

SALMON ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON MARINE PROTECTED AREA “NEED CRITERIA” FOR THE MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

The Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) offers the following concerns and recommendations for Council consideration:

Concern 1: The recent final decision by the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) preempts the process that is outlined in the Magnuson-Stevens and Sanctuary Acts.

Recommendation 1: The MBNMS needs to evaluate the need for action in cooperation with the Council process before outlining any action. It should be noted that in a similar situation with agricultural runoff into MBNMS waters, the sanctuary approach was one based on education, not regulation.

Concern 2: The MBNMS appears to be preconceiving the need for Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) without any understanding of existing Council management actions

Recommendation 2: The MBNMS should commit to working within the Council process to ensure their concerns are addressed so there is not just another unnecessary layer of protection put on top of existing regulation.

Concern 3: Redundancies created by MBNMS by generating reserves in already closed areas.

Recommendation 3: MBNMS should work within the Council process, recognize the science based application and evaluation the Council process gives in the regulatory process.

Concern 4: MBNMS imposing further salmon fishing restrictions.

Recommendation 4: The MBNMS needs to be engaged in the ongoing Council process so as to understand how fisheries are regulated and protections are addressed. With benthic habitats being of concern, preventing fisheries with no bottom contact has no beneficial impact.

Concern 5: Lack of foundation by MBNMS relative to socioeconomic impacts and current profile of fishing communities.

Recommendation 5: The MBNMS needs to conduct a socioeconomic study into the fishing communities in and adjacent to the sanctuary.

Concern 6: The MBNMS was founded on the premise of not getting involved in managing fisheries, yet with their interest in MPAs the focus is only on regulating fisheries.

Recommendation 6: The MBNMS needs to own up to their promise as defined in the designation document and start taking on the role of a non-biased facilitator for issues instead of taking the role of an advocate.