



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
299 Foam Street
Monterey, California 93940

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PFMC

Dear Dr. McIsaac, *Don*

I want to thank you again for the opportunity to present the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) MPA decision to the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) at their April meeting in Seattle. I thought the questions and comments from PFMC members were thoughtful and valuable. As I mentioned in my remarks, we have been working hard on a decision rationale document to augment the February decision to consider MPAs in federal waters of the Sanctuary. The enclosed letter clarifies the authority and scientific justification behind moving forward with MPA planning in federal waters of the Sanctuary. This document has been through intensive review by MBNMS, the Office of National Marine Sanctuary (ONMS), and NOAA Fisheries Southwest Region and Science Center. This letter was presented to our Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) on April 15. We have included the letter here for review by the PFMC. The Science and Statistical and Habitat Committees of the PFMC, in particular, indicated an interest in reviewing the supporting rationale document.

We are looking forward to the PFMC's review of the April 15 letter at your June meeting in Foster City. In addition, as I mentioned at the PFMC meeting in April, we are looking to establish the guiding process and timeline for MPA planning (realizing it will be an iterative/dynamic process) at the June 20 MBNMS SAC meeting. I am attaching the latest draft process and timeline ideas so the PFMC can see how we have incorporated the concepts provided us at the PFMC April meeting. We would welcome additional input on the process from the PFMC at the June PFMC meeting as well.

I hope my presentation in Seattle was viewed as a positive sign towards a collaborative partnership. Lisa Wooninck has been working with PFMC staff on coordination of these issues and others of mutual interest to the PFMC and the MBNMS.

Please call me if you have any questions. Sincerely,

Paul Michel
Superintendent MBNMS