



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

AUG 21 2000

Mr. Donald O. McIsaac
Executive Director
Pacific Fishery Management Council
2130 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 224
Portland, Oregon 97201

RECEIVED

AUG 23 2000

PFMC

Dear Mr. McIsaac:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the recommendations of the Ad-Hoc Marine Reserve Committee. The comments contained in this letter reflect the collective view of the National Marine Sanctuaries located on the Pacific Coast (please see enclosed map).

We agree with all the recommendations made by the Committee as summarized in the reviewer letter dated August 7, 2000, and strongly urge the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) to initiate Phase II to consider options for the design and location of marine reserves. We believe that marine reserves will help address both the long-term decline of the groundfish fishery that continues under existing traditional fishery management methods, and the concerns about the limited knowledge we currently have of the impacts of fishing gear on benthic habitats and communities (e.g., by serving as control or reference sites). In order to best address these concerns, reserves must be sited through a science-based process. We also urge PFMC to consider marine reserves in conjunction with other fishery management tools, such as capacity reduction, allocation issues, and harvest policies.

We also strongly endorse the use of the precautionary principle. As section 4.2.5 of the technical analysis concludes, "...while there is substantial uncertainty about the effects of marine reserves it is arguable there is similar or even greater



uncertainty about the effects of conventional harvest management for assessed stocks, not to mention the numerous stocks for which there are no stock assessments." Application of the precautionary principle now may prevent the need for more stringent and costly groundfish conservation efforts through the Endangered Species Act, or similar species conservation statutes.

We heartily advocate the Council working with other jurisdictions in order to identify and designate the most effective marine reserves. As noted in Attachment I, the Council's authority may be limited to those species for which Fishery Management Plans have been developed. Working with partners such as National Marine Sanctuaries would provide the Council the opportunity to participate in processes that could address a broader array of species and activities and provide stronger, more effective protection. Sanctuaries not only share a similar, though broader, mandate with the PFMC, but could provide assistance with information gathering, reserve siting, education, research, monitoring, and enforcement. Some Sanctuaries, including the Channel Islands and Olympic Coast, are already actively considering marine reserves. The Channel Islands Sanctuary, for example, has created several working groups under their Sanctuary Advisory Council that have been meeting for about eighteen months to determine if and where marine reserves should be located in the Sanctuary. Similarly, the Olympic Coast Sanctuary has established a Marine Conservation Working Group of their Sanctuary Advisory Council that has been meeting for six months to evaluate the need for and provide recommendations on potential siting alternatives for marine reserves in the intertidal zone of the Sanctuary. We expect that as other sites move into their management plan reviews, they too may consider marine reserves to help protect sanctuary resources. We would be pleased to consider PFMC as a partner in these efforts. We would also welcome the opportunity to have more involvement in the PFMC's marine reserve process, either through membership on the Ad Hoc Marine Reserve Committee and/or other means, such as providing expert knowledge, transferring data, or providing technical tools and products.

In light of the President's Executive Order on marine protected areas (MPAs), we believe that it is the optimal time for PFMC to

initiate Phase II. This Executive Order instructs the Department of Commerce to consider the following, among other things, in expanding the protection provided by existing MPAs and establishing new MPAs: "integrated assessments of ecological linkages among MPAs, including ecological reserves in which consumptive uses of resources are prohibited, to provide synergistic benefits" and "a biological assessment of the minimum area where consumptive uses would be prohibited that is necessary to preserve representative habitats in different geographic areas of the marine environment."

Finally, should the Council decide to proceed to Phase II, we recommend that the Council work closely with tribal governments to address treaty rights issues when locating marine reserves.

Once again, we appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on this proposal. Please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the Pacific Coast Sanctuary Managers if we can provide assistance with this endeavor.

