



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
**NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE**

**Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary**  
299 Foam Street  
Monterey, California 93940

February 18, 2005

Phil Isenberg  
Chair  
MLPA - Blue Ribbon Task Force  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Maximizing state and federal cooperation with a central coast project area  
between Point San Pedro and Cambria

Dear Chair Isenberg:

We greatly appreciated the opportunity in January to provide the Blue Ribbon Task Force with an overview of the National Marine Sanctuary Program in general, and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's consideration of marine protected areas in particular. As the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) initiative moves forward, maintaining an active dialogue and a close working relationship with the state and its partners is a top priority for the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

As Dr. Holly Price described at your January 11<sup>th</sup> meeting in Long Beach, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) has been engaged in a multi-year process to consider marine protected areas in the sanctuary. The MBNMS has been working closely with a group of stakeholders and experts, many of whom are serving in similar capacities with the current or past MLPA efforts. There are many opportunities for collaboration between these state and federal initiatives, and we have begun a dialogue with staff from the Department of Fish and Game, MLPA, and Resources Agency regarding how best to make our efforts complementary.

There are of course many important factors in choosing the appropriate central coast project area, and we compliment your staff in its thoughtful application of the selection criteria to the current alternatives. However, we would like to take the opportunity to emphasize how important it is to create a project area that sets the stage for effective state and federal cooperation. To that end, we have been proposing in the public workshops that the Blue Ribbon Task Force consider a study area that overlaps with much of the MBNMS, running from Point San Pedro, just south of San Francisco, to Cambria (please see attached map and table).


A project area covering most of the MBNMS will allow the state to take the lead in designating MPAs in state waters throughout the sanctuary. As noted, the MBNMS has a



process in motion that will have to continue to consider marine protected areas in state waters if a project area is chosen that covers a smaller portion of the MBNMS. Aligning our efforts in this way will also allow for a higher degree of information sharing and logistical synergy. At 176 NM, the area is also an effective compromise between the more inclusive but potentially unwieldy current alternatives, and the smaller options that may not include an adequate range of habitats.

Aligning the state and federal consideration of marine protected areas is critical and we believe it can be accomplished with an option that ranks high under the other established criteria. This type of cross jurisdictional collaboration has been identified as one of the keys of effective marine management by the U.S Commission on Ocean Policy, the Pew Commission, and California's Ocean Resources Management Strategy for Action. Thank you for your consideration of this option, and I look forward to speaking to the Blue Ribbon Task Force regarding these matters next week.

