

SUPPLEMENTAL UPDATE ON OTHER MARINE PROTECTED AREA ACTIVITIES

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS)

MBNMS is currently developing action plans for a suite of marine protected area (MPA) related initiatives within MBNMS, these include special MPAs, inclusion of Davidson Seamount within the sanctuary boundary, and a ban on krill fishing within the sanctuary.

Davidson Seamount and krill ban initiatives are scheduled for completion during 2004. Development of special MPAs is on a longer-term schedule and could be completed during the next few years.

Most of these MPA-related initiatives will require coordination with the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council). For example, within the next six months, it is anticipated MBNMS will request Council input for both the krill harvesting ban and Davidson Seamount issues. This will likely include a request for the Council to determine its role in both endeavors.

To provide the Council more information on these activities, Dr. Holly Price (MBNMS) will brief the Council at the March 2004 meeting.

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS)

CINMS is developing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for alternatives to create MPAs within federal waters of CINMS.

CINMS staff intend to provide materials for the April 2004 Council meeting briefing book. At the April Council meeting, CINMS is tentatively scheduled to present information to the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and other Council advisory bodies. CINMS is seeking specific input from the SSC on technical aspects of draft management alternatives and analytical approaches.

It is anticipated CINMS will present information to the Council at the June 2004 meeting and request formal Council action in response to their draft EIS, specifically fishery-management related components of CINMS alternatives for MPAs in federal waters. To facilitate Council consideration of CINMS proposed alternatives, it is anticipated the Council's Ad Hoc Channel Islands Marine Reserve Committee will need to meet prior to the June 2004 Council meeting.

MPA Center

National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) MPA Center in Santa Cruz, California is coordinating an initiative to address science and technical issues related to integration of MPAs with fishery management. This will involve establishment of a working group to address the science and technical issues and a two-year schedule for completion of the project.

An oversight group, including representatives from NMFS (Sustainable Fisheries, Protected Resources, Habitat), National Ocean Service, the Council, and Oregon State University, met February 26-27, 2004 in Santa Cruz, California. The group initiated development of a list of issue areas and specific issues that would form the basis of the working group's statement of work. The oversight group also discussed potential working group participants in terms of the types of expertise that would be required; for example, fishery scientists and managers, marine ecologists, fishery economists, and user groups (including commercial and recreational fisheries, and conservation groups). The oversight group is developing terms of reference and a statement of work for the working group.

The MPA Center is tentatively scheduled to present an informational update to the Council at the April 2004 meeting in Sacramento, California.

National Fisheries Conservation Center (NFCC) Marine Reserves Science Conference

A consensus conference related to the science of marine reserves is being coordinated by NFCC. Information about this conference was presented to the Council in 2003. Objectives of the conference included developing information about the "state of the science" related to the integration of marine reserves into fishery management. The conference has apparently been scheduled for June 2004 in Long Beach California. However, it is unclear if NFCC has secured the necessary funds for the conference. The Council has not received updated information from NFCC.

PFMC

03/11/04