Sincerely,

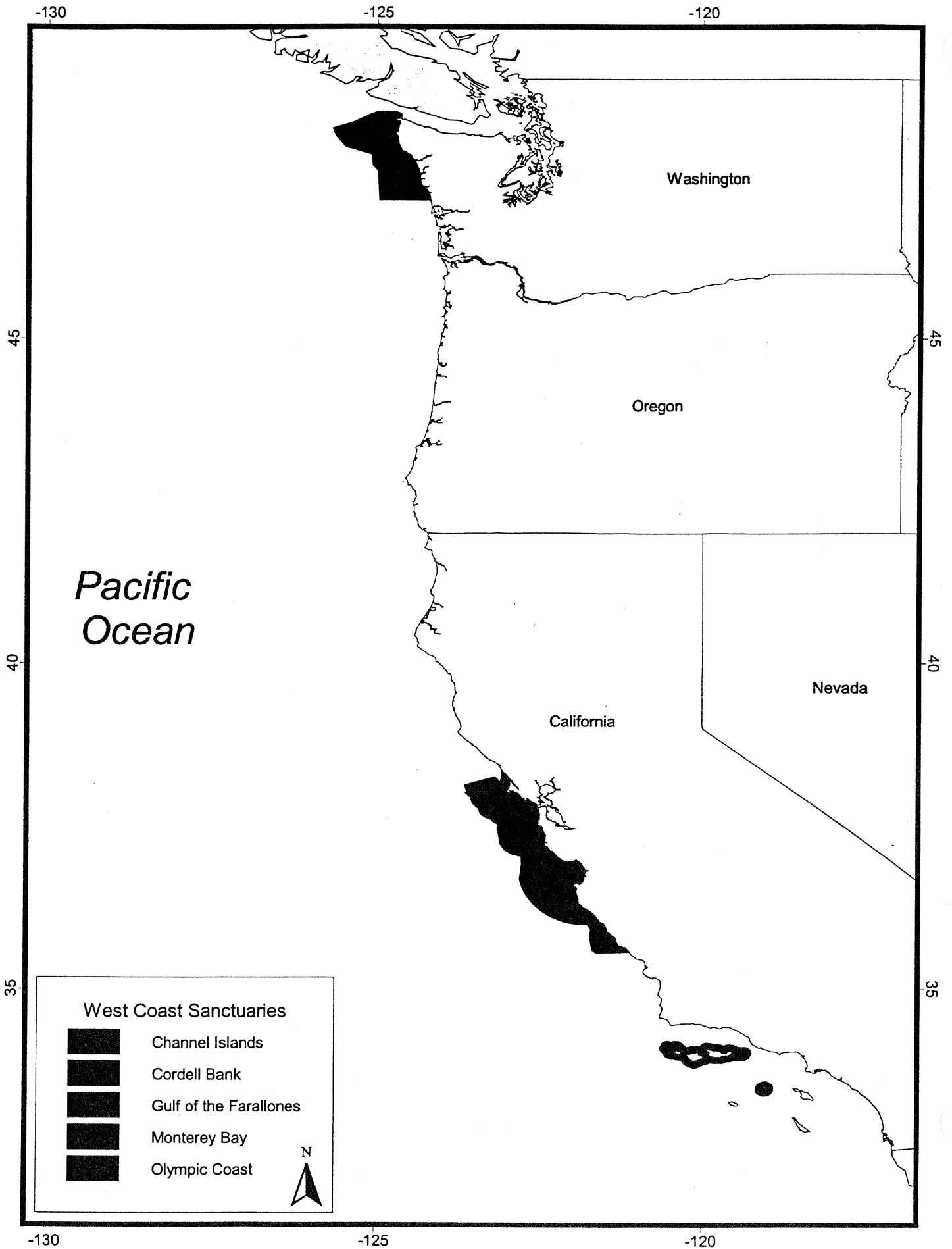
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel J. Basta", with a stylized flourish below it that looks like "for".

Daniel J. Basta
Acting Chief
National Marine Sanctuary Program

Enclosure

cc: Carol Bernthal, OCNMS
Bill Douros, MBNMS
Jim McCallum, NMFS
Matt Pickett, CINMS
Ed Ueber, GFNMS

West Coast National Marine Sanctuaries



GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL ON
MARINE RESERVES PHASE I CONSIDERATIONS

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) re-affirms the statement made in June that marine reserves should be available to the Council as a tool for fisheries management. More extensive comments will be provided under agenda item B.2.

PFMC
09/12/00

HABITAT STEERING GROUP COMMENTS ON
MARINE RESERVES PHASE I CONSIDERATIONS REPORT

The Habitat Steering Group (HSG) strongly supports the conclusions contained in the technical analysis and the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Marine Reserve Committee. To that end, the HSG recommends the Council proceed to Phase II.

