

THE COALITION OF ORGANIZATIONS FOR OCEAN LIFE

Defenders of Wildlife | Friends of the Sea Otter | The Marine Mammal Center
The Natural Resources Defense Council | The Ocean Conservancy
Save Our Shores | World Wildlife Fund

Stephanie Harlan
Sanctuary Advisory Council Chair
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
299 Foam Street
Monterey, CA 93940

April 5, 2002

Dear Ms. Harlan and SAC Members,

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak to the SAC on February 25. I appreciated the opportunity to make SAC members aware of the Coalition of Organizations for Ocean Life (COOL) and the value we place on the establishment of Reserves and other Marine Protected Areas. We are a consensus-based coalition of environmental organizations and recreational ocean lovers. We have a regional focus, roughly covering the waters of the MBNMS. "The mission of the Coalition of Organizations for Ocean Life is to foster the creation of a network of marine reserves that will help restore, enhance and protect the diversity and abundance of California's marine life and underwater habitats, and to educate the public on the value of marine reserves and healthy oceans."

All of COOL's members support these consensus statements of policy:

- California's Marine Life Protection Act is good law, supported by the best available science;
- We support the creation of Marine Reserves, which exclude **all** extractive activity;
- We hope to see diverse public input to the MLPA process;
- Under the MLPA, State Reserves should be established to protect near-shore as well as offshore areas, and encompass all types of habitats. Therefore, we hope to see some Reserves which extend to the three mile state line and into deeper waters.

COOL has additionally adopted these policies on public access to MPA's:

- The purpose of the MLPA is to limit extraction and not to limit access;
- Public access to Marine Reserves is generally beneficial because access leads to awareness which leads to a conservation ethic, and
- In general, efforts to educate the public regarding potential impacts of activities are preferable to limiting access.

My speech on Feb. 25 included the above policies, as well as my own perspective on their implications for the Sanctuary. This letter represents the positions of each of COOL's member organizations, which are listed on our letterhead, above. COOL's positions as

written in this letter have the endorsement of the national Surfrider Foundation, and also the endorsement of the Santa Cruz Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation. In addition, I, Pat Lovejoy, Michelle Newman (each of Santa Cruz) participate in COOL as individuals. These individuals are recreational divers, and one is also an avid kayaker. COOL also benefited from input in its policy-making process from two organizations comprised largely of divers.

As I tried to convey in my talk, there is a general public perception that because the Sanctuary exists, the "diversity and abundance of [Central] California's marine life and underwater habitats" are already adequately protected. We wish that were the case, but best available science indicates that we have much work left to do. COOL believes that the Sanctuary's positive support for a network of Reserves and other MPA's which will fulfill the stated goals of MLPA is not only essential to the fulfillment of the Sanctuary's Mission and Vision, but also to its ability to maintain the confidence of the public.

Again, please accept my thanks for allowing me to introduce COOL to the SAC. Thanks also for taking the time to read this letter. Please forward it to the members of the SAC.

Sincerely Yours,

Marc Shargel, Chair,
The Coalition of Organizations for Ocean Life

CC: Karen Grimmer, SAC Coordinator