

MEMORANDUM FOR: Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council
FROM: Paul Michel, Superintendent
SUBJECT: Forage Fish White Paper and Options Forward

In preparation for the October 18 SAC meeting in Cambria and the agenda item regarding the latest forage fish white paper, I have prepared the following options for how we might proceed on this issue for your consideration.

Attached for your review is the revised Conservation Working Group (CWG) white paper on Forage Species Science and Management. We thank the CWG members for their hard work on this document, and also appreciate the time and effort provided by some of the Research Activity Panel members on their reviews. Also attached are comments from Dr Parrish, and the Harbor seat.

I would like Council members to review the attached documents prior to the meeting, as well as, ponder how the Council should proceed on this issue. Please consider the following potential actions:

White Paper:

1. By vote, approve and endorse the CWG white paper on Forage Species Science and Management
2. Thank the CWG and forward the paper and comments received on to the Superintendent as "information for the MBNMS".

Draft a Resolution:

Draft a statement or resolution. For example, Steve Scheiblauser, Harbor seat suggested in his comments - "MBNMS appreciates the important role that forage species play in the California Current ecosystem and supports the continuing development and use of the best available science in their management by the appropriate fishery management agency." Other language can be suggested.

Draft a Letter:

Draft and send a memo or letter to the Superintendent to express support for the Pacific Fisheries Management Council process and efforts to tackle unmanaged forage species; resolution could be attached to letter.

Form a Subcommittee to bring back a recommendation to the SAC in December:

A subcommittee could discuss and provide recommendations on what action(s) should be taken by the Advisory Council such as drafting a resolution or letter.

There may be other options to consider, but this is provided to spark the thought process. We look forward to a lively and informative discussion at the October 18th SAC meeting in Cambria.