PFMC
09/12/00



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PFMC

August 21, 2000

PORT
BROOKINGS
HARBOR

Mr. Don McIsaac, Executive Director
Pacific Fishery Management Council
2130 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 224
Portland, OR 97201

Re: Marine Reserves

Dear Mr. McIsaac:

The Port of Brookings Harbor would like to state, for the record, our strong opposition to the proposal for Marine Reserves within the Klamath Management Zone. From our perspective, there is concern that if all other fisheries management issues were addressed there would be no need for a preservation area. Issues like habitat degradation, accurate stock assessments and understanding ocean productivity must and should be addressed before Marine Reserves can be justified or even considered.

If deliberation continues on Marine Reserves there must be ample opportunity for public input and no preconceived ideas. The Port is concerned that unless there is active stakeholder participation, there will be maneuvering of the public into accepting predetermined management policies. For this reason, we respectfully request a seat at the table on this issue. Our representative would be Mr. Jim Welter, a member of the Salmon Advisory Subpanel and Oregon South Coast Fishermen. As you know, Mr. Welter is very knowledgeable about fishery issues and always approaches every issue working toward consensus with all stakeholders.

Thank you in advance for allowing us the opportunity to comment on this most critical of issues to Coastal Communities. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact us at (541) 469-2218.

Sincerely,

Russ Crabtree
Executive Director

c: KMZFC, Crescent City
Port of Brookings Harbor Fisheries Committee
South Coast Fishermen Corporation

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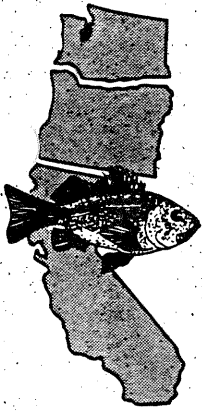
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Pacific Marine Conservation Council

"Dedicated to the health and diversity of our marine life and habitat"

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AUG 28 2000

PFMC

23 August 2000

Mr. Jim Lone, Chair
Pacific Fishery Management Council
2130 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 224
Portland, OR 97201

Comments on September 2000 PFMC agenda item Agenda item B. I. : Marine Reserves Phase I Considerations Report.

Chairman Lone and Council Members,

The Pacific Marine Conservation Council (PMCC), a coalition of commercial and sport fishers, marine scientists, and conservationists, respectfully submits these comments on the issue of the role of marine reserves in fishery management.

PMCC has a position on marine reserves that states they can be an important management tool and indicates our interest in participating in the process in a manner which reflects the organization's objectives of sustainable fisheries and the communities which depend on them. Our position also outlines information we feel is necessary to be collected prior to or concurrent with the implementation of marine reserves. This includes:

- establishing clear goals,
- exploring potential mitigation for impacted fishing communities,
- involving stake holders in the process in a meaningful manner,
- developing and implementing an enforcement plan, and
- collecting initial biological baseline information.

PMCC also believes that marine reserves should not be the only management tool employed. Other management tools such as limited entry, setting Total Allowable Catches (TAC's) and time and area closures must be evaluated for their usefulness in addition to designated reserves.

PMCC agrees with the list of objectives identified by the Marine Reserve Committee (MRC) and supports Council action resulting in the recognition that marine reserves can play a role in fisheries management and movement into Phase II of the process. We support this action for the following reasons:

1. This is a time of transition for the groundfish fishery requiring change in the science, management, and industry impacting these stocks. The initial period of fishing-down these stocks is over and appropriate, alternative management schemes should be developed. The facts are that traditional management has not been successful in maintaining healthy groundfish stock levels and a large body of information has been generated supporting the concept of utilizing marine reserves to mitigate for overfishing and the impacts of fishing on habitat.
2. Growing uncertainty in the management of West Coast groundfish places an increasing value on the scientific information that could be acquired from the designation of "no-fishing" areas, as discussed in the report. "These unharvested sites could provide researchers with a valuable means to separate the effects of fishing from those caused by natural changes in the environment. Data from unfished reference sites also could be used to improve estimates of population parameters for harvested species, thereby directly improving management of the fisheries."¹
3. Information exists suggesting that marine reserves "can be most beneficial to depressed species that reach great size or age and have limited movements or sedentary behavior; these attributes apply to many West Coast groundfish species, some of which are overfished."²
4. The current level of information supporting the use of marine reserves as a management tool, and the potential resulting impacts on the fishery, is not significantly different from the level of information required and utilized by the Council in the implementation of other management tools (examples: implementation of the current monthly cumulative trip limit system, current roller-gear size restrictions). "Several modeling studies have suggested that reserves occupying 50% of a species habitat may result in increased yields (Polacheck 1990, DeMartini 1993). However, it has not been demonstrated that a fishery that is regulated to achieve optimum yield can be improved by implementation of marine reserves. It is equally important to note that it has not been demonstrated the regulatory intent of achieving optimum yield has been met through conventional management for any of the West Coast groundfish stocks. **This emphasizes that those information-limitations to successful application of a marine reserve network are not necessarily greater than those information-limitations to conventional management.**"³

