

Remarks of Kathy Fosmark on the Role of the Commercial Fishing Representative on the Monterey Bay Sanctuary's Advisory Council

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As the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's Commercial Fishing representative on the SAC, my primary responsibility and role is shared with all SAC members, as stipulated in the National Marine Sanctuaries Act:

"The **Secretary** may establish one or more advisory councils to **advise and make recommendations to the Secretary regarding the designation and management of national marine sanctuaries.**"

Congress also said that SAC's will include groups **"interested in the protection and multiple use management of **sanctuary resources.**"**

Therefore, my role on the SAC is to represent the commercial fishing men and women of the region who utilize Sanctuary waters.

I note that according to Congress, the advice we give to the sanctuary regarding a management decision, or a new sanctuary designation, is

framed neutrally: it could be positive—yes, fishermen will support---or negative---fishermen will not support this.

Who are the people and what type of fishing does the SAC commercial fishing seat need to represent? The major fisheries are:

- Groundfish—rock fishes, halibut, soles, sablefish
- Highly Migratory Species—swordfish, tunas
- Coastal Pelagic Species—sardines, anchovies, mackerels, squid
- Salmonoids—several species and steelhead

These are managed largely by the Pacific Fishery Management Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

In addition to this, there are state managed fisheries, such as for California halibut, sheepshead, abalone, urchins, and squid. These are managed by the California Fish and Game Commission and the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Each fishery has its own regulations, vessel type, gear, economics, culture, and habitat and conservation characteristics.

With this in mind, what background should a Commercial Fishing representative have to inform the Sanctuary?

- 1) Direct experience with multiple fisheries
- 2) A history of being active in fishery management
- 3) On-the-record support from the broad region's commercial fishing organizations
- 4) Ideally, knowledge of the history of the relationship between California commercial fishermen and the sanctuary program
- 5) Time to devote to SAC business

Having a representative who has these attributes allows the representative to communicate to, and from, an identified constituency. Hopefully, these are the attributes that a sanctuary superintendent will want also, if he or she is interested in solid representation from this industry.

In my case, when I applied to be the SAC commercial fishing representative, I received formal endorsements from 28 west coast fishing industry organizations. I won't name them all, but this support includes the leaders of the three fishing associations within Monterey Bay; from the California Wetfish Producers Association, representing the state's squid and sardine fishermen; from the Western Fishboat Owners Association, representing the tuna fleet; the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations—the largest organization of commercial fishermen on the west coast; and, of course, from the Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries, which is a non-profit founded 20 years ago to, among other things, provide a unified for commercial fishermen to the national marine sanctuary program. Alliance community members include the six ports from Half Moon Bay south to Port San Luis.

I am part of a five-generation fishing family in the region. My late husband and I fished for salmon, swordfish, crab, albacore, and rockfishes, so I am very familiar with those fisheries and how they are managed. My two sons both have active fishing businesses. I served the Pacific Fishery Management Council for many years, first on its advisory committees, then as a member of the council, nominated by the governor and appointed by the US Secretary of Commerce.

I also have first-hand knowledge of the understanding made between the sanctuary program and commercial and recreational fishermen that the sanctuary, when first proposed in the late 80's and early 90's, would not manage fisheries, and would not take actions that might threaten the livelihoods of commercial fishermen. This agreement, or promise, is reflected in this sanctuary's Designation Document. One of my roles on the SAC is to hold the sanctuary to this agreement.

Because fisheries are so diverse, my communication for fishing issues is targeted. For example, when the subject of the use of seal bombs comes up, I look to Diane Pleschner-Steele, Executive Director of the California Wetfish Producers Association, along with local squid fishermen, to inform those affected and as a source of knowledge for the issue.

For Dungeness Crab issues, I can communicate with a large number of California crab fishermen who I have known for years.

And, the Board of Directors of the Alliance, made up of the leaders of each port's commercial fishing association, forms the backbone of my communication to and from the local fishing industry.

So, that's the role I see for the Commercial fishing SAC representative, and what attributes such a representative should possess.

Thank you

