

MOTION FOR
CORDELL BANK, GULF OF FARALLONES, AND MONTEREY BAY
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES

Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary

Request/direct PFMC staff to prepare a letter to the Director of NOAA National Marine Sanctuary Program that states that the PFMC does not at this time support the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary's proposed Designation Document Revision to allow for the Promulgation of Fishery Regulations that would restrict fishing activities within a 50-fathom isobaths surrounding the Cordell Bank to vertical hook and line gear under the Sanctuary Act. This letter should state that it is the PFMC's position that such protection is already in place due to the existence of the PFMC's established Rockfish Conservation Area and that the long-term achievement of the Sanctuary's goals and objectives can best be achieved through provisions of the Council's Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat initiative. The prepared letter should then outline the specific measures of the Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat initiative that would provide for the long-term protection of the Cordell Bank's benthic habitat and pinnacles and outline the timeline for the implementation of the Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat initiative.

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Request/direct PFMC staff to prepare a letter to the Director of NOAA National Marine Sanctuary Program that states that the PFMC supports the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's proposal to include the Davidson Seamount within the boundaries of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, but does not at this time support the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's proposed Designation Document Revision to allow for the Promulgation of Fishery Regulations necessary to prohibit fishing at depth greater than 3,000 feet, 200 feet, or 100 feet below the sea surface around the Davidson Seamount. The letter should state that it is the PFMC's understanding that the inclusion of the Davidson Seamount within the Sanctuary's boundaries would provide for habitat protection at the Davidson Seamount from research exploration and extraction, as well as oil and gas exploration and development under the existing authority of the Sanctuary Act, but that the promulgation of fishing regulations under the Sanctuary Act is unnecessary at this time since such fishing activity is currently not occurring and is not anticipated to occur in the foreseeable future. The staff letter should further state that the Sanctuary's goals and objectives can best be achieved through provisions of the Council's Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat initiative. The prepared letter should then outline the specific measures of the Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat initiative that would provide for the long-term protection of the Davidson Seamount's benthic habitat and corals and outline the timeline for the implementation of the Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat initiative.