

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

The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) met via teleconference on September 6, 2006 and discussed options to regulate fisheries in the water column of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS) above sites designated by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) as groundfish essential fish habitat and habitat areas of particular concern (HAPC). Four of the ten CPSAS members attended the call and time for full CPSAS review of this statement was limited.

CPSAS members present voiced continuing concern and opposition to the Sanctuary proposal to change its designation document to regulate fisheries within the CINMS due to the duplication of costs, the patchwork of overlapping federal regulatory authorities, the lack of full and transparent public process and lack of a requirement for best available peer-reviewed science under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, as well as the precedent set by such action.

The CPSAS reviewed Agenda Item F.1.a Attachment 1, and agreed that fishery management in the CINMS federal water marine protected area (MPA) sites (i.e. water column areas above HAPC zones) is most efficiently accomplished under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), employing the legal authority under MSA to incorporate relevant state regulations. Both state and federal fishery management entities utilize ecosystem principles and are consonant with the goals of the CINMS, including biodiversity. Further, MPAs in federal waters of CINMS provide reference sites and research opportunities valuable to enhance understanding of natural vs. human effects on fishery resources. As one example, the CPSAS discussed hydroacoustic research on market squid proposed for the Channel Islands MPAs. The CPSAS has not reviewed this research proposal but is supportive of research with the potential to expand knowledge of the market squid resource.

The CPSAS encourages the Council to give high priority to pursuing fishery regulations in CINMS federal-water MPAs through the MSA and Council forum, with its broad scientific and fishery expertise and extensive public process.

PFMC
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