



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
National Marine Sanctuary Program

West Coast Region
99 Pacific Street, Bldg. 200, Suite K
Monterey, CA 93940

August 25, 2006

Mr. Rick Farris
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2493 Portola Avenue, Suite B
Ventura, CA 93003

Dear Sir:

NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) is proposing to establish a network of marine zones within the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (Sanctuary). The NMSP has determined that the proposed action may affect, but will not adversely affect, listed species or critical habitat.

The proposed network of marine zones seeks to: 1) further the protection of Sanctuary biodiversity; and 2) complement the existing network of marine zones established by the State of California in 2002 and the essential fish habitat designations established through Amendment 19 to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan. Two types of zones are being proposed as part of this action: marine reserves and marine conservation areas. All extractive activities (e.g., removal of any Sanctuary resource) and injury to Sanctuary resources would be prohibited in marine reserves. Certain lobster fishing and recreational fishing for pelagic species would be allowed in marine conservation areas, while all other extraction and injury would be prohibited.

The proposed regulations are described and analyzed in the enclosed draft environmental impact statement (DEIS). The DEIS also contains a statement of the purpose and need for the project, description of proposed alternatives including the no action alternative, description of the affected environment, and evaluation and comparison of environmental consequences including cumulative impacts.

Pursuant to 50 CFR § 402.13, the NMSP requests your concurrence with our determination that this action will have no adverse effects on listed species or critical habitat. We have also notified the NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service of this determination and requested concurrence for species under their jurisdiction.

Olympic Coast
National Marine Sanctuary
115 E. Railroad Ave., Ste 301
Port Angeles, WA 98362

Cordell Bank
National Marine Sanctuary
P.O. Box 159
Olema, CA 94950

Gulf of the Farallones
National Marine Sanctuary
Building 991, Presidio of SF
San Francisco, CA 94129

Monterey Bay
National Marine Sanctuary
299 Foam Street
Monterey, CA 93940

Channel Islands
National Marine Sanctuary
113 Harbor Way
Santa Barbara, CA 93109

Please contact Chris Mobley, Sanctuary Superintendent at (805) 884-1464 with your decision on EFH concurrence or if you have any questions about this action. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William J. Douros". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "W" and "D".

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

cc: Diane Noda, Field Supervisor, Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office

Enclosures