

January 2, 2003

Dear Krill Harvesting Working Group Member,

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is undertaking a review of its initial management plan. A decade of experience protecting the marine ecosystem and working with the community has helped us to identify issues and strategies that should potentially be incorporated into our management scheme. Over the last year and a half these issues were further honed over a series of public scoping meetings and workshops with our Sanctuary Advisory Council. From this process we have identified fifteen specific issues that we will seek additional public input on in a working group format. This working group will help the Sanctuary further define the potential strategies and actions to address the issue of krill harvesting.

The potential need for permanent restriction of krill harvesting within the Sanctuary is an excellent example of an strategy identified by the public that will help the Sanctuary achieve its mandate of ecosystem protection. We want to thank each of you for agreeing to lend your expertise to this issue and we look forward to working with you over the coming months. This package is to provide you with background information regarding the Sanctuary, the management plan review process, and the issue of krill harvesting. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with as much of this material as possible before our first meeting on January 16th. We appreciate the value of your time and it is our aim to make this first meeting as substantive as possible. Enclosed you will find the following materials:

- Krill Harvesting Issue Background
- Scoping Comments Related to the Issue of Krill Harvesting
- The 1992 MBNMS Management Plan, Regulations, Designation Document and National Marine Sanctuaries Act (as amended in 2000)
- The Monterey Bay State of the Sanctuary Report
- Overview of the Joint Management Plan Review process
- The Management Plan Review Priority Issue Work Plan

- HIHWMS Natural Resource Protection Action Plan. (provided as an example from the 2002 Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale NMS Management Plan of the type of product that will be generated from the working group process.)

I hope that you find these documents useful in understanding the purpose and objectives of the management plan review and working group processes. If you have any questions before the meeting please feel free to contact me at 831-647-4254, or at huff.mcgonigal@noaa.gov. There is also a section of our website that will be devoted to postings, contacts, and information specific to each working group at <http://sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/jointplan>. Again, the first meeting is Thursday, January 16th from 2:00 to 5:00 at the Sanctuary office at 299 Foam Street in Monterey. I look forward to seeing you then.

Sincerely,

Huff McGonigal
Environmental Policy Specialist