



Association of Northwest Steelheaders

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Title: Marine Protected Area (MPA) Policy

Approved: November 4, 2006

Last Revised:

The Association of Northwest Steelheaders are committed to sustainable fisheries and rebuilding ocean stocks. We remain concerned about wasteful by-catch and destructive practices. Our members have many reservations about the proposed creation of marine protected areas (MPA) and need assurances that the following issues will be fully addressed through the Ocean Policy Advisory Committee (OPAC).

All stakeholders, including the NW Steelheaders, are involved in an open public process.

That science, not politics, will evaluate and suggest the need for, if any, future Marine Protected Areas in the Pacific Northwest

Issues that need consideration include, but not limited to, the role, goals and time frame of marine protected areas; impact and value to sport fisheries (including anadromous and pelagic species); assessment of population and habitat status; funding for monitoring and evaluation; evaluation of current regulations and their outcomes; consideration of economic benefit to communities; and use of science-based decision-making.

Above all else, the NW Steelheaders are committed to effective conservation solutions while ensuring public access to the ocean.

Approved at the Board of Directors Meeting November 4, 2006