



City of Santa Barbara

Office of the Mayor

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April 6, 2005

Marty Blum
Mayor

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Ms. Elizabeth Moore
NOAA—National Marine Sanctuary Program
1305 East-West Highway, N/ORM-6
Silver Spring, MD 20910

RE: Possible Amendments to the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Designation Document Related to the Consideration of Marine Reserves, Marine Parks and Marine Conservation Areas

Dear Ms. Moore:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on potential changes to the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS) designation document that would grant it authority to establish marine reserves, marine parks and marine conservation areas within its boundaries.

As a municipality of 95,000 citizens located close to the Channel Islands and the Sanctuary, the City of Santa Barbara has an abiding interest in the consideration and/or establishment of marine reserves, since implementing no-take reserves highlights government's dual responsibilities of protecting and providing access to marine resources.

This balance was a key theme in City Council Resolution 999-020, attached, which was adopted in March 1999. It resolves that the implementation of no-fishing zones be done so in full consultation with other government agencies and with ". . .stated goals, peer-reviewed scientific research, input from fishermen, and attention to balancing resource conservation with the long term economic health of ocean-dependent businesses, especially commercial fishing, recreational fishing and recreational diving."

In striking a balance between the conservation and utilization of marine resources, the City believes impacts to cultural and economic resources of our region—including fisheries—should be considered when drafting potential designation language and/or determining the size and location of potential no-take marine reserves.

In conclusion, the City supports conservation of the Sanctuary's marine resources and recognizes the proposed designation change as a significant departure from CINMS' previous regulatory authority, by adding the ability to regulate fishing in marine reserves. We believe the reasons, goals and objectives to support this new regulatory authority should be clear and rooted in reliable scientific data and include open collaboration with traditional fisheries-management agencies, local government and fishermen.

On behalf of the City, I appreciate this chance to comment, and I know you will keep us abreast of developments during this important process, including further opportunities to convey our thoughts.

Sincerely,

Marty Blum
Marty Blum
Mayor

Attachment

cc: City Council Members
Jim Armstrong, City Administrator
John N. Bridley, Waterfront Director
Paul Casey, Community Development Director
Marcelo A. López, Assistant to the City Administrator

RESOLUTION NO. 99-020

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA BARBARA IN SUPPORT OF FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND RESOURCE CONSERVATION AT THE CHANNEL ISLANDS AND CONCURRENCE WITH PROVISIONS OF ASSEMBLY BILL 1241 RECOGNIZING THE NEED FOR A COLLABORATIVE PROCESS INCLUDING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FROM COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN, OCEAN DEPENDENT BUSINESSES, STAKEHOLDERS, AND INTERESTED PARTIES.

WHEREAS, the City of Santa Barbara recognizes the invaluable nature of fish and shellfish populations that inhabit nearshore waters of the Channel Islands, and the importance of conserving those resources through ecosystem health, biodiversity, and sound fisheries regulation; and

WHEREAS, the State of California is reviewing Marine Managed areas including possible no-fishing zones as possible resource-management tools; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 1241, implemented January 1, 1999, recognizes the importance of external peer review of the scientific process behind fisheries research and management (Section 7062), and that fisheries management is a collaborative process requiring participation from those it will most affect, including commercial fishermen (Section 7059); and

WHEREAS, the City of Santa Barbara Harbor Master Plan designates the Harbor a working harbor with priority given to ocean dependent uses such as commercial fishing and recreational boating (Section VIII); and

WHEREAS, the City of Santa Barbara has a long history of supporting commercial fishing, including over 100 vessels that harvested 83 species with a vessel value of \$9 million and a retail value of \$40 million in 1997; and

WHEREAS, The City of Santa Barbara encourages public access to recreational fishing through commercial sport fishing businesses, with local businesses Sea landing and Hornet Sport Fishing earning over \$770,000 in revenues for 1997.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA BARBARA THAT:

If the California Fish and Game Commission considers implementing Marine Managed Areas especially no-fishing zones at the Channel Islands, it do so only in full consultation with the Department of Fish and Game with stated goals, peer-reviewed scientific research, input from fishermen, and attention to balancing resource conservation with the long term economic health of ocean-dependent businesses, especially commercial fishing, recreational fishing, and recreational diving.

Adopted March 2, 1999