

Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries
P O Box 1309, Carmel Valley, CA 93924 (831) 659-2838

December 12, 2002

Bill Douros, Superintendent
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
299 Foam Street
Monterey, CA 93940

Dear Bill:

We are writing about the composition of the Sanctuary's Marine Reserve working group. Our remarks are a continuation of the discussion that occurred at the December 6, 2002 SAC meeting and have the concurrence of the Board of Directors of the Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries.

Upon hearing the discussion at the SAC meeting regarding the purpose of this working group, which is to identify the need, if any, for marine reserves and criteria for those reserves within federal waters, we have ended up with even more questions about the makeup of the group. First, if it is true as stated several times that this effort is largely regarding federal waters, then we question why a representative of the California Department of Parks and Recreation is needed. Likewise, why is a diving representative needed? As we know that you are concerned about the size of the group, we suggest that these two seats be dropped on the basis that they will have little to do with federal waters. Incidentally, we do believe that Paul Riley should represent the Department of Fish and Game, as the State's MLPA process will be relevant to what happens in federal waters.

The Alliance also requests that two additional seats be added to this working group, one to represent the trawl fishery which operates almost entirely in federal waters, and which is integral to questions regarding impacts on habitat with which we believe the Sanctuary will be concerned. The second additional seat would represent the fish-consuming public. We believe that an owner or manager of a seafood restaurant or market would be a likely candidate for this seat. This would be appropriate as marine reserves have the potential to greatly reduce the availability of local fish.

Our final observation is that you have four organizations identified in the working group which are advocacy groups for the widespread use of marine reserves: PISCO; World Wildlife Fund; The Ocean Conservancy; and Save Our Shores. Since all of these seats represent essentially the same point of view, we recommend that at least one and more likely two of these seats be dropped from this working group to save redundancy.

We point out that this issue of redundancy is not true of the representation needed for fishing interests, of which there are very different interests each of which need to be heard (i.e. a salmon troll fisherman would have a difficult time representing the interests

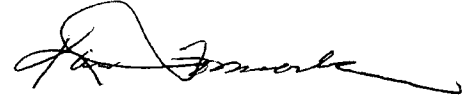
of the bottom trawl fleet, etc.) It is important that the major interest groups be represented.

Thank you for considering these recommendations. We hope that they can be accomplished without difficulty. We believe that these changes will create a group with less redundancy and more ability to hear from a balance group of stakeholders. As we reminded the SAC, Congressman Sam Farr has stated that fishermen need to be involved in these issues "in more than an advisory manner".

Sincerely,



Mike Ricketts
Co-Chair, ACSF



Kathy Fosmark
Co-Chair, ACSF

Supporting Associations & Organizations

Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Association
Port San Luis Commercial Fishermen's Association
Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen's Association
Monterey Commercial Fishermen's Association
Fishermen's Association of Moss Landing
Santa Cruz Commercial Fishermen's Association
Half Moon Bay Fishermen's Marketing Association
Fishermen's Alliance
Western Fish Boat Owners Association
Ventura County Commercial Fishermen's Association
Federation of Independent Seafood Harvesters
Golden Gate Fishermen's Association
Port San Luis Harbor District
City of Morro Bay Harbor
City of Monterey Harbor
Moss Landing Harbor District
Santa Cruz Port District
Pillar Pt. Harbor, San Mateo County Harbor District

C: The Honorable Sam Farr
Stephanie Harlan, Chair, SAC
Dave Ebert, Chair, BTAP