

UPDATE ON MISCELLANEOUS MARINE PROTECTED AREAS ACTIVITIES

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

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

NFCC Marine Reserves Consensus Conference

As described at previous Council meetings, NFCC organized a Consensus Conference to:

- Identify and prioritize key marine reserve scientific issues.
- Determine the present degree of uncertainty and related constraints on decision making.
- Reach agreement on the scientific studies needed to resolve these uncertainties.

This conference was held June 7-9, 2004 in Long Beach, California. A Consensus Statement from the Conference has been published. The abstract from this document is provided in the Briefing Book (Agendum E.2.a, Attachment 1). The complete document and more information about the Consensus Conference are available at the NFCC website – <http://nfcc-fisheries.org/index.php>.

Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank NMS

At the June 2004 Council meeting, Sanctuary staff representing Gulf of the Farallones NMS (GFNMS) and Cordell Bank NMS (CBNMS) provided an overview of joint management plan review activities and several issues related to fishing within the Sanctuaries. GFNMS described potential proposed actions to address protection of submerged lands and impacts to seabirds from squid fishing lights. CBNMS described potential measures to address protection of benthic invertebrates and algae and to prevent disturbance of submerged lands.

Sanctuary staff will update the Council on their management plan review activities.

Two reports about seabirds and the effects of lights, which at the request of the Council were provided by GFNMS staff, are included in the briefing book (Agendum E.2.b, GFNMS – Information on Seabirds and Effects of Lights).

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

At the June 2004 meeting, the Council was briefed on the NOAA MPA Science Institute's coordination of a working group to synthesize an approach for integration of MPAs with traditional fishery management. Further planning for the working group is ongoing. The working group has been established and is tentatively scheduled to meet during fall 2004. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

Council Task:

Council Discussion.

Reference Materials:

1. Agendum E.2.a, Attachment 1: NFCC Consensus Statement Abstract.
2. Agendum E.2.b, GFNMS – Information on Seabirds and Effects of Lights.
3. Agendum E.2.d, Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| a. Agendum Overview | Dan Waldeck |
| b. Gulf of Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Staff Reports | Sanctuary Staffs |
| c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies | |
| d. Public Comment | |
| e. Council Discussion | |

PFMC
08/26/04