

Patriot Sportfishing

February 23, 2015

RE: OPPOSE the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary

Sanctuary.Nominations@noaa.gov

William.douros@noaa.gov

Dear Mr. Dourous:

Patriot Sportfishing, is a 20+ year business in Port San Luis. We have been involved in sport fishing, partnering with the local Aquarium in school education programs, whale watching and Nature Cruises. Currently we have over 9,000 anglers in our reservation system. These are people who enjoy catching their own dinner but do not own their own boats.

As a business we have not only abided by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the National Marine Fisheries Service rules and regulations, we have also implemented our own conservation programs such as giving free trips to anglers that release large breeder fish to continue propagation of the species.

At this time we are restricted by seasons, depth limits and existing MPAs, not to mention the restricted area around Diablo Canyon and Vandenberg AFB when there is a missile launch.

The nomination includes the following items:

Criteria 1: The area's natural resources and ecological qualities are of special significance and contribute to: biological productivity or diversity; maintenance or enhancement of ecosystem structure and function; maintenance of ecologically or commercially important species or species assemblages; maintenance or enhancement of critical habitat, representative biogeographic assemblages, or both; or maintenance or enhancement of connectivity to other ecologically significant resources.

All of these have been or can be addressed through the MPA program.

Criteria 2: The area contains submerged maritime heritage resources of special historical, cultural, or archaeological significance, that: individually or collectively are consistent with the criteria of eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places; have met or which would meet the criteria for designation as a National Historic Landmark; or have special or sacred meaning to the indigenous people of the region or nation.

Mail:
PO Box 850
Avila Beach, CA 93424

Physical Address:
3975 Avila Beach Dr
Avila Beach, CA 93424

Phone and website :
805-595-7200
www.patriotsportfishing.com

As stated in the Criteria itself, these locations have met or would meet the criteria for designation as a National Historic Landmark, so there is a mechanism in place to protect these resources at this point in time and the sanctuary would merely be a duplication.

Criteria 3: *The area supports present and potential economic uses, such as: tourism; commercial and recreational fishing; subsistence and traditional uses; diving; and other recreational uses that depend on conservation and management of the area's resources.*

Again, there are mechanisms in place through a multitude of State and Federal agencies to conserve and manage our area's resources.

The recent economic study that is mentioned in the nomination is a 17 page report, not including the 12 pages of references, that states no less than 22 times phrases such as; 'impossible to determine', 'there are many variables', 'complicated to draw a clear casual link', 'no current research makes that conclusion', etc.

Criteria 4: *The publicly-derived benefits of the area, such as aesthetic value, public recreation, and access to places depend on conservation and management of the area's resources.*

Again, agencies, laws and statutes currently exist specifically for this purpose. In addition the justification for this criteria begins with: "The sanctuary as proposed would fill an existing gap among the four national marine sanctuaries..." We do not believe that the Marine Sanctuary Act was intended to be a complete and contiguous surrounding of the entire coastline of the United States!

As with the 4 Criteria, the 6 Considerations are equally well addressed by current NGOs (non-governmental Organizations) for research and education, agencies, laws and statues addressing everything from run-off, dumping, drilling, seismic testing, rescue of marine life in distress and fish limits, closures and restrictions.

We do not feel that a National Marine Sanctuary is needed or warranted. The criteria for a National Marine Sanctuary can be fully addressed using the existing laws and statutes of both the State of California and the Federal government.

Thank you for your consideration.



Wade Gavin
Owner
Patriot Sportfishing



Debi Wood
Office Manager
Patriot Sportfishing

CC: The Honorable Lois Capps
San Luis Obispo County area agencies
Santa Barbara County area agencies

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