

AD HOC CHANNEL ISLANDS MARINE RESERVES COMMITTEE REPORT ON
CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
PRELIMINARY WORKING DRAFT DOCUMENT¹
AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A
NEW MARINE PROTECTED AREA AD HOC COMMITTEE

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

The Ad Hoc Channel Islands Marine Reserves Committee (CIMRC) met October 5-6, 2004 to consider information related to proposed marine reserves and marine conservation areas within federal waters of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS), and receive reports from Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) advisory subpanels, Habitat Committee, and Science and Statistical Committee. Based on information provided by CINMS, guidance from Council advisors, and public comment, the CIMRC recommends the Council:

1. Recommend the current revised timeline developed by CINMS² be changed to show the Pacific Council considering a preliminary Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), prior to the DEIS release to the public, to afford the Council an opportunity to select a preferred alternative and to prepare regulations for implementation.
2. Recommend CINMS address in the DEIS the recommendations of the Council advisory bodies about additional analyses and clarifications.³
3. Request the Status Quo (No Action) alternative in the CINMS DEIS be updated to reflect fishing regulations (notably, groundfish fishery regulations) expected to be in place for 2005 and 2006.
4. Recommend the CINMS DEIS include clear language as to changes to the CINMS Designation Document associated with each proposed alternative.
5. Recommend the CINMS DEIS analyze the range of alternatives presented to the CIMRC (status quo, alternatives 1-3, and Miller/Hoeflinger alternative – see footnote 2). In addition, recommend:

(a) Revising the numbering for alternatives 1-3, such that alternatives 1-3 become

1/ *Staff Preliminary Working Draft Document for Consideration of a Network of Marine Reserves and Marine Conservation Areas within the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary*

2/ See Agenda Item H.1.a, CINMS Staff Update.

3/ See Agenda Item H.1.a, Council Advisory Body Reports.

alternatives 1.a, 1.b, and 1.c and adding new alternatives 2.a, 2.b, and 2.c. Each alternative 2 variation would use the same areas as depicted for each alternative 1, but the areas would be managed as marine conservation areas rather than no-take marine reserves. The marine conservation areas would allow commercial and recreational fishing with surface tending gear used to catch pelagic or highly migratory species (using the federal definitions for pelagic and highly migratory species).

(b) Adding a new alternative that analyzes how current (and future) state and federal management authorities could be used to accomplish the goals and objectives described in the DEIS Purpose and Needs section.

6. Recommend the CINMS DEIS include information about potential fishery benefits and/or impacts that could result from the proposed alternatives.
7. Recommend that all three options for “implementing alternatives in state waters” (see Agenda Item H.1.a, CINMS Staff Update) be included in the DEIS.

Ad Hoc Marine Protected Areas Committee

As directed by the Council, the CIMRC also considered the structure of a committee for addressing policy and procedural aspects of marine protected area (MPA) proposals that require Council action. The CIMRC (both voting members and advisors) finds the current composition and structure of the CIMRC essentially sufficient for this task. Thus, the CIMRC recommends:

- (a) the Council modify the name of the Ad Hoc CIMRC to Ad Hoc Marine Protected Areas Committee,
- (b) include the Enforcement Consultants as a non-voting, advisory seat; and
- (c) refer to each advisory body seat as the respective committee chair, with the exception that the respective committee chairs would designate members knowledgeable about the specific MPA issues being addressed by the Ad Hoc MPA Committee.

The CIMRC also recommends that the purpose, function, and structure of the Ad Hoc MPA Committee be documented in a committee charter. Moreover, to clarify the function, purpose, and structure of Council ad hoc committees, the CIMRC suggests the Council consider including a requirement in the Council Operating Procedures that similar charters be developed for each Ad Hoc Committee.