



MPWC in the Marine Sanctuary: Issue Background





MPWC in the Marine Sanctuary: Issue Background

**Monterey Bay
National Marine
Sanctuary**

Final Environmental
Impact Statement/
Management Plan

Volume I



U.S. Department of
Commerce

June 1992

National Oceanic and
Atmospheric
Administration

Sanctuaries and
Reserves Division





MPWC in the Marine Sanctuary: Issue Background

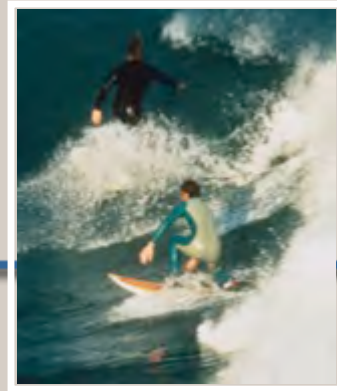
Goal Since 1992:

To minimize disturbance of marine wildlife by motorized personal watercraft (MPWC), minimize user conflicts, and provide opportunities for MPWC use within the Sanctuary.





MPWC in the Marine Sanctuary: Issue Background



Potential Impacts:

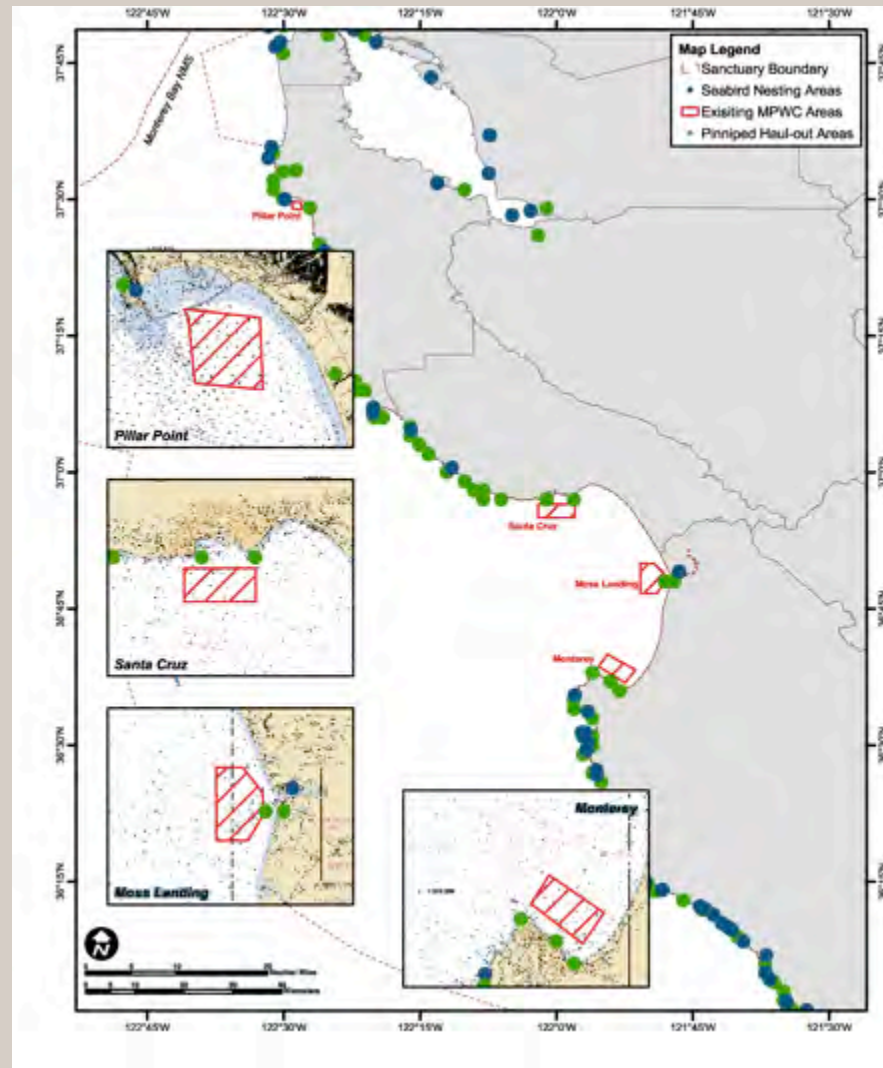
- Persistent and repetitive wildlife disturbance within discrete nearshore areas
- Nest and rookery site abandonment
- Disturbance of stillwater areas (nursery habitat)
- User conflicts



MPWC in the Marine Sanctuary: Issue Background

1992

Zoning approach to allow some MPWC use, while protecting sanctuary habitat and wildlife from MPWC disturbance.





