

RANGER 85 SPORTFISHING Inc.
4151 South Victoria Avenue
Oxnard, CA 93035

RECEIVED

OCT 22 2004

Pacific Fisheries Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

PFMC
October 19, 2004

Don Hansen, Chairman

Chairman Hansen and members of the commission,

I am writing in opposition to the proposed expansion of the Marine Reserves that are established within the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary.

When this network of reserves was established, the process was seriously flawed. Many of us still question the entire process.

We all know the science panel's recommendation to protect 35 to 50 percent of the state waters surrounding the Channel Islands was derived by estimates of what percentage of fish spawning biomass needed to be protected in order to ensure sustainable yields... assuming no effective fisheries management outside reserve boundaries.

This flew in the face of severe fisheries management restrictions that were already in place including massive rockfish closures.

In the Channel Islands, the recreational and commercial fishing stakeholder groups were asked to accept significant losses of near-term income in order to implement the reserves. There was an implied compact in much of the information put forward to support implementation, i.e., that setting aside areas now would lead to "more fish in the future." While there were several mechanisms suggested for how this might occur (larval export, spillover of adult fish), neither the functioning of these mechanisms nor the degree to which they in fact would improve stocks have been documented in the Channel Islands or fully validated in the broader scientific literature. In hindsight, those in conservation organizations have stated that the potential fishery benefits of the reserves WERE PROBABLY OVERSOLD."

This information came from a report published by the National Fisheries Conservation Center (NFCC) on the Channel Islands process.

I, as well as others, demand accountability before we move forward to expand these reserves.

Where is an effective monitoring program?

How are we able to quantify the benefits of our efforts thus far?

Given what we don't know, to what benefit is expansion?

How much more does this council expect us to endure?

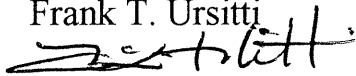
Show the stakeholders, as well as all the user groups of this resource, the benefits derived from the creation of this network of reserves...

Show us hard evidence of its benefits and apply it to a model that will clearly show us the benefit for its expansion.

We are tired of smoke and mirrors.

Show us the true reasons and benefits for expanding the reserves into Federal waters...

Frank T. Ursitti



Ranger 85 Sportfishing Inc.

Coral Sea Sportfishing

Mirage SportFishing

105 East Port Hueneme Road
Dock 1
Port of Hueneme, CA 93044

RECEIVED

OCT 22 2004

October 20, 2004

PFMC

Dear Chairman Hansen and the rest of the members of the council,

I am writing because I have concern about extending the no take zones in the Channel Island Marine Sanctuary.

I own a sportfishing boat and landing in Port Hueneme California. To extend these closures would economically impact me and a lot of other user groups. Such as slope fisherman, shrimp traps, drift nets, squid and many others. Frankly this move would be over kill and could be the straw that broke the fisherman's back. We have almost been put out of business by closures such as the Cow Cod Conservation Area, the Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary closures, Rockfish conservation areas and we are now looking down the throat of the MLPA's. We have endured enough fisheries restrictions such as season closers, gear restrictions, size limits and bag limits.

To be honest with you I feel steam rolled by this process and the PFMC. I have been affected by the so called ground fish crisis immensely. A crisis based on opinion and so called "best available science" instead of good science and facts. And we have nearly been regulated out of business by precaution on top of precaution many times over. Truthfully I am trying not to lose faith in this process and this council and it is becoming very hard. The people that are pushing this would close things down altogether no take period if they had their way they are extremist and this is being taken to an extreme. I would like to say that I support a No Action Alternative and I ask the council to please consider my thoughts when it comes to boundary extensions of the no take zones in the Channel Island Marine Sanctuary.

Sincerely,



Capt. Joe Villareal

OUTER BANKS

253 Highland Drive
Channel Islands Beach
California 93035
Tim Athens, Owner

Commercial Fisheries
(805) 984-5338
Fax: (805) 985-JAWS
email: NeptuneOBS@aol.com

Don Hansen
Chairman, Pacific Fisheries Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200
Portland, Oregon 9722-1384

21 October 2004

RECEIVED

OCT 26 2004

RE: Proposed expansion of MPA's in the Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary

Chairman Hansen and Council members,

PFMC

I have been a full time commercial fisherman based out of Channel Islands Harbor, CA since 1977. I am a Federal fixed gear 'A' permittee and was issued this permit because of my historical participation in ground fisheries. The implications of further boundary expansion will be more than a small business such as mine can absorb, and it is necessary to provide some commentary concerning this issue.

With all due respect, I am in complete opposition to any expansion of the MPA's in question. I urge the Council to choose the 'no action' or 'status quo' option.

In the past 4 years I have had to contend with the Cow Cod Conservation Area, the ever changing Rockfish Conservation Areas, the Channel Islands MPA's, steadily shrinking trip limits, gear restrictions, VMS at my expense, inadequate stock assessments, babysitting observers at my expense, getting psyched up for the coming Essential Fish Habitat closures and now expanded boundaries for the existing Reserves. With all of the aforementioned, it begs these questions.....When do we have enough 'precaution' in place? When do we see accountability for the present Marine Protected Areas? Where is the monitoring program? Where is the adequate enforcement? How are we quantifying the benefits of the existing reserves so as to justify further expansion?

Please, consider these questions carefully if we are going to, and you wish to have, any viable ground fishing opportunities. With the focus on the upcoming Presidential elections, and all the commentaries on lost jobs (and outsourcing of employment) in America, I implore you to consider a professionals' knowledge and allow me what is available to continue in my industry as a commercial fisherman. MAINTAIN the 'status quo.' If you need any further information, or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Tim Athens

cc: Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger

Superior Quality by Hook and Line

Seabiscuit sportfishing

4151 south victoria ave
oxnard, CA. 93035

RECEIVED

OCT 26 2004

Dear Don Hansen and members of the council

PFMC

I am writing this letter opposing the expansion of marine reserves that are within the boundaries of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary.

When these reserves were created, the scientific process was seriously flawed. The entire process is still in question by many of the user groups.

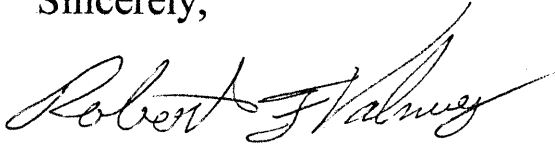
As a commercial passenger fishing vessel owner and operator I have watched and endured season closures, no take zones, excessive bag limit cutbacks and are now seeing the severe threat of MLPA's.

To extend the Marine Reserves or No Take zones would be Devastating. We have suffered severe financial loss due to these regulations that have already been put in place. This could be THE STRAW THAT BROKE THE FISHERMANS BACK.

As a CPFV owner and operator I would like to request that a NO ACTION decision be taken on the expansion of no take zones within the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary.

To all members of the council thank you for your time on this matter.

Sincerely,



Robert valney

Owner / operator F/V SEABISCUIT

