

## Business Working Group - July 15, 2003

### Attendance:

- Robert Valney & Howard Beyers: Seabiscuit Sportfishing
- Monica Baker: Island Packers
- Sandy Delano: Ventura Harbor Village
- Cameron Benson: Environmental Defense

### Scoping Comments:

- Outreach is not successful; there is not enough lead time.
- Fishermen filing for bankruptcy and laying off crew members.
- Guys are disgusted with the process; sour on the whole thing.
- The frustration is high in all harbors.
- Quotes:
  - “Not another inch of Reserves”
  - “Damage is done!”
  - “We’re getting hit from all sides by Federal and State agencies.”
  - “Trickle down of Reserves impacts on Restaurants and Hotels.”
- Sandy Delano, Ventura Port District:
  - “It’s very confusing as to what is closed and what is not. This causes fishermen to refrain from making reservations on Charter Boats.”
  - “Prime fishing areas are closed. This has impacted 40% of my business”
- Reluctant to continue to be involved because they feel that their voice is lost.
- Where does commercial fishing fit in to the CINMS equation?
- Budget cuts at a Federal level: How will CINMS pay for expanding the Reserves?
  - “Have not given the existing Reserves a chance to prove their effectiveness.”
  - “There would be a lot more fishing going on in deeper waters if the Department of Fish and Game allowed us to.”
- Rockfish in winter: complete fishery \$
- Sea Bass in deeper water
- There are areas 6 miles out that are shallower than 300’ and good fishing grounds.
- Congestion in open areas and increased pressure may impact other species.
- On the water businesses (Captain) perspective is important
- Industry in North waters (WA, OR) in CINMS
- Account for economic cycles considering the discretionary income trends in the past (i.e. 1992) and present.
- Analyze the general economic climate relative to the economy of fishing industries (especially sport fishing)
- Economic/Environmental impacts of fishing boats shifting to wildlife/tourism business.
- Determine the extent of economic hardship caused by MPA- comparison of revenue prior to and subsequent to April closures.
- Maritime insurance example: In 4 years the number of boats insured dropped from 670 to less than 100.
- License sales decrease, purchase date in June related to rockfish closure?

- Public perception is that all of the Sanctuary is closed.
- DFG is operating like the secret service.
- Private boaters are uninformed and fish in closed areas unknowingly.
- Concern over Warden power.
- Gap in the organizations that are implementing resource protection.
  - ~lots of “small” regulations
  - ~cutting things up into bits and pieces
  - ~i.e. depth, gear, area restrictions
- “take a hard look at existing regulations from all regulatory agencies and determine whether Federal Reserves are needed.”
- Can there be some “give” not just “take”
- “in search of cooperation”—commercial fishermen
- “More reserves do not work as illustrated by areas with 20 year protection”
- “Marketing outreach is not getting the word out about the success of Reserves”—reopening closed areas
- Work with other agencies to reduce the impact of Fishermen
- Simplify and condense regulations and information
- IP is not feeling negative impacts
- Tourists are confused about the Scorpion Anchorage
- Gull/Carrington/ANI importance of seasonality (2-3 week periods) w/respect to fishing areas/SBI [Oct/Nov]/Scorpion Anchorage
- Who owns Sanctuary water?
- Should there be a polling of the general public interests?