

HABITAT COMMITTEE REPORT ON  
CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

The Habitat Committee (HC) supports the goals of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS) and supports the continued analysis of these marine reserves, marine parks, and/or marine conservation areas in the federal waters of CINMS.

The mechanism with which this occurs is not within the purview of the HC, but we support whichever option is the most expeditious in providing protection for all CINMS resources.

It is unclear whether fishing regulations to accomplish specific resource protections within sanctuaries are best drafted under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA) or under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA). This question should be analyzed within the CINMS Draft Environmental Impact Statement process. If the Council chooses to address this issue through MSA processes, the Council should provide the CINMS with information showing how the MSA can be effectively used to achieve CINMS goals and the associated timeline.

Many HC members supported Option 4 as appearing to best meet these protection needs, however that support was not unanimous among members.

The HC is aware of the concern of the fishing community and others regarding sanctuary-promulgated fishing regulations. It is important to emphasize that the NMSA requires that the Council will always be offered the first opportunity to draft protective regulations under the NMSA.

PFMC  
04/07/05