In closing, we support the Council moving forward and into Phase II of the marine reserve process. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this issue.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Bloeser

^{1,2,3} Draft Report, Marine Reserves To Supplement Management Of West Coast Groundfish Resources, Phase I Technical Analysis. Pages 2 and 5.

PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Exhibit B.1
Attachment 1
September 2000

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Donald O. McIsaac

CHAIRMAN
Jim Lone

August 7, 2000

Dear Reviewer:

Enclosed is a technical assessment of conceptual options for the creation of marine reserves (no fishing areas) on the West Coast. The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) has specified a two-phase process for considering whether or not to recommend marine reserves. The first phase is a conceptual evaluation that will conclude in September 2000 with a Council decision on whether or not marine reserves have a role in fishery management for the groundfish fishery. The first phase has not included recommendation or discussion of specific sites for marine reserves.

During the second phase, if pursued by the Council, options for the design and location of marine reserves would be developed. An attachment to this letter identifies many of the reserve design and policy issues that would need to be considered in Phase II, if Phase II is initiated.

An Ad-Hoc Marine Reserve Committee was appointed by the Council. Based on its review of the issue and a draft of the enclosed document, the committee developed the following recommendations for the Council.

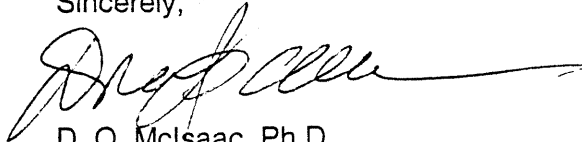
1. Phase II of the process for considering marine reserves should be initiated, based on the overall marine reserve objectives and options selected by the Council after completion of the Phase I public review process. Phase II should begin with the development of reserve siting criteria. For sites that are proposed, objectives and how they would be met should be clearly specified, along with a plan for monitoring and review. The Council should put a high priority on seeking the money and personnel needed to pursue Phase II.
2. Where possible, the Council should coordinate marine reserve development with other agencies and groups working on designating marine reserves. Although marine reserves should be planned on a coordinated, coastwide basis, marine reserve siting should be developed regionally (regions within states) and include increased levels of local public participation.
3. The Council should communicate with other agencies and groups working on West Coast marine habitat zoning issues.
4. The Council should consider siting marine reserves in areas where there are already closures and limitations, if such areas would meet the objectives for marine reserves.
5. If marine reserves are established, use a mixture of places completely closed and places allowing some types of fishing (for example, allow lower impact fishing such as salmon trolling in some areas), with evaluation of both types of areas.

6. Increased funding is needed for enforcement of all Council related management activities, including marine reserves.
7. A marine reserve program and other major management initiatives such as observer programs and capacity reduction are interdependent. These management initiatives should be developed in concert to minimize adverse regulatory effects and maximize benefits of a well-coordinated program.

At its September 2000 meeting, the Council will be asked to consider public and advisory committee comments and decide whether or not to proceed with Phase II (the development of recommendation for specific sites for marine reserves). Your comment is invited on the policy decision before the Council, the Ad-Hoc Marine Reserve Committee's recommendations, and the merits of the enclosed technical assessment. Comments should be received at the Council office by **August 23** in order to be distributed to the Council members prior to their September meeting and by **September 5** in order to be distributed at the meeting.

Should you have questions on this matter, please contact Mr. Jim Seger at the letterhead address, phone number, or e-mail address.

Sincerely,



D. O. McIsaac, Ph.D.
Executive Director

JLS:rdh

Enclosure

Design Characteristics

Design characteristics would be taken up as part of Phase II of the Council's consideration of marine reserves. This attachment summarizes some of the different aspects of reserve design. The attachment is provided as part of this review package in order to give reviewers a better sense for some of the issues that may need to be addressed if the Council proceeds with the second phase for considering marine reserves.

