

# 2010 Mavericks Surf Contest



Sony Ericsson and Barracuda Networks  
(www.maverickssurf.com)



Irina Kogan  
Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary

February 18, 2010  
GFNMS and MBNMS Joint Advisory Council Meeting

## Mavericks Surf Contest Area Overview



## ***Background***

- Mavericks Surf Ventures (MSV) organizes the annual surf contest; contest window: November 1 - March 31
- GFNMS has been working with MSV since 2005 to address environmental impacts to Sanctuary resources (past actions by MSV to decrease impacts were voluntary ), educate public about Sanctuaries, inspire students about science of oceanography
- Surf break is in Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
- 2009-2010 first year Sanctuary authorization required due to updated Motorized Personal Watercraft (MPWC) definition
- Sanctuary Authorization is free; MSV does not compensate GFNMS for any contest-related costs
- Note: Cliffs, harbor, public safety, etc. not in sanctuary jurisdiction

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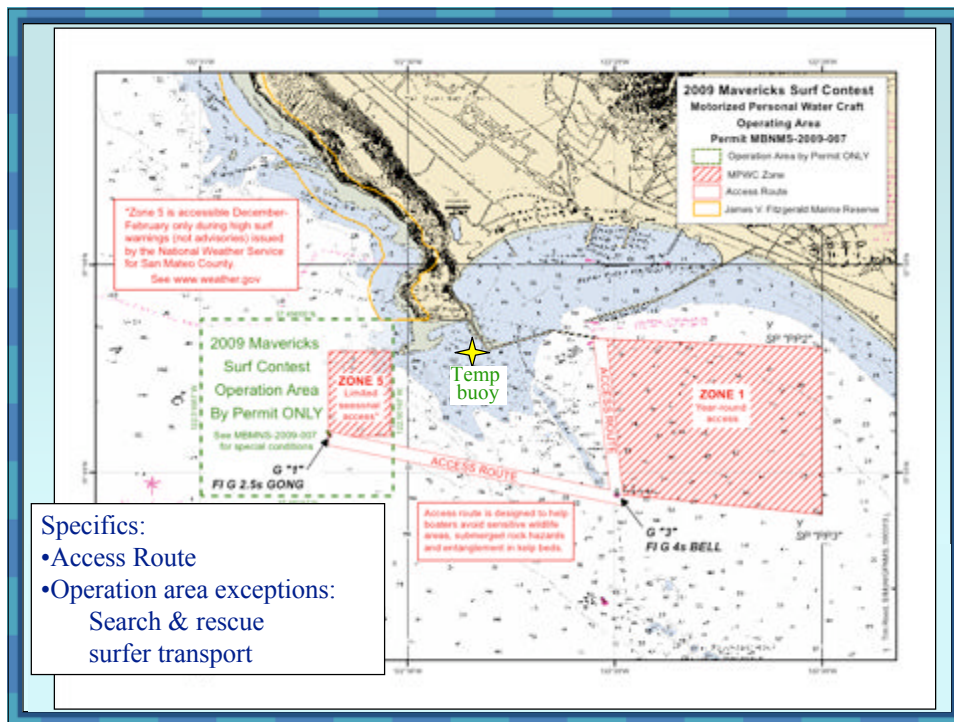
## ***Highlights from 2009-2010 Sanctuary Authorization to Mavericks Surf Ventures for use of MPWC***

- Maximum 10 Motorized Personal Watercraft (MPWC) allowed: search & rescue, contestant transport, filming, logistics (CF numbers submitted in advance); agency MPWC not included
- Except during process of actual search & rescue, MPWC may only be used in designated areas
- MSV responsible for contracting wildlife observers (MSV hired Farallones Marine Sanctuary Association)
- MSV responsible for closing Mavericks reef tidepool access if tide (< +0.7 ft): providing, installing, removing, staffing barricade
- Installation of a temporary buoy to demarcate contestant pick-up location
- One day only



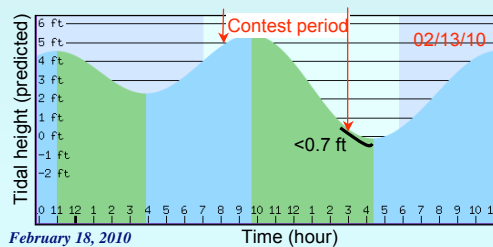
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## 2010 Mavericks Surf Contest

- 2010 Contest held Saturday February 13; GFNMS given 1.5 day notice (plus 2 day alert)
- NOAA Enforcement Officer, FMSA wildlife observers present for duration of contest
- GFNMS Superintendent present for part of day, 2 staff available by cell phone for questions/emergencies (1 local)
- Tide  $< +0.7$  ft at  $\sim 2:15$  pm (15 minutes prior to contest end)
- Entire beach was closed



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### ***2010 Mavericks Surf Contest \*Preliminary\* Report***

**\*\*Contest held last weekend (holiday weekend) - information still coming in\*\***

- Beach clean-up from affected Sanctuary beaches conducted
  - Mavericks reef tidepools protected due to tidal conditions and general Mavericks beach closure following 'rogue' waves
  - Temporary buoy has been removed without incident
  - On the water vessel collision (minor damage; no injuries or spill)
  - High Surf Advisory changed to High Surf Warning mid-contest;
- Max number of MPWC counted by observers: 34 (10 permitted, ~5 agency)
- Significant enforcement assistance to NOAA officer from CA Department of Fish & Game, Pillar Point Harbor, US Coast Guard



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### ***Mavericks Surf Contest February 13, 2010***



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### ***2009-2010 MPWC Enforcement and Sanctuary Regulatory Compliance Activities for Mavericks Contest***

- GFNMS and NOAA-Office of Law Enforcement, in coordination with other agencies, developed Mavericks Contest Enforcement Plan for Sanctuary regulations
- NOAA-Office of Law Enforcement was part of Mavericks Contest Incident Command
- Brochures with MPWC-specific information were passed out on contest morning at launch ramp
- Sign with MPWC regulations situated at Pillar Point harbor launch ramp; brochures available at harbormaster office
- NOAA officer was on water during contest (contact made with MPWC operators not part of permit)



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### ***Next Steps***

- FMSA Wildlife Observer Report (30 days per permit):
  - Wildlife counts
  - Human use counts
  - Vessel counts
  - Aircraft counts
  - Incident documentation
- NOAA Officer debrief of lessons learned
- GFNMS staff debriefing
- Review permit conditions for Contest Season
- Review GFNMS activities for future contests



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## *Ongoing*

- Pursue enforcement resources for 2010-2011 big wave season
- Update existing sanctuary regulatory sign at harbor launch ramp
- Produce new brochure on MPWC use within the sanctuary
- Installation of sign developed jointly with MSV, Pillar Point Harbor, Fitzgerald Marine Reserve for Pillar Point beach explaining that Mavericks is in Sanctuary and factors controlling big wave formation (summer 2010)
- Continue middle school program jointly with MSV on waves (surfers, surf forecaster participate)
- Visitor center display that includes geology, oceanography of Mavericks big waves is planned for Half Moon Bay area
- Continue to observe, learn, and address what additional sanctuary ecosystem protection measures may be needed during the contest



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## *Questions?*



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