

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) met October 6, 2005 in La Jolla, California and discussed the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS) 304(a)(5) request to the Council to draft fishing regulations to be implemented under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act for marine reserves in federal waters of the CINMS.

Reiterating previous CPSAS statements to the Council, the CPSAS is gravely concerned about extending CINMS authority to include management of fisheries for several reasons, including the precedent set by such action, as well as duplication of existing authorities and costs.

The CPSAS believes fishery management should continue to be implemented by the Pacific Fishery Management Council, and where appropriate, the state. Existing provisions under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) and regulatory mechanisms are in place to accomplish CINMS goals to protect ecosystems without the need to add duplicative authorities.

For example, the CPSAS acknowledged and supports the Council's June 2005 action to protect essential fish habitat and believes this action meets the goals and objectives of the CINMS and can be achieved under the authority of MSA. The CPSAS understands that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is working on a determination as to whether the goals and objectives of National Marine Sanctuaries can be achieved under MSA and state authority. The CPSAS found it difficult to fully deliberate this matter without the results of this analysis.

The CPSAS believes that fishery management is best accomplished through the MSA and the Council forum with its broad scientific and fishery expertise and public process.

By unanimous vote, the CPSAS recommends the Council respond to the CINMS that no fishing regulations should be promulgated under the NMSA.

PFMC
10/18/05