

The Pacific Fishery Management Council

Marine Reserves in the Fishery Management Context

Dan Waldeck

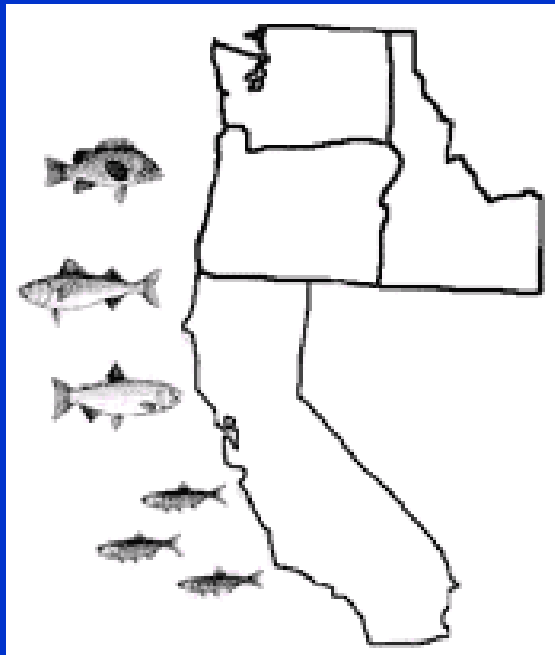
Staff Officer

daniel.waldeck@noaa.gov

www.pcouncil.org

The Pacific Fishery Management Council

The Pacific Fishery Management Council is an open public forum dedicated to the conservation and management of West Coast marine fish stocks, habitat, and fisheries in a sustainable manner while equitably balancing a multitude of related human needs.



Who is On the Council

The Pacific Council has 14 voting members and 5 non-voting members.

- Voting members –
 - Fishery managers from California, Oregon, Washington, and Idaho;
 - NMFS;
 - Treaty Indian tribes; and
 - Eight private citizens.

- Non-voting members –
 - Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission,
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
 - Alaska Dept of Fish and Game,
 - U.S. Department of State, and
 - U.S. Coast Guard.

Fisheries Managed by the Pacific Council

The Council manages four distinct fisheries –

Fishery Management Plans (FMPs):

- Salmon,
- Groundfish,
- Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS), and
- Highly Migratory Species (HMS).

The Council is also involved in habitat issues and marine reserves.

Since 2002, the Council has used spatial closures to protect overfished groundfish. Cowcod Cons Area - 4,300 sq mi; Rockfish Cons Areas - approximately 20,000 sq mi closed to groundfish trawl and 36,000 sq mi closed to non-trawl and recreational groundfish fisheries.

Management Authorities and Jurisdiction

Magnuson-Stevens Act

Rebuild & maintain sustainable fisheries with an ecosystem context

National Marine Sanctuaries Act

Place-based designation and management of nationally significant marine ecosystems and cultural resources

The Sanctuaries Act gives regional fishery management councils (RFMC) the opportunity to draft regulations governing all types of fishing in the federal waters of a national marine sanctuary (not just for fisheries covered under a Council FMP). Any recommendations made by RFMCs to be implemented under the Sanctuaries Act must fulfill the purposes and policies of the Sanctuaries Act and the goals and objectives of that particular sanctuary.

MPA Demonstration Project - Background

In 2003, the Pacific Council initiated a cooperative project with the National MPA Center and NMFS.

The purpose of the project is to facilitate collaborative efforts related to MPAs and fishery management on the West Coast.

Funding for this project made possible, in part, by the support of the MPA FAC and committee members.

MPA Demonstration Project - Background

Overarching objective –

Provide for cooperative, comprehensive consideration of MPAs on the West Coast.

Specific objectives include Council participation in the following:

- West Coast NMS Activities.
- Integration of MPA science into Council fishery management.
- California MLPA Implementation Planning.

MPA Demonstration Project - Background

The initial stages of the project are funded Nov 2003 through Dec 2004.

Because of the funding provided, the Council has broadened its participation in MPA-related activities.

West Coast MPA-related matters are included at each Council meeting.

Pending dedicated, secure funding, the Council intends to continue this project as a formal program area; that is, on a level with Council FMPs.

MPA Demonstration Project - Activities

National Marine Sanctuaries – CINMS, Central California Sanctuaries, OCNMS

The Council is working in partnership with –

- Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary,
- Central California Sanctuaries (MBNMS, CBNMS GFNMS), and
- Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary in Washington state.

MPA Demonstration Project - Activities

Integration of MPA Science and Policy

Council is engaged in several initiatives related to science and policy aspects of marine protected areas, including:

- SSC MPA white paper;
- NOAA Science Integration Project; and
- NFCC Consensus Conference [<http://nfcc-fisheries.org/>].

MPA Demonstration Project - Future Plans

Through the remainder of the initial timeline (ending December 31, 2004), Council staff will continue to work on the initiatives described above, including:

- Completion of the SSC white paper,
- Coordination with the MPA Science Institute/NMFS-SCL in preparation for the MPA-Fishery Management Working Group, and
- Coordination with West Coast NMS to ensure the Council is included in the sanctuaries management plan review processes.

Beyond 2004, continued Council activities related to MPAs is contingent on dedicated, secure funding.

SSC White Paper

Who is the SSC?

- Composed of scientists from tribal, state and federal agencies, and academic institutions.
- Provide multidisciplinary peer review.
- Consensus-based approach to developing recommendations.
- Review stock assessments, assessment methods, and biological, economic and social impact analyses.
- Meet at each Council meeting.

COMMONLY CITED MARINE RESERVE BENEFITS

Reserves can provide or address –

- “Insurance policy” against environmental variability and uncertainty
- Fishery benefits
- Ecosystem benefits (including habitat protection)
- Social issues (e.g., reduce social conflict, protect unique cultural areas)
- Opportunities to advance scientific knowledge

PURPOSES OF WHITE PAPER

- Describe rationale and scientific basis for claims regarding marine reserve benefits;
- Discuss implications of reserves for fishery management; and
- Establish SSC guidelines and standards for technical content of reserve proposals within the Council's area of jurisdiction

ARE RESERVES POTENTIALLY USEFUL TOOLS FOR ACHIEVING THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES?

OBJECTIVE		RELEVANT ISSUES
Reduce uncertainty in fishery mgmt	+	Complete age structure ⇒ enhance population persistence.
Provide fishery benefits (yield)	–	Theoretical models, empirical studies not sufficiently compelling. Yield not necessarily same as benefits.
Provide ecosystem benefits	+	Assuming effects of effort displacement effectively managed.
Address social issues (allocation)	+	Non-scientific criteria for evaluating achievement of objective.
Provide research opportunities	+	Expectations & conclusions commensurate with technical merits.

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS

- Specify management objective.
- Describe management context and affected environment.
- Identify problem, role of reserves in addressing problem.
- Define status quo – what is the baseline?.
- Define reasonable range of alternatives to status quo.
- Analyze alternatives – biological, socioeconomic, ecological effects; monitoring, enforcement requirements.
- Document public process.

CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- Management objective is starting point.
- Comply with various federal mandates (M-S Act, NMSA, NEPA, etc.).
- Distinguish between science & policy.
- Recognize uncertainty, strengths, and weaknesses of all mgmt alternatives.
- Coordinate with the Regional Fishery Management Council.

