

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL STATEMENT ON  
UPDATE ON MISCELLANEOUS MARINE PROTECTED AREAS ACTIVITIES

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received an update on marine protected area activities in California from Ms. Ann Walton. The GAP appreciates Ms. Walton taking the time to provide us with information.

The GAP is concerned the Cordell Banks National Marine Sanctuary (Sanctuary) is proposing a change in its designation document that would prohibit the use of certain fishing gear within the Sanctuary when that change is unnecessary. There is no evidence that fishing gear is harming Sanctuary resources, and in fact, some of the gear that would be prohibited is not currently used in the Sanctuary.

The GAP believes that this is yet another example of an attempt by the National Ocean Service and the Sanctuary program to regulate fishing, when such regulation is clearly under the authority of the Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The GAP urges the Council and NMFS to make that position clear in contacts with the Sanctuary.

PFMC  
09/15/04