The Council's Ad-Hoc Marine Reserve Committee discussed design characteristics and developed the following design characteristic categories for marine reserves:

1. Restrictions on fisheries.
2. Restrictions on other activities.
3. Reserve configuration.

The Committee emphasized that specific restrictions inside and outside reserves should relate to the original reserve objectives. Similarly, the Committee believes reserve locations should be based on the target rebuilding species and its distribution rather than political boundaries (i.e., should be biologically based rather than politically based). Regardless of the objectives in designing a particular reserve or reserve network, the specification of reserves, as well as management approaches and actions, may be more effectively achieved as part of a local/subregional discussion process.

Alternative Fisheries Restrictions for the Marine Reserve

The following fishery restriction options were considered by the Committee:

1. No fishing (recreational and commercial).
2. No fishing by any method that has a significant level of bycatch of the species of concern.
3. No fishing that disturbs sea floor habitats on a regular basis (for example, salmon trolling would be unlikely to disturb these habitats and, therefore, would be allowed).

Initially, the following were considered for inclusion in the above list, but were recognized as redundant with the second and/or third items in the list:

1. No fishing except coastal pelagic species.
2. No fishing except highly migratory species.
3. No fishing except pots/traps.
4. No fishing except hand harvest of invertebrates.

It appears likely Council authority would extend only to those species covered by a fishery management plan (FMP). The scope of the Council authority may include the ability to restrict fishing with any gear that may harvest a species covered by a Council FMP. The approach would be to use language similar to that used by the Gulf Council in a proposal for an area closure for reef fish: ". . . closed year-round to all reef fish fishing (and to bottom fishing gear capable of catching reef fish)." Restriction of other nonFMP fisheries would require the cooperation of other jurisdictions.

Potential Restrictions on Other Activities

The Council may wish to support one or more of the following restrictions in conjunction with the development of marine reserves:

1. No aquaculture.
2. No recreational diving.
3. No anchoring.
4. No marine plant harvest.
5. No oil and gas exploration.
6. Research by permit only.
7. No dumping (e.g., dredge spoils).
8. No new fiber optic cables.

Restrictions on any activities would likely require a clear definition of the purpose and justification for the restrictions. Restrictions on most of the listed activities would likely require cooperation with other jurisdictions. Designation of marine reserve areas as habitat areas of particular concern would minimally strengthen the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) position during the essential fish habitat (EFH) consultative process.^{1/} Some of these restrictions might already be provided or could potentially be provided for marine reserves located in National Marine Sanctuaries, which are under National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) jurisdiction.

Reserve Configuration

The Committee addressed general reserve configuration issues by brainstorming about how to design marine reserves to aid in bocaccio recovery. Many of the general ideas discussed could be applied to designing reserve configurations for other species.

Size and Shape

If it is determined a percentage of habitat should be set aside, the amount set aside should be a proportion of prime habitat for the life stage being protected (not a proportion of all ocean area and not the proportion of all habitat for a particular species).

The area needed for reserve should be minimized by selecting ideal locations (maximizing benefit for a given amount of reserve area). Reserve configuration should take into account the specific habitat needs of a species (for example, encompass a portion of a rocky outcropping and/or a canyon mouth).

The Committee discussed three possible configurations for marine reserves:

1. A number of offshore reserves.
2. A band running from shore to offshore adult areas.
3. Adult offshore reserves and nearby, near-shore juvenile reserve areas.

The size and shape of reserves would depend on the movement of the fishes targeted by the reserve for rebuilding. Movement patterns vary by life stage and by age within a life stage. For example, younger adult bocaccio may be more mobile than older adult bocaccio. For bocaccio, as well as most groundfish species, there is not good information on how adult movement patterns vary by age. Management restrictions other than marine reserves should be used to protect more mobile life stages.

Location Number and Replication

To protect and rebuild spawning stocks, consideration should be given to locating reserves in adult spawning areas and/or where adults are less mobile. For bocaccio these are generally believed to be high relief areas. In locating reserves, oceanographic features that will disperse or retain planktonic life stages should be taken into account. Some reserves should be located in areas of past historic abundance to ensure habitat is available to colonizing members of the recovering stock. There is some evidence populations may recover quickly in such areas. Consideration should also be given to protecting nearby juvenile nursery areas which could supply fish to the adult marine reserve.

