

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

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) reviewed and discussed the September 2004 revision to the draft white paper *Marine Reserves: Objectives, Rationales, Fishery Management Implications and Regulatory Requirements*, prepared by the SSC Marine Reserves Subcommittee. The current version has been modified to address concerns and comments from advisory bodies and the public. Changes include:

- clarification of the difference between state and federal regulatory requirements and the scope of Council responsibility,
- elimination of the appearance of a dual standard in both science and regulatory requirements,
- expanded discussion of social objectives,
- clarification of the ecosystem objective to include habitat protection,
- inclusion of reference sites as a valid category of research reserves,
- inclusion of Appendix A, examples from the Council's Environmental Impact Statement for the 2003 groundfish specifications that illustrate appropriate approaches to conducting regulatory analysis, and
- a more balanced literature review.

The process for Council consideration of marine reserves is evolving as needs arise. The white paper would most appropriately be adopted as Terms of Reference to guide the Council and SSC in evaluating marine reserve issues.

The SSC endorses the current version, with minor edits, and recommends that the Council adopt the current draft document. The white paper should be considered a living document that may be modified over time as additional issues become apparent to the SSC in the course of reviewing marine reserve proposals, or as significant new research becomes available on marine reserves.

PFMC
09/15/04