longer term NMFS/MPA Center integration project.

Finally, as the SSC noted in September 2003, MPAs are becoming a major workload item for Council staff. As such, the SSC reemphasizes our September statement that this will likely require reallocation of staff priorities and increased Council and advisory body meeting time to address MPA issues.

PFMC  
11/04/03