
CORDELL BANK, GULF OF THE FARALLONES,
AND MONTEREY BAY
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES



FINAL
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

PREPARED AS PART OF THE
JOINT MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

VOLUME IV OF IV

SEPTEMBER 2008

US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY PROGRAM





SEP 15 2008

Dear Reviewer:

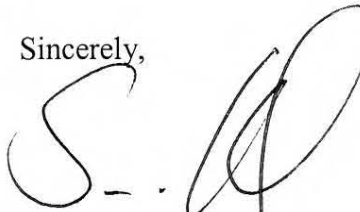
In accordance with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has enclosed for your review the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary (CBNMS), Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (GFNMS), and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS). All three sanctuaries are located off the coast of California and were designated in 1989, 1982, and 1992 respectively. The three sanctuaries protect the rich offshore northern and central California marine ecosystems and cultural resources within a 7,100 square mile area. The area is particularly noted for its coastal estuaries, offshore islands, seamounts, kelp forests, diverse marine mammals, and bird species.

This FEIS is prepared pursuant to NEPA to assess the environmental impacts associated with NOAA revising the management plans and associated regulations for the CBNMS, GFNMS, and MBNMS. The revisions are being done pursuant to section 304(e) of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, which requires periodic review of substantive progress toward implementation of the management plan and goals for the sanctuary.

Public hearings were held, and public comments were addressed in the document you are receiving. NOAA is not required to respond to comments received as a result of issuance of the FEIS. However, comments will be reviewed and considered for their impact on issuance of a record of decision (ROD). Please send comments to the responsible official identified below. The ROD will be made available publicly following final agency action on or after October 27, 2008.

Responsible Official: William J. Douros
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
299 Foam Street
Monterey, CA 93940
831-647-1920

Sincerely,


for Paul N. Doremus
NOAA NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure



Final Environmental Impact Statement Joint Management Plan Review

Lead Agency:

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Sanctuaries Program
1305 East-West Highway, N/ORM-6
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Proposed Action:

Regulatory changes for Cordell Bank, Gulf of the Farallones and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries resulting from the Joint Management Plan Review

Abstract:

This project proposes a series of regulatory changes intended to resolve inconsistencies in regulatory language and enhance resource protection within the three central and northern California National Marine Sanctuaries (NMS) -- Cordell Bank NMS, Gulf of the Farallones NMS, and Monterey Bay NMS. Most of the regulatory changes result in beneficial impacts on resources. No significant impacts were identified. Less than significant impacts were identified on Commercial Fisheries, Marine Transportation, and Socioeconomics. Beneficial impacts were identified on Air Quality, Biological Resources, Ocean/Geological Resources, Water Quality, Commercial Fisheries, Cultural Resources, Hazardous Materials, Land Use and Development, Public Access and Recreation, Research and Education, Socioeconomics, and Visual Resources. Cumulatively adverse impacts were identified on Commercial Fisheries and Marine Transportation; cumulative beneficial impacts were identified in Air Quality, Biological Resources, Ocean/Geology, Water Quality, Commercial Fisheries, Cultural Resources, Hazardous Materials, Public Access and Recreation, Socioeconomics, and Visual Resources.

<p>NOAA held public meetings on the Draft EIS and Management Plans on the following dates:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) November 29, 2006, 6:30 p.m. at the Cambria Pines Lodge, 2905 Burton Drive, Cambria, CA 93428. 2) November 29, 2006, 6:30 p.m. at the Bodega Marine Laboratory, 2099 Westside Road, Bodega Bay, CA 94923. 3) November 30, 2006, 6:30 p.m. at the Monterey Conference Center, One Portola Plaza, Monterey, CA 93940. 4) November 30, 2006, 6:30 p.m. at the Dance Palace Community Center, 503 B Street, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956. 5) December 5, 2006, 6:30 p.m. at the University of California Santa Cruz Inn and Conference Center, 611 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. 6) December 5, 2006, 6:30 p.m. at the Fort Mason Center, Firehouse (NE corner of Center), San Francisco, CA 94123 	<p>7) December 6, 2006, 6:30 p.m. at the Community United Methodist Church, 777 Miramontes Street, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019.</p> <p>Further information on the JMPR can be found at the project website: http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/jointplan/</p> <p>If you would like further information regarding this statement, please contact:</p> <p>Sean Morton JMPR Coordinator National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Sanctuaries Program 1305 East-West Highway, N/NMS Silver Spring, MD 20910 Phone: 301-713-3125 x264 E-mail: Sean.Morton@noaa.gov</p> <p>Comments on the Draft EIS were received during a 90-day public comment period ending January 6, 2007.</p>
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LIST OF ACRONYMS

