

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON THE
CHUMASH HERITAGE NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY DESIGNATION

The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) has the following comments on the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary designation (Agenda Item H.1).

We understand the interest in designating the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary. We believe that possible conservation benefits arising from the sanctuary could benefit fisheries operating within the sanctuary, as long as ongoing management of fisheries within the proposed sanctuary remains within the authority of the Council or state.

We are concerned that the extent of marine sanctuaries that would result from the proposed designation. Sanctuaries would extend along almost the entire coastline from the northern Channel Islands to San Francisco. Although the sanctuaries have all stated an intention to bring proposed regulations to the Council, we are concerned that in the future sanctuaries could implement fishing regulations. We believe that the existing regional management has proven effective for overseeing management of our Nation's fisheries and must be maintained.

The market squid fishery's fleet of purse seine and lightboats are highly dependent on portions of the area proposed for designation. We further believe that the fisheries within the proposed sanctuary are consistent with the environmental and cultural purpose and goals of the sanctuary. With that in mind, we strongly support maintaining Council or state management of fisheries without additional or revised direct or ancillary regulation of fishing activities.

PFMC
09/08/23