MPWC in the Marine Sanctuary: Issue Background





MPWC in the Marine Sanctuary: Issue Background

MPWC Definition in NOAA Regulations (1992)

- Motorized Vessel less than 15 feet as manufactured,
- Capable of exceeding a speed of 15 knots, and
- Maximum capacity of 2 riders
- Includes jet skis, wet bikes, surf jets, miniature speed boats, airboats, and hovercraft



MPWC in the Marine Sanctuary: Issue Background





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MPWC in the Marine Sanctuary: Issue Background





MPWC in the Marine Sanctuary: Issue Background

New Developments After Designation (1992+)

- Increased use of 3+ seat MPWC in the MBNMS
- Use of MPWC at Mavericks surf competition (Pillar Pt)
- Increased MPWC use by SAR agencies
- Continuing evolution of MPWC designs and capabilities



MPWC in the Marine Sanctuary: Variety & Innovation



ATV/PWC Amphibian



Airboat



Jet Board



PWC – 4 seat



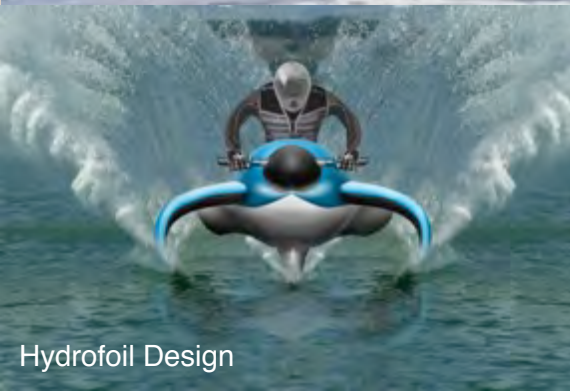
Remote Jet Sled



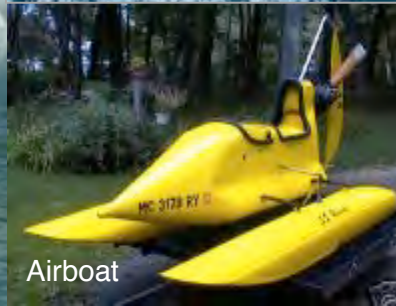
Jet Boat



PWC Catamaran



Hydrofoil Design



Airboat

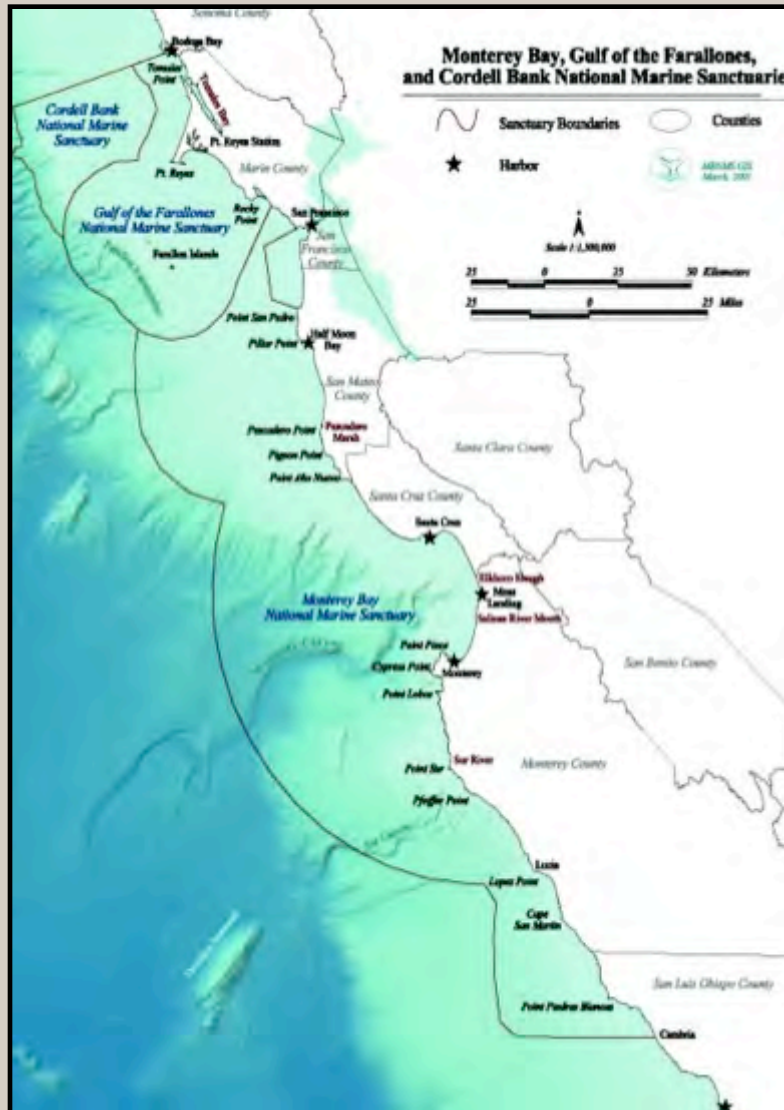


Jet Body Board

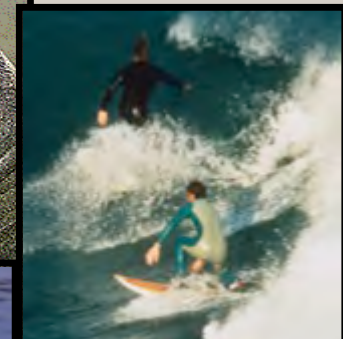


Rigid Inflatable PWC

Joint Management Plan Review (JMPR) 2001-2008



- Monterey Bay
- Gulf of the Farallones
- Cordell Bank





Joint Management Plan Review (JMPR) 2001-2008

- Winter 2001/2002 – NOAA held 20 public scoping meetings
- 1000 meeting participants
- 12,000 comments submitted from the public
- Spring 2003 – SAC convened over 20 working groups to help develop action plans for the revised management plan
- Summer 2003 – SAC spent several days discussing WG action plans and developed its recommendations to NOAA
- Fall 2006 – Draft Management Plan (500 pages) released for public review and comment
- Winter 2006/2007 – NOAA held multiple public hearings and received thousands of comments on the draft plan
- Fall 2008 – Final Management Plan released to the public and included NOAA responses to comments on the draft plan



