

**Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries**  
**P O Box 1309, Carmel Valley, CA 93924 (831) 659-2838**

January 6, 2004

Fernando Armenta, Chair  
Monterey County Board of Supervisors  
60 West Market Street, Suite 110  
Salinas, CA 93901

RE: Support Monterey County's Recreational and Commercial Fishing Industry With  
Recommendations Made to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and the Association of  
Monterey Bay Area Governments

Dear Chair Armenta:

Our organization, the Alliance for Communities for Sustainable Fisheries (ACSF), has been organized to represent the economic, social, and cultural interests of the recreational and commercial fishing industry in the geographic region from Port San Luis (Avila Beach) to Pillar Point Harbor in San Mateo County. As the name applies, we are committed to the preservation of sustainable fisheries and link fishing activities with the greater communities that support our industry. Resolutions supporting the efforts of the ACSF have been adopted by the city councils of Monterey and Morro Bay, by the elected commissions of the San Mateo County, Moss Landing and Port San Luis Harbor Districts, and the Santa Cruz Port District.

We are writing to ask the Board of Supervisors to endorse two specific recommendations and to bring some economic "good news" to your attention.

The first recommendation is regarding the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. We ask that the Board go on record as reaffirming the original promise which was made to the fishing community that the Sanctuary Program would not seek to manage fisheries, nor would it regulate fishing activities. This promise made was in exchange for the fishermen's support of sanctuary status, which is widely understood to never have occurred had it not been for support from the fishermen. Indeed, in a January 31, 2002 letter from Congressman Sam Farr, the Congressman states:

"In the process of building support for the designation of the sanctuary, a clear commitment was made to the fishing community that the sanctuary would not impose any regulations directed at fishing activities or fishing vessels. This agreement is based on the understanding that the fisheries within the sanctuary are already being regulated and that there is neither the necessity nor the resources for the National Marine Sanctuary Program to take on this responsibility. This management plan review process should not be used as a means toward altering this basic agreement. The regulation of fishing in the sanctuary should remain under the jurisdiction of the California Department of Fish and Game and the Pacific Fisheries Management Council. Any future reexamination of this relationship should be conducted directly with representatives of the fishing community and these two agencies."

We ask that the Board of Supervisors adopt a resolution that would communicate to the Sanctuary Program Monterey County's wish that this promise be kept. We are concerned that, should the Sanctuary use its own authority to create fishing regulations, it would cause great economic uncertainty and real damage to the fishing industry, in addition to a loss of public credibility for the Sanctuary for breaking its promise.

Our second request is in regard to the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments. We ask that Monterey County strongly endorse an independent and careful review by AMBAG, of the purpose and functions of the Sanctuary Advisory Council, which operates under the authority of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

Presently the Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) has a majority of its members selected by the Sanctuary Superintendent, which may or may not necessarily be the choice of the individual communities or industries which are represented (e.g. the Superintendent may select whomever he wishes to fill the "fishing seat" - not necessarily who fishermen themselves select). Further, the SAC agendas must have the concurrence of the Superintendent, as does all correspondence outgoing from the SAC. The Superintendent may remove SAC members, and the Sanctuary Program strictly prohibits communication from the SAC to members of Congress. If an informed and well-represented SAC cannot voice support or concern for the Sanctuary Program to Congress, who credibly will? Thus far the Sanctuary Program and the current SAC itself have been unable to self examine on these issues. The AMBAG Board of Directors is just beginning its inquiry as to whether the SAC's current structure primarily benefits the Sanctuary Program itself or in fact benefits the local communities and industries through direct and independent representation. Congressman Farr, quoting again from his January 31, 2002 letter, also calls for a citizens' review of the role and functioning of the SAC: "...I would encourage sanctuary management to engage in a dialogue with both current and past SAC members as well as influential members of the community to obtain insights into how the SAC is perceived and how it can be strengthened to more effectively maintain the confidence of its constituency."

We believe that AMBAG has the capability of providing a thorough and independent review of these SAC questions and ask that the Monterey County Board of Supervisors formally endorse this review.

Lastly, we draw your attention to the just-released economic study of commercial fishing activities in Moss Landing Harbor, sponsored by Monterey County. This study, which is well done, is also acknowledged to be still incomplete in that some commercial fishing activity and all recreational fishing economic activities are not included. Even so, the study reveals direct revenues of 17 to 25 million dollars per year for Moss Landing alone. The Federal Economic Development Administration believes that direct fishery revenues benefit the local economy by a factor of nine. Therefore, you can see that commercial fishing remains a very strong economic engine in this region.

Thank you for your consideration of these matters. If this is placed on the agenda the ACSF will have someone present to speak to these issues.

Sincerely,

Mike Ricketts, Co-Chair, ACSF

Kathy Fosmark, Co-Chair, ACSF

Supporting Associations & Organizations

Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Association

Port San Luis Commercial Fishermen's Association

Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen's Association

Monterey Commercial Fishermen's Association

Fishermen's Association of Moss Landing

Santa Cruz Commercial Fishermen's Marketing Association

Half Moon Bay Fishermen's Marketing Association

Fishermen's Alliance

Western Fishboat Owners Association

Ventura County Commercial Fishermen's Association

Federation of Independent Seafood Harvesters

Golden Gate Fishermen's Association

Port San Luis Harbor District

City of Morro Bay Harbor, City of Monterey Harbor

Moss Landing Harbor District, Santa Cruz Port District

Pillar Pt. Harbor, San Mateo County Harbor District

C: Donna Oliveria, Chair, Economic Development Commission