



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southwest Region  
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OCT 10 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR: William J. Douros  
Regional Superintendent (Acting)  
West Coast Region  
National Marine Sanctuary Program

FROM: *fk* Rodney R. McInnis *Anthony G. Martin*  
Regional Administrator  
Southwest Region  
National Marine Fisheries Service

SUBJECT: Essential Fish Habitat Consultation for the Establishment  
of Marine Zones in the Channel Islands National Marine  
Sanctuary

NOAA Fisheries Service (NMFS) has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Consideration of Marine Reserves and Marine Conservation Areas in the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS). In addition, NMFS has reviewed your Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation memorandum dated August 25, 2006. The proposed network of marine zones is located within EFH for various federally managed fish species within the Pacific Coast Groundfish, Coastal Pelagics Species, and Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plans. NMFS has determined that the implementation of marine zones in the CINMS would likely have a beneficial impact on designated essential fish habitat. Therefore, NMFS concurs with the National Marine Sanctuary Program's determination that the proposed action would not adversely affect EFH. Thank you for coordinating with our office.

