

Glen Pittman

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April 09, 2004 10:22 PM

Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200
Portland, OR 97220

APR 14 2004

PFMC

Subject: Support for Preferred Alternative Marine Reserve Network at the Channel Islands

Dear Pacific Fishery Management Council:

I write to encourage your support for the establishment of a network of fully protected marine reserves within the federal waters of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. The preferred alternative is fully supported by the CEQA document and by the California Fish and Game Commission.

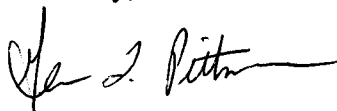
Fully protecting portions of the waters around the Channel Islands within a network of marine reserves is the only real way to help the once thriving marine life around the Islands rebound and thrive. The islands receive important protections as a National Marine Sanctuary, however new measures are needed to restore declining fisheries and preserve habitat.

There is now compelling scientific evidence that an appropriately designed system of marine reserves can help restore damaged rockfish and invertebrate populations. To ignore these problems at this time simply invites a more severe crisis in the future. Our Channel Islands support diverse marine habitats and a unique ocean ecosystem. I strongly urge that you support a configuration of fully protected marine reserves, which protects the Islands' many habitats, including rocky reefs, sandy seafloor, and subsea canyons. By leaving a portion of our coastal waters undisturbed, marine reserves can restore biological diversity and prevent the extinction of individual species. The resulting protected areas can also provide tangible, long-term benefits to commercial and recreational fishermen.

Please finish the marine reserve network recently approved by the California State Fish and Game Commission, by completing the federal portion of this carefully-negotiated, science-based protection for key ecosystems at the Channel Islands.

Thank you for your attention to this pressing matter.

Sincerely,



Glen Pittman

Text-only e-mail? Please open this page in your web browser:
<http://www.bluevoice.org/jcemail/BVchannelislands.htm>

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ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE

finding the ways that work

Save the Channel Islands

Protect the Channel Islands - "The American Galapagos"

BlueVoice.org, on behalf of Environmental Defense, invites you to take action on this important issue.



The waters around the Channel Islands, off the coast of central California, support a lush diversity of marine life, including giant kelp forests, migrating blue and humpback whales, southern sea otters, Guadalupe fur seals, dolphins, sharks and more. California brown pelicans and the California least tern ply the skies, while once-abundant fish populations include giant sea bass, sheephead and rockfish. The islands of San Miguel, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz, Anacapa and Santa Barbara rise majestically from the sea, enticing millions of visitors to nearby coastal communities each year.

TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT THE CHANNEL ISLANDS:

The State of California just recently decided to fully protect portions of the state's waters that surround the Channel Islands in a network of marine reserves. However, other portions of Channel Islands waters under federal control don't yet enjoy the same protections. Take action and send a message to the Pacific Fishery Management Council. Urge them to follow California's lead and fully protect portions of the federal waters that surround the Channel Islands. Timing is critical. Take action now!



Send a letter to the following decision maker(s): Pacific Fishery Management Council

Below is the sample letter:

Take Action!

Instructions:

[Click here to take action on this issue.](#)

What's At Stake:

CHANNEL ISLANDS AT RISK:

The diverse marine ecosystems around these islands are at risk. While Franklin D. Roosevelt recognized the Channel Islands as a national monument in 1938, and the area later achieved designation as the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, in the decades since, legions of white abalone, Guadalupe fur seals, and a number of rockfish have been disappearing. We are now witnessing what could become a wave of extinction.

New measures are needed to preserve this unique ecosystem. Scientists agree that an appropriately designed network of fully protected marine reserves would help to restore marine life in the waters around the Channel Islands. Marine "no-take" reserves, special ocean areas closed to all extractive activities, including fishing, have

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Fully protecting portions of the waters around the Channel Islands within a network of marine reserves is the only real way to help the once thriving marine life around the Islands rebound and thrive. The islands receive important protections as a National Marine Sanctuary, however new measures are needed to restore declining fisheries and preserve habitat.

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Thank you for your attention to this pressing matter.



proven successful in other parts of the world at helping damaged ecosystems to recover. Other activities that are compatible with protecting habitat - like recreational diving, pleasure boating and scientific research - can continue. Currently, only 0.2% of California's coastal waters are within fully protected marine ecological reserves. By leaving a portion of the ocean undisturbed, marine reserves can restore biological diversity and prevent the extinction of individual species within the ecosystem. These protected areas can also provide tangible, long-term benefits to commercial and recreational fishermen. Reserves that maintain intact habitat where fish can feed, grow and spawn effectively help to increase fish populations elsewhere. The larger, older fish, more typically found in marine reserves, produce more young and provide the best opportunity for achieving successful species recovery.

[Visit Environmental Defense on the web](#) for more information about efforts to strengthen protections for the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary.

Campaign Expiration Date:
February 28, 2003

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NOV 07 2003

PM 11

Jennifer L. Ferrick
5011 Kinter Hill Road
Edinboro, PA 16412
October 31, 2003

Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200
Portland, OR 97220

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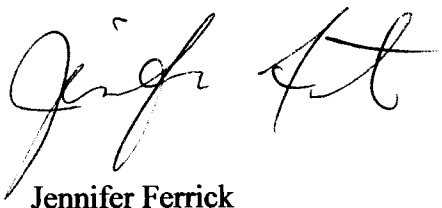
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Jennifer Ferrick