



Pacific Fishery Management Council

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Marc Gorelnik, Chair | Merrick J. Burden, Executive Director

Agenda Item B.1.a
Supplemental Staff Report 1
September 2022

August 25, 2022

Mr. William J. Douros, Regional Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
West Coast Regional Office
99 Pacific Street, Bldg. 100, Suite F
Monterey, CA 93940

RE: Consultation with Pacific Fishery Management Council on Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary Designation

Dear Mr. Douros,

Thank you for your letter dated August 16, 2022 concerning consultation on the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary (Chumash Sanctuary). We greatly appreciate the constructive working relationship between the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (Sanctuaries) and the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Pacific Council), and we look forward to continuing this constructive relationship into the future.

Your letter inquires as to whether the Pacific Council believes that fishing regulations are necessary to implement the proposed Sanctuary designation, and references a process outlined in Federal regulations which provides 120 days for a Fishery Management Council to make recommendations concerning fishing. Your letter also references interaction between you and your office and the Pacific Council regarding the proposed Chumash Sanctuary designation and notes that the Pacific Council has not provided any comments on the proposed Chumash Sanctuary designation to date.

We are appreciative of your efforts and willingness to participate in the Pacific Council process, and we have found our interactions regarding the proposed Chumash Sanctuary designation to be quite informative. Prior to receipt of your August 16 letter, the question facing the Council had been whether the proposed Chumash Sanctuary should be put in place. A review of our records indicates that the Pacific Council had not been asked to provide recommendations concerning fisheries within the proposed Chumash Sanctuary. While we are aware that the question of fishing regulations within the Chumash Sanctuary area would come before the Council, we had been operating with the understanding that this question was not yet ripe for Council consideration.

Your August 16 letter indicates that the Sanctuaries would like the Pacific Council to consider fishing regulations within the proposed Chumash Sanctuary area. Therefore, this letter transmits the Pacific Council's understanding that the 120-day period for providing recommendations regarding fishing within the proposed Chumash Sanctuary area has started, effective August 16.

The Council will consider this request at our September 2022 Council meeting, and should the Council elect to consider specific regulations, I anticipate those regulations would be considered and recommended at our November 2022 meeting.

To help ensure an effective and well-informed process, I would be appreciative if you could attend our September and November meetings to speak to your August 16 letter and to answer questions the Council may have. We are scheduled to take up this matter the morning of Friday, September 9, 2022.

Should you have any questions regarding our planned course of action and our request for your engagement with the Council at our September and November meetings, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Merrick Burden", is centered on the page. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

Merrick Burden
Executive Director

MJB:acl