

Last Chance to Save Monterey Divesites!

Send letters/email to the Fish and Game Commission... this week!

The Fish and Game Commission (FGC) will vote on four Packages of marine protected areas (MPAs). This vote will finalize a 10 year fight to protect dive sites in Monterey. Package 1 is proposed by recreational and commercial fishermen. Package 2R is proposed by divers and conservationists. Package 3R is proposed by employees of the Sanctuary, Hopkins, Coastal Commission and others. Package P is the proposal recommended by the staff of the Department of Fish and Game (DFG). **Divers should support Packages 2R and 3R!**

Support Packages 2R and 3R ...

Diver's have already compromised too much in this 10 year political battle. These packages are our minimum compromise. Both package 2R and 3R are identical in the Monterey-Carmel areas, and put dive sites, like **Ed Ricketts**, **Hopkins**, the **west side Pacific Grove**, and the **Carmel Pinnacles** into State Marine Reserves (SMR). These are our minimum sites.... Diver friendly Packages 2R and 3R, while allowing spear fishing, will prohibit spear fishing competitions in Pacific Grove and in Carmel Bay.

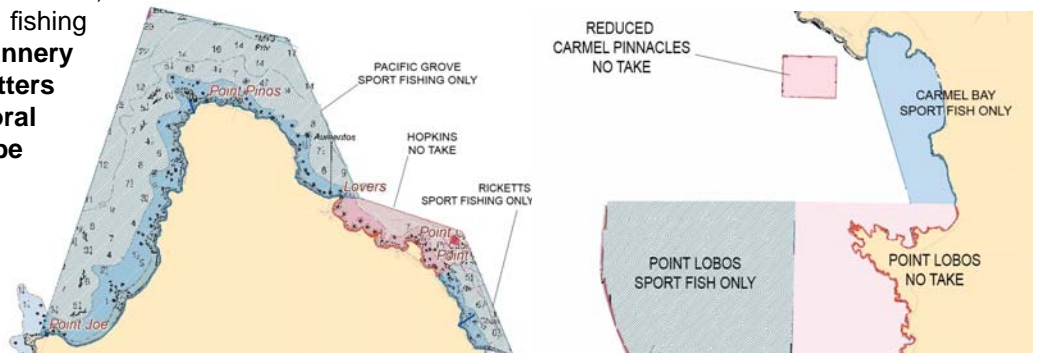
These packages would also protect dive sites from the Pinnacles towards Pescadero Point, including all the **Carmel Pinnacles**, and **Pescadero Wash Rock Pinnacle**, **East Pinnacle**, **Forgotten Pinnacle** and **Ling Cod Reef**.



Oppose Package P...

The DFG staff's Package P **will allow rod and reel fishing off the Breakwater Pier**, and thus the continued hooking of recreational divers at the Breakwater. It will throw away all protection from Breakwater and Hopkins, which is now the **Ed Ricketts Underwater Park**. Package P **will exclude the Barge, the Metridium Fields, MacAbee beach** and Sammet's Spire/Margarittaville from Reserve status. The East Pinnacles (Pescadero Pinnacle) is left without protection, **removing protection at Pescadero Wash Rock Pinnacle, East Pinnacle, Forgotten Pinnacle, Ling Cod Reef, and Dali's Wall**, opening these areas for recreational, commercial fishing, and spear fishing competitions. **Breakwater, Cannery Row, MacAbee, Lovers Point, Otters Cove, Eric's Pinnacles, Coral Street, Aumentos will not be saved as reserves!**

Package P will not protect the famous divesites of Monterey! Please get involved!



Please send an email... and tell your dive buddies!

Please mail or email letters to:
fgc@fgc.ca.gov
Fish and Game Commission
1416 9th Street -- Room 1320
Sacramento, Ca 95814

Please forward a copy to your diver representatives so that we can verify your inclusion:

yscuba@californiadivers.com
berkley@backscatter.com

What to include in your letter to the FGC commissioners.

Form letters are ignored, please write a short original email. Do not copy from the phrases or sentences below. Get a “feel” for the issues you’re concerned about from the bullets, and write a personal and well thought out letter. Keep it short! We need to win over the commissioners, so be professional, and write to “persuade.” If you need help, select from the bullets below and extend them into a full letter.

- Your first paragraph should describe **who you are**, your diving experience, where you dive, and why you enjoy it.
- You should **talk about your expenses while diving** (socioeconomic argument) hotel, restaurant, parking expenses, diving costs, etc. The ripple effect of your expenses, and how it benefits Monterey-Carmel.
- **How often do you come to Monterey-Carmel to dive each year?** Are you a beach diver (Ricketts) as well as a boat diver? Are you a photographer, spending a lot of money on photography equipment?
- There are over 160,000 dive days per year conducted within the Monterey-Carmel areas.
- Non-consumptive SCUBA diving is a 240 million dollar industry in California. \$100 million of this is generated by the dive business in the Central and Northern California area.
- The Monterey-Carmel area is serviced by over 50 family owned dive related businesses.
- **You support Package 2R** because it provides the most protection for the oceans, setting aside 13% of the Central Coast in State Marine Reserves.
- **You support Package 3R** which was named the “Preferred Alternative”. It sets aside 9% of central coast waters in State Marine Reserves while allowing a lot of recreational and commercial fishing opportunities.
- **Please adopt either Packages 2R or 3R** because they both protect non-consumptive recreational sites in the Monterey-Carmel areas, like the **Breakwater Pier, Ed Ricketts State Marine Reserve (SMR)**, Hopkins SMR, and the Pacific Grove SMR, which include dive sites like (Aumentos, Chase Reef, Point Pinos and the Great Tide Pools). Say why these sites are important to you.
- **Package 2R and 3R protect MacAbee Beach** in a State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA), by disallowing fishing, but permit limited kelp harvesting by hand only. This is the area in front of the Aquarium, and this area has a lot of wild life viewing by tourists (use an economic value argument).
- **Package 2R and 3R prohibit spear fishing competitions** (Tournaments) in the Pacific Grove SMCA and Carmel SMCA. These are popular non-consumptive dive areas.
- Spear fishing competitions take out too many ground fish in a six hour period. In, a 2002 tournament 2,500 lbs of ground fish were speared. The spear fishermen return every year. Rockfish are slow growing.
- Spear fishing tournaments are inconsistent with a designated Marine Protected Area. MPAs are about protection, not competition.
- **Packages 2R and 3R** establish SMRs at the **Carmel Pinnacles**, and protect dive sites from the Pinnacles towards Pescadero Point, including the Pinnacles, Pescadero Wash Rock, East Pinnacle, Forgotten Pinnacle and Ling Cod Reef.
- **The DFG Package P will allow rod and reel fishing off the Breakwater Pier**, and thus the continued hooking of recreational divers, and SCUBA students at the Breakwater.
- **The Ed Ricketts SMR is the most popular dive site in the Monterey-Carmel area.** 64,000 dive days occur every year between the Breakwater Pier and Lovers Point.
- **You oppose Package P**, because it will allow fishing from the beach and from boats between the Breakwater and Hopkins, which is now the Ed Ricketts Underwater Park.
- **You oppose Package P** because it will allow fishing at the Barge dive site, the Metridium Fields, MacAbee beach and Sammet’s Spire/Margarittaville.
- **Packages 1 and P will allow spear fishing competitions** along the Pacific Grove coastline, (Otters Cove, Eric’s Pinnacle, Coral Street, Aumentos, Ball Busters), and spear fishing at the Carmel Bay SMCA.