



Pacific Fishery Management Council

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

December 1, 2022

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

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

Dear Mr. Douros:

Thank you for attending the recent Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) meeting in Garden Grove, California, to discuss the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary (Chumash Sanctuary). We appreciate the constructive working relationship between the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) and the Council and have found the recent dialog concerning the proposed designation of the Chumash Sanctuary to be particularly helpful.

Your letter dated August 16, 2022, described the opportunity for the Council to develop and propose any fishing regulations the Council perceives as necessary to implement the proposed Chumash Sanctuary. The Council considered this opportunity at its November 2022 meeting, providing an opportunity for public input on the need for additional regulations. After a review of existing fishing regulations, including those designed for habitat and ecosystem protections, and hearing from the ONMS and the public, the Council determined that additional fishing regulations are not warranted at this time. Should additional information arise which may warrant additional fishing regulations within the Chumash Sanctuary (or other Sanctuary waters), the Council understands that it could consider additional fishing regulations at that time, as part of a future Council process.

In addition to fishing regulations, the Council also considered the prospect of ancillary regulations that could impact fishing activity within the Chumash Sanctuary. We would appreciate being kept informed of any such regulations (e.g., bottom contact prohibitions, vessel discharge rules, bait restrictions, etc.) that may be put in place to conserve Sanctuary resources.

Finally, the Council understands that additional documentation concerning the proposed Chumash Sanctuary designation will be forthcoming in early 2023. We look forward to considering these documents and providing input as appropriate.

Please let me know if you have any follow up questions or need anything else from the Council at this time. Thank you again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marc Gorelnik". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "M".

Marc Gorelnik
Chairman

KFG:rdd

Cc: Pacific Council Members
Ms. Laura Ingulsrud