

## CHUMASH HERITAGE NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY DESIGNATION

The Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary (Chumash NMS) was nominated to the National Marine 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 in August 2022, NOAA Sanctuaries West Coast Region Director, Bill Douros, sent a letter to the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) Executive Director, Merrick Burden, describing the process for the Council to propose fishing regulations within the proposed Chumash NMS. At the November 2022 Council meeting, the Council considered the issue, determined there was no need for additional fishing regulations at that time, and conveyed that conclusion in a December 2022 [letter](#) to Mr. Douros.

At the June 2023 Council meeting, the NMS Program requested that the proposed Chumash NMS be included in the Council's September 2023 agenda. The draft Sanctuary designation document and proposed sanctuary regulations are expected to be publicly available soon, although not yet posted at the time of the September Briefing Book deadline.

At this meeting, the Council should consider the proposed designation documents and regulations, and discuss whether any proposed regulations or stipulations in the designation document could potentially affect fishing activities under the Council's purview.

### **Council Action:**

**Consider Draft Chumash NMS Designation Documents and Draft Regulations.**

### **Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item H.1, Attachment 1, Chumash NMS Fact Sheet.
2. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

### **Agenda Order:**

- H.1 Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary Designation Kerry Griffin
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
  - b. Public Comment
  - c. **Council Action:** Discuss Designation Documents and Comment, as Appropriate