Wildlife Disturbance (MPWC): Working Group Participants - 20

MBNMS Staff Contact

Scott Kathey

MBNMS Staff

Lisa Emanuelson

Huff McGonigal

Sean Morton

Working Group Members

Stephan Andranian	American Watercraft Association
Doug Ardley	Surfer's Environmental Alliance
Susan Danielson	Save Our Shores
John Donaldson	Personal Watercraft Industry Association
Jeff Field	Tow-In Surfing and Surf Rescue
Dan Haifley	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council - Recreation
Mike Kimsey	Surfrider Foundation - San Mateo Chapter
Don Kinnamon	California Boating Safety Officers Association
Mike Laffen	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council - At-Large
Peter Mel	Tow-In Surfing Competition
John Moule	Surfrider Foundation - San Luis Obispo Chapter
Bob Puccinelli	California Department of Fish & Game
Russ Robinson	Recreational Boaters of California
Sean Smith	Bluewater Network
Tom Stuhleyer	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council - US Coast Guard
Dan Temko	Pillar Point Harbor



Wildlife Disturbance (MPWC): SAC Tasking to Working Group

Strategy MPWC-1: MPWC Definition

Strategy MPWC-2: Zone Criteria and Boundary Markings

Strategy MPWC-3: Exceptions to Zone Restrictions

Strategy MPWC-4: Educational Outreach to MPWC Community

Strategy MPWC-5: Enforcement



Wildlife Disturbance (MPWC): Action Plan Strategies

Strategy MPWC-1: MPWC Definition (No WG consensus)

- Select definition criteria that will adequately define the craft of concern while avoiding obsolescence due to design changes over time





Wildlife Disturbance (MPWC): Action Plan Strategies

Strategy MPWC-3: Exceptions to Zone Restrictions

- Authorization for training of public safety personnel (WG consensus)
- Protocols for public safety training (WG consensus)
- Special use permit program for tow-in surfing at Mavericks (No WG consensus)
- Special use permit program for use of MPWC at sponsored surfing competitions at Mavericks (No WG consensus)



