

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON THE REPORT OF
THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES

In a joint webinar on March 1, 2022, the Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) and the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) heard a presentation by Kerry Griffin about the National Marine Sanctuaries Coordination Report (Agenda Item C.1.a, NMS Report 1). The CPSAS also read the written report and would like to thank the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) for their report.

The CPSAS has great concerns about the potential designation of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary (CHNMS). The CPSAS agrees with the Northern Chumash Tribal Council stated view that the proposed sanctuary should not impose future sanctuary regulations that affect commercial fisheries or recreational fishing. The CPSAS appreciates the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) statement in the report stating, "if NOAA anticipates needing sanctuary regulations that would regulate fishing, ONMS staff will bring any such need back to the PFMC (or California Fish and Game Commission as relevant) for its consideration, feedback, or action." This premise should also apply to ancillary regulations that can have the effect of indirectly regulating and impacting commercial and recreational fishing activities. Examples could include regulations preventing bottom contact, the use of lead weights, anchoring, speed limits, vessel discharge, etc. Because regulations such as these may affect commercial and recreational fishing activities, the CPSAS recommends exemptions from such regulations for commercial and recreational fishing activities to the extent possible.

The CPSAS would like to see the NOAA language in the report be expanded to include any changes that would have "any impact" on fishing should be brought before the Council or California Fish and Game Commission for approval.

Additionally, the CPSAS recommends the Council and Council staff continue to monitor the designation process of the CHNMS and comment where appropriate.

PFMC
03/08/22