

## **Sanctuary Advisory Council**

2001 was a very productive and important year for the SAC. In May, the Council's Marine Reserves Working Group (MRWG) completed their work and submitted it to the SAC (see the "Facilitator's Report" on line at [www.cinms.nos.noaa.gov/nmpreserves.html](http://www.cinms.nos.noaa.gov/nmpreserves.html)). In June, the SAC advised Sanctuary Manager Matt Pickett to build upon the MRWG's work to complete a final proposal for marine reserves. This, in turn, led to the August delivery of a joint marine reserves recommendation from CINMS and the California Department of Fish and Game (access on line at [www.cinms.nos.noaa.gov/nmpreserves.html](http://www.cinms.nos.noaa.gov/nmpreserves.html)) to the California Fish and Game Commission, who are expected to rule on the matter later this year.

The heroic MRWG process, which was created and overseen by the SAC, was a great stride forward in community involvement for marine protected area planning, generating an extremely valuable collection of work (data, agreements, recommendations and maps) built on an unparalleled level of scientific, economic and stakeholder input. For all involved, the MRWG process was a valuable learning and relationship-building experience, and one that may well prove to have been instrumental in bringing about increased resource protection to the Sanctuary.

Last year the SAC also succeeded in their ongoing role to help raise the level of Sanctuary awareness, knowledge and involvement throughout the community. SAC meetings and issues were increasingly popular throughout the year, as were the vacant Council seats advertised last fall.

2002 promises to be another important year for the SAC, featuring challenges such as advising CINMS on development of monitoring programs (biological and socio-economic) to support marine reserves, receiving and commenting on the CINMS Draft Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement, and taking on other new resource management issues. Keep up with the SAC by logging on to [www.cinms.nos.noaa.gov/sachome1.html](http://www.cinms.nos.noaa.gov/sachome1.html), or contacting the Advisory Council Coordinator ([michael.murray@noaa.gov](mailto:michael.murray@noaa.gov), 805-884-1464).