

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL STATEMENT ON
CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY (CINMS)

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) heard a presentation from Sean Hastings of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS) on expansion of marine protected areas (MPAs) from state waters into Federal waters. The GAP does not support a proposal to change the designation document to allow the Sanctuary to regulate fishing in the Sanctuary.

The GAP has commented before and strongly recommends that the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) continue to be the law that regulates fishing activity because the Sanctuary does not have the resources or public process with scientific review to make adequate decisions involving fishing activities. We recommend the Council continue to use Amendment 19 (essential fish habitat) procedures as needed to create MPAs.

The Sanctuary was not intended to regulate fishing and fishing was not listed as an activity subject to CINMS regulation in the beginning. If fishing had been included among the activities to be regulated by the CINMS from the start, creation of the CINMS would never have been supported by these communities. The GAP strongly supports the original intent.

The CINMS role of conservation is intended to be met by education, research, and improving water quality. If you hear that the CINMS Sanctuary Advisory Council supports a change, be aware that these members are appointed by the CINMS managers.

We urge the Council to let the CINMS know that their goals cannot be accomplished fairly through their process and the GAP urges the Council clarify that the MSA is the authority to manage fishing.

PFMC
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