

HABITAT COMMITTEE REPORT ON CHUMASH HERITAGE NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY DESIGNATION

The Habitat Committee (HC) received a briefing from HC member Laura Ingulsrud (Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, ONMS) on the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary (CHNMS) draft designation documents.

The CHNMS designation would enhance protection of certain habitat types identified as essential fish habitat and habitat areas of particular concern, such as seagrass, kelp, and rocky reef habitats. The HC supports the activities and strategies outlined in the Draft Management Plan (Supplemental Attachment 4) that include mapping these habitat types, mapping areas of potential restoration of these habitat types, and assessing the impact of both climate change and non-climate stressors on the capacity of these habitats to continue sequestering carbon. The HC recommends the ONMS consult with the HC on potential habitat impacts from future proposed activities, including aquaculture, within the proposed Sanctuary.

PFMC
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