

UPDATE ON MISCELLANEOUS MARINE PROTECTED AREA ACTIVITIES

Situation: This update on ongoing marine protected area (MPA) activities includes information about:

1. Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries (NMS) Joint Management Plan Review.
2. NOAA MPA Science Institute – Integrating MPAs and Fishery Management Science Working Group.
3. National Fisheries Conservation Center (NFCC) Marine Reserves Science Conference.
4. Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary.

Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank NMS

Since 2001, the NMS Program has been conducting a joint review of the management plans of Cordell Bank, Gulf of the Farallones, and Monterey Bay NMS. These sanctuaries are located adjacent to one another, managed by the same program, and share many of the same resources and issues. In addition, all three sites share overlapping interest and user groups. During the review, sanctuaries evaluated management and operational strategies, regulations, and boundaries. The review process also provides an opportunity to better coordinate programs between the three sanctuaries.

At the June 2004 Council meeting, Sanctuary staff representing Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank NMS will provide an overview of joint management plan review activities and several issues related to fishing within the Sanctuaries (Exhibit G.3.b). At this time, the Sanctuaries are not seeking Council action. Rather the information is provided to keep the Council abreast of current activities and future actions that may require coordination with the Council. Council staff is working with these central California coast Sanctuaries.

NOAA MPA Science Institute – Integrating MPAs and Fishery Management Science Working Group

As reported previously to the Council, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), through the MPA Science Institute, is coordinating a working group to synthesize a rational and comprehensive approach for integration of MPAs with traditional fishery management through review of important concepts within marine population dynamics and management and the development of novel approaches to predicting and evaluating performance in MPAs. The products of the NOAA-led effort will include a workshop proceedings to serve as a blueprint for integrating MPAs with existing fishery science and ecosystem management programs, and a series of published papers on specific technical topics addressed by the working group.

A suite of prioritized topics for the working group has been identified. This information will be presented to the Council at the June 2004 meeting (Exhibit G.3.c). The Council could be requested to provide input to tailor the issues such that information produced by the working group would be

useful to the Council. For example, the SSC could be tasked with reviewing and commenting on the topic areas.

NFCC Marine Reserves Consensus Conference

This conference was held June 7-9, 2004 in Long Beach, California. Conference goals included:

- Identifying and prioritizing key marine reserve scientific issues.
- Determining the present degree of uncertainty and related constraints on decision making.
- Reaching agreement on the scientific studies needed to resolve these uncertainties.

Conference organizers intend to produce a set of carefully crafted answers to specific questions that were developed prior to the conference by a broadly representative planning committee. As more information becomes available it will be provided to the Council.

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS)

Recently the Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) of the OCNMS has discussed the issue of marine reserves with the boundaries of OCNMS. There is a letter from the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission in the briefing book (Exhibit G.3.e, Public Comment). Council staff participated in a OCNMS SAC meeting in Olympia, Washington on May 28, 2004, and will continue to track OCNMS activities as they pertain to marine reserves.

Council Task:

1. Council Discussion.

Reference Materials:

1. Exhibit G.3.b, Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Report.
2. Exhibit G.3.c, MPA Science Institute Report.
3. Exhibit G.3.e, Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| a. Agendum Overview | Dan Waldeck |
| b. Gulf of Farallones and Cordell Bank
National Marine Sanctuaries Staff Reports | Sanctuary Staff |
| c. Marine Protected Areas Science Institute Update | Lisa Wooninck |
| d. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies | |
| e. Public Comment | |
| f. Council Discussion | |

PFMC
05/28/04