

STATEMENT OF THE GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL
ON WEST COAST MPA ISSUES

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received a presentation from Mr. Sean Hastings of the National Ocean Service (NOS) regarding development of marine protected areas and marine reserves within the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS).

The GAP is exceedingly concerned that CINMS is contemplating changing the designation document for the sanctuary in order to create closed areas that may not be agreed to by the Council or its constituent bodies.

The position of the GAP is clear, has been expressed on several previous occasions, and is reiterated here: if the Council, which has the knowledge and expertise to manage fisheries, believes that closed areas should be instituted and develops recommendations after public comment and reports from statutorily constituted advisory bodies, then those are the recommendations which should be adhered to. NOS does not have the expertise to manage fisheries and should not be trying to assume such authority through regulatory end-runs.

President Lincoln spoke of government of the people, by the people, and for the people. NOS should heed his words.

PFMC
11/04/03