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William Douros
Monterey Bay NMS

Sanctuary Advisory Council
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
299 Foam Street
Monterey, CA 93940
(831) 647-4201

February 20, 2004

Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr.
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.)
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Admiral Lautenbacher:

In December 2003 the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council requested that the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary staff provide a briefing on the Department of Defense's recent "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004" as it relates to provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act. We learned at our February 6, 2004 Advisory Council meeting that Sanctuary staff contacted the headquarters office of the National Marine Sanctuary Program and the National Marine Fisheries Service, yet was unable to find anyone within NOAA to give this briefing. We understand that at least one other national marine sanctuary Advisory Council has made the same request but was unable to get anyone to provide a briefing.


On behalf of the MBNMS Advisory Council, I would like to formally request a briefing by the National Marine Fisheries Service, or the National Marine Sanctuary Program, on how this law affects the National Marine Sanctuary Program and its mandate to protect living marine resources including marine mammals and endangered species. Thank you for your attention to this.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Harlan
MBNMS Advisory Council Chair

cc: Dan Basta, NMSP Director
William Douros, MBNMS Superintendent
Donna Wieting, NMFS, Office of Protected Resources, Deputy Director



Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary