

CHUMASH HERITAGE NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY DESIGNATION

The [Chumash Heritage](#) National Marine Sanctuary (Chumash NMS) was nominated to the Sanctuary Program in 2015, and was included in the NMS Inventory until 2021, when the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) moved the nomination forward. An initial notice and comment period ended in late January 2022 and draft designation documents are expected to be released in late 2022 or early 2023.

The National Marine Sanctuary Act (16 CFR 32 § 1431) describes a process for developing new or amended fishing regulations within Sanctuary boundaries. For new Sanctuaries, the process calls for the Secretary of the Interior to provide the opportunity for Regional Fishery Management Councils to prepare draft fishing regulations that the Council “may deem necessary to implement the proposed designation” within 120 days of notification. The Council’s decision whether or not to prepare draft regulations does not preclude proposing fishing regulations in the future. Attachment 2 provides additional information on the development of fishing regulations and a summary of current applicable Federal fishing regulations.

In August 2022, NOAA Sanctuaries West Coast Region Director Bill Douros sent a letter to Council Executive Director Merrick Burden, describing the process for the Council to propose fishing regulations within the proposed Chumash NMS. Mr. Burden sent a reply letter inviting Mr. Douros to both the September and November Council meetings. See Agenda Item C.4 Attachment 3, NMS Correspondence. At the September meeting Mr. Douros presented [information](#) on the proposed Chumash NMS and answered questions from Council members.

At this meeting the Council should consider whether new fishing regulations are necessary to help implement the proposed Chumash NMS. Mr. Douros will be available during this agenda item to answer questions the Council may have.

Council Action:

The Council should consider whether new Federal fishing regulations are necessary to implement the proposed Chumash NMS.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item C.4, Attachment 1; Chumash Fact Sheet.
2. Agenda Item C.4, Attachment 2; Overview of current Federal fishing regulations.
3. Agenda Item C.4, Attachment 3; NMS and PFMC Correspondence.
4. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- C.4 Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary Designation Kerry Griffin
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Consider the Sanctuary Designation and Provide Recommendations on the Need for Fishery Regulations