In locating reserves consider the following data sources:

1. Logbook data for some gear types, including recreational gears (usefulness may be limited due to lack of species specificity and lack of information for all gear types).
2. NMFS triennial rockfish survey (generally north of Point Conception).
3. State survey data and reports.

1/ Any Federal agency anticipating an action impacting EFH is required to initiate a consultation with NMFS.

4. Fish landings receipts (bocaccio and other species may be identified to species only in more recent years).
5. Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS) data collected by Recreational Fishery Information Network (RecFIN).

In determining reserve locations and the types of restrictions to be imposed take into account socioeconomic factors, including fisher and processor needs.

To ensure some bocaccio reserves could remain productive during oceanographic shifts, a number of reserves should be spread out along the coast. If only one reserve of a particular type is established, a single catastrophic event or localized environmental degradation could eliminate benefits of the reserve. Reserve replication can be useful both to insure against local environmental degradation or disasters and to facilitate research on the effectiveness of reserves.

Duration and Rotation

If a reserve is put into place and it is meeting its established objectives, it should stay in place. However, there is a need for study and review to ascertain whether or not reserves are meeting their establishment objectives.

Every reserve should be studied in an overall reserve research and monitoring program and assessed at a minimum of once every three years (starting with a baseline before the reserve is established). Delaying the baseline study could diminish scientists' ability to determine the effects of a reserve. Research and monitoring information should be made available to the public in a timely manner. In order to properly evaluate reserves, areas of similar habitat open to fishing will need to be evaluated for comparison purposes.

Reviews of the marine reserve should be scheduled. The review differs from the assessment, in that the review would involve a decision on whether or not the reserve should be continued. Options to consider for timing of the reviews are as follows:

1. Every other triennial survey (every six years).
2. After one mean generation time of the stock(s) being protected for rebuilding.
3. After generally good coast-wide recruitment events.

Prior to the establishment of a reserve, the scientific community should recommend and Council adopt marine reserve performance criteria. These criteria will likely include some or all of the following:

1. Fish: numbers
age class
sizes
structure
reproductive potential.
2. Species composition and diversity.
3. Community structure (trophic relationships).
4. Fish spillover outside the reserve.

It should be anticipated there will be a lag time between reserve creation and effects to be measured.

The Committee discussed rotating the reserve locations. In terms of stock health and rebuilding there did not appear to be a scientific rationale for reserve rotation. Most rationales for reserve rotation are based on socioeconomic factors. Often, once stocks inside the reserves are rebuilt there is a push to open marine reserves. The Committee felt, however, that greater socioeconomic upheaval might result from reserve rotation than from maintaining the siting of a known, long-term reserve. Additionally, it should be recognized the reserve is designed to provide fish for contiguous areas.

Regulations Outside the Reserve

Buffer Area

The Committee discussed the following options for a buffer just outside the reserve:

1. Buffer area where only certain types of fishing are allowed:
 - recreational fishing
 - fixed gear
 - small vessel exemption
 - all fishing allowed, but no retention of the species the reserve is intended to rebuild (possibly only during certain times).
2. Hard boundary on reserve (no buffer).

The Committee was uncertain as to whether or not buffers should be part of a reserve design.

General Harvest Policy

With respect to broader harvest policy issues outside the reserve, the analysis should consider trade-offs between precautionary fishery harvest policy and precautionary benefits of marine reserves. The following options should be evaluated in the analysis:

1. Liberalizing regulations outside reserves.
2. Adjusting parameters used for calculating total allowable catch to take into account the amount of population in reserves (this might include adjustments to account for changes in age structure and reproductive potential within the reserve as compared to the fished area and accounting for changes in the harvestable biomass).
3. Not changing the total assumed biomass or harvest regulations outside the reserve.

Additionally, some account will also need to be taken of localized increases in fishing pressure outside the reserve.

The above are options for discussion only. Marine reserves do not necessarily imply more liberal regulations outside the reserve.

Harvest Capacity

Marine reserves will displace fishing effort. Capacity reduction measures may be considered as complementary policies that may help reduce the impacts of this displaced effort.

MARINE RESERVES PHASE I CONSIDERATIONS REPORT

Situation: The Council has specified a two-phase process for considering whether or not to recommend marine reserves be created on the West Coast. The first phase is a conceptual evaluation that is scheduled to conclude at this meeting with a Council decision on whether or not marine reserves should have a role in management of the groundfish fishery. A draft analysis and cover letter with recommendations from the Ad-Hoc Marine Reserve Committee (MRC) was distributed to the public in August. Marine reserves are also covered as part of the Council's draft groundfish strategic plan.

