

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
REVIEW OF CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY DRAFT
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT REGARDING FISHERY CLOSURES

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) reviewed the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS) draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and question the socioeconomic analysis as well as the analysis of effort shift from the closed areas to the remaining open areas. The GAP remains strongly opposed to a change in the CINMS designation document that would transfer authority over fishing regulations from the Council.

The GAP also notes Section 922.73 of the proposed rule (Agenda Item F.2.a, Attachment 2), which pre-empts future regulatory action by the Council beyond the effective date of the final rule, removes any flexibility for adaptive change in designated areas. The GAP urges the Council to pursue clarification of this section and further encourages the Council to continue to pursue clarifying language in both the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and National Marine Sanctuaries Act to ensure that Regional Fishery Management Councils and National Marine Fisheries Service are the sole authority for fishery management in Sanctuary waters.

The GAP asks the Council to request a sunset date for the purposes of adaptive management to improve the function of the reserves as fishery management tools.

PFMC
09/12/06