

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
GUIDELINES FOR REVIEW OF MARINE RESERVES ISSUES

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) discussed the latest draft of its white paper (i.e., “Marine Reserves: Objectives, Rationales, Management Implications and Regulatory Requirements” [Exhibit G.2.b, Attachment 1, June 2004]). The latest draft includes a significant number of revisions that were made in response to comments received at the March Council meeting in Tacoma, Washington. Moreover, significant public comment on the white paper was also received for this meeting (Exhibit G.2.d, Public Comment, June 2004), and it is evident the document has generated considerable interest. The goals of the SSC’s white paper,^{1/} which pertains to marine reserve proposals that come before the Council, are to, (1) describe the rationale underlying a number of commonly cited objectives of marine reserves, (2) discuss the implications of marine reserves to fishery management, and (3) describe SSC expectations regarding the technical content of proposals considered by the Council, whether internally or externally generated.

It is important to note that much of the Public Comment (Exhibit G.2.d) was developed in response to the SSC’s February draft white paper, and the current June 2004 version has addressed several of those concerns. Even so, in the time available the SSC was unable to provide a thorough evaluation of the complete record of Public Comment, some of which was technical in nature. Given the importance of the white paper to the Council and the public, and the desire of the SSC to carefully consider all points of view before finalizing the document, the SSC decided to undertake another revision to the document over the summer. To facilitate that revision, the SSC requests that all public comment on the June 2004 version of the white paper be submitted to the Council by June 30th. The next revision should be available in the briefing materials for the September meeting, at which time the SSC expects to forward the white paper to the Council for adoption.

PFMC
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1/ To clarify the purpose and intent of the white paper, the SSC has decided to change the title to “Marine Reserves: Objective, Rationales, Fishery Management Implications, and Regulatory Requirements.”