During the second phase, if pursued by the Council, options for the design and location of marine reserves would be developed (see analysis cover letter with attachment). The details of Phase II would be taken up under the next agenda item.

Council Action:

- 1. Decide whether or not marine reserves should play a role in management of West Coast groundfish fisheries.**

Reference Materials:

1. Cover letter for phase I technical analysis and attached design and policy issues paper by the Ad-Hoc Marine Reserve Committee (Exhibit B.1, Attachment 1).
2. Marine Reserves to Supplement Management of West Coast Groundfish Resources, Phase I Technical Analysis (**please bring your copy with you**).
3. Exhibit B.1.b, National Ocean Service Comment.
4. Exhibit B.1.c, Public Comment.

PFMC
08/28/00

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL STATEMENT ON
MARINE RESERVES PHASE II CONSIDERATIONS

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) had an extensive discussion on how, where, and why marine reserves should be used, the extent of knowledge regarding marine reserves and their benefits, and the costs reserves may impose on fishermen, processors, and local communities. The GAP agreed the Council needs to examine the number and extent of areas not being actively fished for various reasons in order to determine whether they meet - in whole or in part - any Council goals on establishing marine reserves. Several GAP members emphasized the effect that establishing reserves will have on participants in the fisheries, including seafood processors, and pointed out the cumulative impact of reserve establishment, changes in harvest policy, and reductions in allowable harvest will be devastating to participants in the fisheries. GAP members pointed out the restrictions on harvest of shelf species are already creating de facto marine reserves in continental shelf areas.

A majority of the GAP believes - prior to establishing marine reserves - a capacity reduction and an individual quota program must be put in place in order to reduce economic disruption. The Council should take whatever actions are appropriate to obtain funding for a capacity reduction program.

A minority of the GAP agrees capacity reduction is important, but these programs should be coordinated with establishment of marine reserves in order to avoid delaying the benefits to fisheries and habitat that accrue from having reserves.

PFMC
09/12/00

HABITAT STEERING GROUP COMMENTS ON
MARINE RESERVES PHASE II CONSIDERATIONS

The Habitat Steering Group (HSG) recognizes the need for a coordinating body to assist the Council in the development of Phase II. We recognize the budgetary and staff constraints the Council faces in moving forward. Therefore, the HSG discussed on Monday how best to assist the Council given these limitations. The different tasks identified by the group that need to be coordinated include:

- Coordinating a science panel to help develop siting criteria.
- Coordinating stakeholder participation.
- Analyzing socioeconomic impacts.
- Integrating other state and federal marine reserve processes into the Council process.

These tasks can be accomplished through concurrent processes, which need to be coordinated. The coordination responsibility would be limited to identifying the tasks to be accomplished, recommending to the Council the appropriate entity to accomplish the tasks, tracking the progress of those assignments, and keeping the Council updated.

The HSG is willing to accept this responsibility to assist the Council in proceeding with Phase II. To fulfill this responsibility the HSG would require dedicated resources (i.e., funding) for additional meetings and participants (for expertise purposes) as necessary.

PFMC
09/12/00

MARINE RESERVES PHASE II CONSIDERATIONS

Situation: If under agenda item B.1, the Council decided marine reserves should not play a role in management of West Coast groundfish fisheries, this agenda item can be eliminated. If the Council wishes to proceed with marine reserves, it will need to establish a process for developing specific recommendations. The recommendations will need to cover activities to be restricted, size, configuration, and specific sites for reserves on the West Coast. The successful siting of marine reserves will involve participation, planning, and analysis at levels more local than have been typical for Council management of the groundfish fishery. Development of this process should probably take into account limits on Council budget and personnel and involve constituencies not typically involved in Council processes.

The Council could attempt to devise this process on the floor of the Council or refer it to one of its advisory committees, such as the strategic plan implementation committee, the Habitat Steering Group, or the Ad-Hoc Marine Reserve Committee.

Council Action:

- 1. Depending on the decision under Agenda Item B.1, either drop this agenda item or decide how to proceed with developing a process for Phase II.**

Reference Materials: None.

PFMC
08/25/00