Acronym	Full Phrase
AB	Assembly Bill
APPS	Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships
AS	Alaska Statute
ASBS	Area of Special Biological Significance
BAAQMD	Bay Area Air Quality Management District
BART	Bay Area Rapid Transit
BEA	Bureau of Economic Analysis
BP	Before Present
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CBFNA	California Boating Facilities Needs Assessment
CBNMS	Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary
CCA	California Coastal Act
CCAA	California Clean Air Act
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980
CERCLIS	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Information System
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CINMS	Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CO	Carbon Monoxide
CRWQCB	California Regional Water Quality Control Board
CWA	Clean Water Act
CZMA	Coastal Zone Management Act
DEIS	Draft Environmental Impact Statement
DMP	Draft Management Plan
DTSC	Department of Toxic Substances Control
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EFH	Essential Fish Habitat
ENSO	El Niño Southern Oscillation
EO	Executive Order
ESA	Endangered Species Act
ESU	Evolutionarily Significant Unit
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FCAA	Federal Clean Air Act
FEIS	Final Environmental Impact Statement
FMP	Fishery Management Plan(s)
FWPCA	Federal Water Pollution Control Act
GFMP	Groundfish Fishery Management Plan
GFNMS	Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary
GGNRA	Golden Gate National Recreational Area
GIS	Geographic Information System
HAPC	Habitat Area Of Particular Concern
HC	Hydrocarbons
HMS	Highly Migratory Species

LIST OF ACRONYMS

Acronym	Full Phrase
IMO	United Nations International Maritime Organization
JMPR	Joint Management Plan Review
LCP	Local Coastal Program
LNG	Liquefied Natural Gas
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
MBARI	Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute
MBNMS	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MBUAPCD	Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District
MERITO	Multicultural Education of Resource Issues Threatening Oceans
MLMA	Marine Life Management Act
MLML	Moss Landing Marine Lab
MMPA	Marine Mammal Protection Act
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MPRSA	Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act also known as the Ocean Dumping Act
MPWC	Motorized Personal Watercraft
MSA	Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
MSD	Marine Sanitation Device
MTBE	Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAD 83	North American Datum of 1983
NAO	NOAA Administrative Order
NCCAB	North Central Coast Air Basin
NCP	National Contingency Plan
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NMA	Northern Management Area
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NMSA	National Marine Sanctuaries Act
NMSP	National Marine Sanctuaries Program
NCCOS	National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science
NOI	Notice Of Intent
NO _x	Nitrogen Oxides
NO ₂	Nitrogen Dioxide
NOAA	National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration
NOS	National Ocean Service
NPCA	National Park and Conservation Association
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPL	National Priorities List
NPS	National Park Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
OCS	Outer Continental Shelf
OCSLA	Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act
OMB	Office of Management and Budget
OTEC	Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion
OWS	Oil-Water Separator
PAHs	Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons
PCBs	Polychlorinated Biphenyls

LIST OF ACRONYMS

Acronym	Full Phrase
PFMC	Pacific Fishery Management Council
PISCO	Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans
P.L.	Public Law
PM ₁₀	10-micron particulate matter
PM _{2.5}	2.5-micron particulate matter
PPM	Parts per Million
PRNS	Point Reyes National Seashore
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RFA	Regulatory Flexibility Act
RHA	Federal Rivers and Harbors Appropriations Act of 1899
ROD	Record of Decision
ROI	Region of Influence
ROG	Reactive Organic Gases
ROV	Remotely Operated Vehicle
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Boards
SAC	Sanctuary Advisory Council
SARA	Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act
SCCAB	South Central Coast Air Basin
SF-DODS	San Francisco Deep Ocean Disposal Site
SFA	Sustainable Fisheries Act
SFAB	San Francisco Air Basin
SIMoN	Sanctuary Integrated Monitoring Network
SLA	Submerged Lands Act
SLOAPCD	San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District
SMPA	Special Marine Protected Area
SO ₂	Sulfur dioxide
SWQRCB	State Water Quality Resources Control Board
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TAC	Total Allowable Catch
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
U.S.C.	United States Code
USCG	United States Coast Guard
USDOJ	United States Department of Interior
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
VOCs	Volatile Organic Compounds
VTSS	Coast Guard Vessel Traffic Service
VTSS	Vessel Traffic Service/Separation