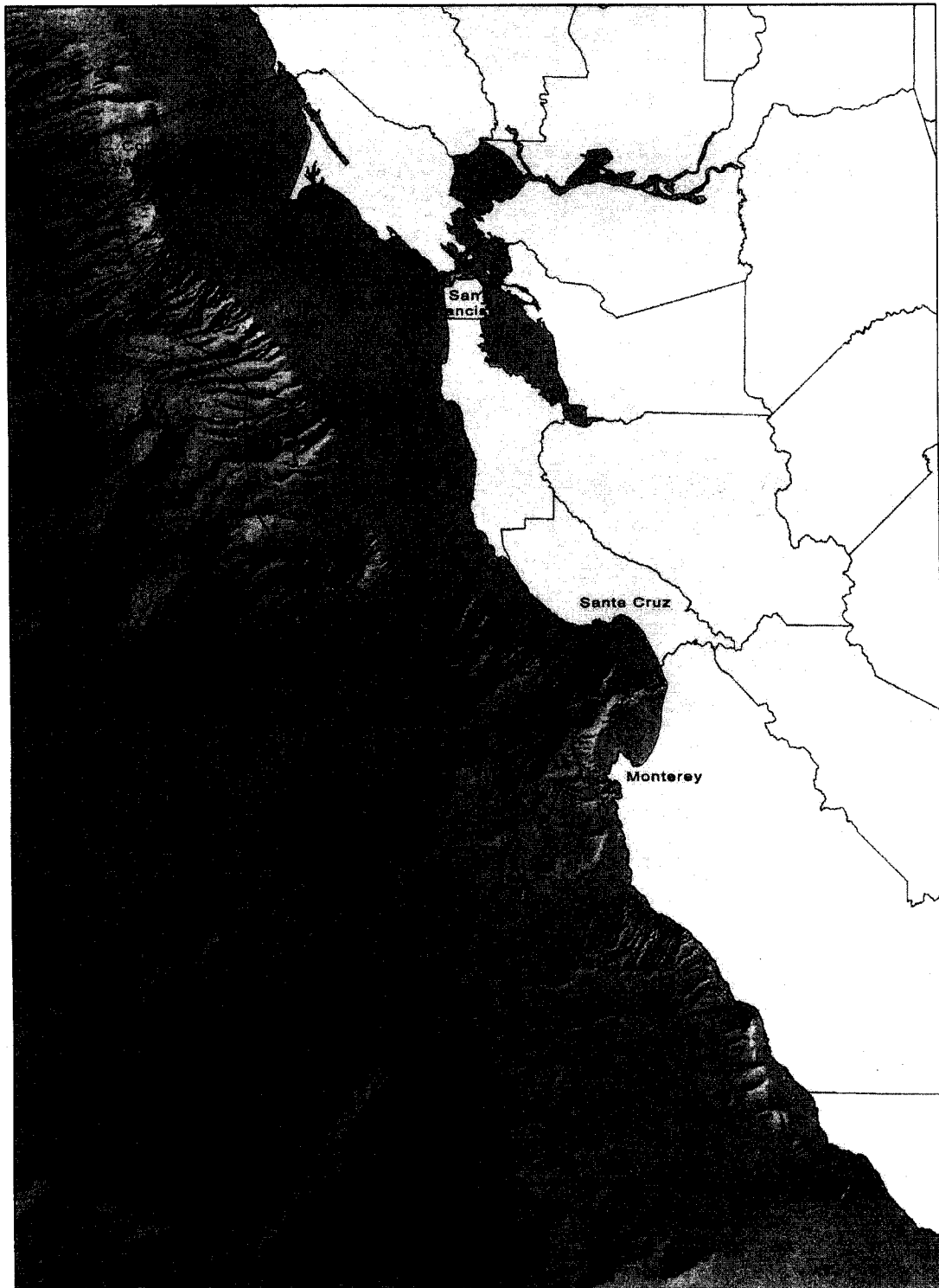
Sincerely,



William J. Douros  
Superintendent

cc: Blue Ribbon Task Force members  
John Kirlin, Executive Director, MLPA Initiative  
Brian Baird, Assistant Secretary for Ocean and Coastal Policy, Resources Agency  
Patty Wolf, Marine Region Manager, CDFG

**Proposed MLPA Central Coast Study Area  
-Point San Pedro to Cambria-**



Potential central coast study regions (north to south)	Reason for Inclusion	N.M. of coasts	Biophysical boundaries?	Area large enough for replicates?	Relative amount of habitat mapped	Human activity boundaries - recreational fishing	Human activity boundaries - commercial fishing	Human activity boundaries - scuba diving	Human activity boundaries - county jurisdictions	Human activity boundaries - military or security uses	Human activity boundaries - state/fed jurisdiction - # of Rockfish Conservation Area sections	
<i>Pt. San Pedro to Cambria</i>	Suggested by public	176	no	yes	moderate	N extent for SF; S extent for MB	SF, MT Dungeness crab; SF MT squid, Mt. Sur spot prawn	contains important Monterey to Pt. Lobos area	San Mateo, Santa Cruz, Monterey	none	trawl; one, non-trawl; one	
			Science knowledge & research	Available local knowledge	No. of existing MPAs	Relative amount of data from MPAs	No. of complete DFG districts	No. of complete DFG mgmt areas - rockyfish and lingcod	No. of complete DFG mgmt areas - salmon	Area size relative to range of knowledge of users	Potential distance required to travel to meetings	Availability of DFG staff
		high	high	7	high	2	0	2	large	moderate	high	