

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

The Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary (CBNMS), the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (GFNMS), and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) are currently under a joint review of their respective management plans. As part of the process, all three National Marine Sanctuaries (NMSs) are coordinating with the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) as they develop revisions to their management plans and regulations to further protect benthic invertebrates and submerged lands within the NMSs. All three sanctuaries have asked the Council to consider changes to the respective NMSs Designation Documents while the CBNMS and MBNMS are requesting the Council also consider submission of proposed fishing regulations. Letters from the NMSs requesting Council recommendations and an alternatives analysis of proposed management actions were provided to the Council at the November 2004 meeting. These materials were also included in the Briefing Book for March 2005 Council meeting which is posted on the Council's web site. This agenda item focuses on matter highlighted at the March Council meeting.

The current CBNMS Designation Document exempts "normal fishing operations" from regulatory restrictions to protect benthic habitat and invertebrates within the 50-fathom isobaths surrounding Cordell Bank. CBNMS is proposing to change this exception such that it would only apply to "vertical hook and line" gear.

MBNMS is proposing to include Davidson Seamount within the boundaries of the Sanctuary and has proposed draft fishing regulations deemed necessary to protect benthic habitat at Davidson Seamount. Alternative regulations proposed by the MBNMS would prohibit fishing at depth greater than 3,000 feet, 200 feet, or 100 feet below the sea surface within the proposed area around the Davidson Seamount. Another action alternative would prohibit the take of all sanctuary resources from submerged lands within the Davidson Seamount area.

The GFNMS is not proposing fishing regulations but is requesting Council comment on Designation Document changes proposed by the sanctuary. The proposed changes include modification of the description of the area, restrictions on the discharge of harmful materials, language on introduced species, and regulations on attracting or approaching white sharks.

The NMSs materials described above were reviewed by the Council and its Advisory Bodies at the March 2005 Council meeting. At that time, the Council discussed a range of potential Council responses to the Designation Document changes and proposed fishing regulations. The Council directed staff to summarize this range for review and comment at the April meeting (Agenda Item G.2.a, Attachment 1).

The time period for Council recommendations on the NMS Designation Documents and draft NMSs fishing regulations was extended to April 22, 2005. Council recommendations on Designation Document changes and draft CBNMS and MBNMS fishing regulations are scheduled for final adoption at the April meeting.

Council Action:

1. Final Recommendations on Proposed Designation Document Changes and Fishery Regulations for each NMS

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item G.2.a, Attachment 1: Summary of Possible Options for Council Recommendations on Designation Document Changes and Proposed Fishing Regulations.
2. Agenda Item G.2.d, Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Report of the Sanctuary Staffs
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. **Council Action:** Final Recommendations on Proposed Designation Document Changes and NMS Fishery Regulations for each NMS

Mike Burner

PFMC
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