Wildlife Disturbance (MPWC): Action Plan Adoption

SAC Recommendations – July 31, 2003 SAC Meeting

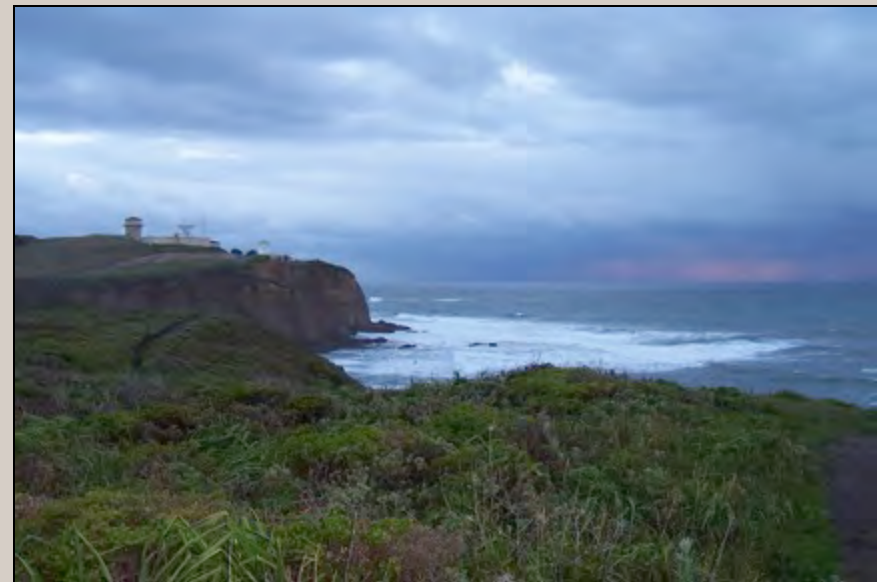
- Adopted all WG consensus items with minor changes
- Recommended that NOAA re-craft the definition of MPWC to withstand evolutionary design changes and maintain the original intent of the MPWC restrictions.
- Recommended permitting of MPWC for limited surf competitions at Mavericks.
- No SAC consensus or recommendation on a permitting program to allow tow-in activities at Mavericks.



Wildlife Disturbance (MPWC): SAC Tasking to Working Group

July 31, 2003 action by the SAC to reconvene the MPWC Working Group

- Determine whether private citizens should be permitted to operate MPWC off Mavericks for the purpose of providing a volunteer standby rescue patrol service for paddle surfers.
- Address potential prerequisites for a volunteer rescue team.
- Report findings to the SAC





Wildlife Disturbance (MPWC): MPWC Working Group Report

Working Group Findings reported to SAC on October 3, 2003:

- No consensus on whether to support or not support the proposal to allow private MPWC rescue patrol activities at Mavericks





Wildlife Disturbance (MPWC): MPWC Working Group Report

Issues leading to non-consensus – existing volunteer services were:

- Inconsistent and unpredictable
- Not supervised by, or accountable to, any common authority
- Not regulated by any required training or operational standards
- Not subject to proficiency requirements for search & rescue
- Not coordinated with EMS
- Not using uniform communications equipment & procedures
- Not restricted solely to a lifeguard role (photography, tow-in)
- A potential false security blanket for novice surfers over-reaching
- Subject to personal liability for any physical injury to individuals





Wildlife Disturbance (MPWC): SAC Response to MPWC WG Report

MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL FINAL MINUTES

October 3, 2003
Cavalier Oceanfront Resort
San Simeon, CA

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) Advisory Council (Council) met on Friday, October 3, 2003, at the Cavalier Oceanfront Resort, California.

[Excerpt from page 4]

IX. MOTORIZED PERSONAL WATERCRAFT WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATION

Scott Kathey, Regulatory Coordinator, gave an overview of the task the Advisory Council gave the Motorized Personal Watercraft working group at the July/August meeting. The working group did not reach consensus as to whether or not NOAA should allow a volunteer rescue patrol at the Mavericks surf break in Half Moon Bay. Scott provided the Advisory Council with a handout addressing the points that the group did reach consensus on as necessary steps should NOAA consider authorizing a volunteer rescue patrol. **Dan Haifley, Recreation primary, commented that the working group has reached the end; the working group cannot go any further. Peter Grenell, San Mateo Harbormaster and Harbor primary, agreed with Dan and suggested this issue should not be pursued further.**

The Advisory Council reached consensus that there is no need to make any modification to the Motorized Personal Watercraft proposed action plan for private rescue groups to be allowed at Mavericks.



MPWC in the Marine Sanctuary: 2008 NOAA Regulatory Revision

New MPWC Definition

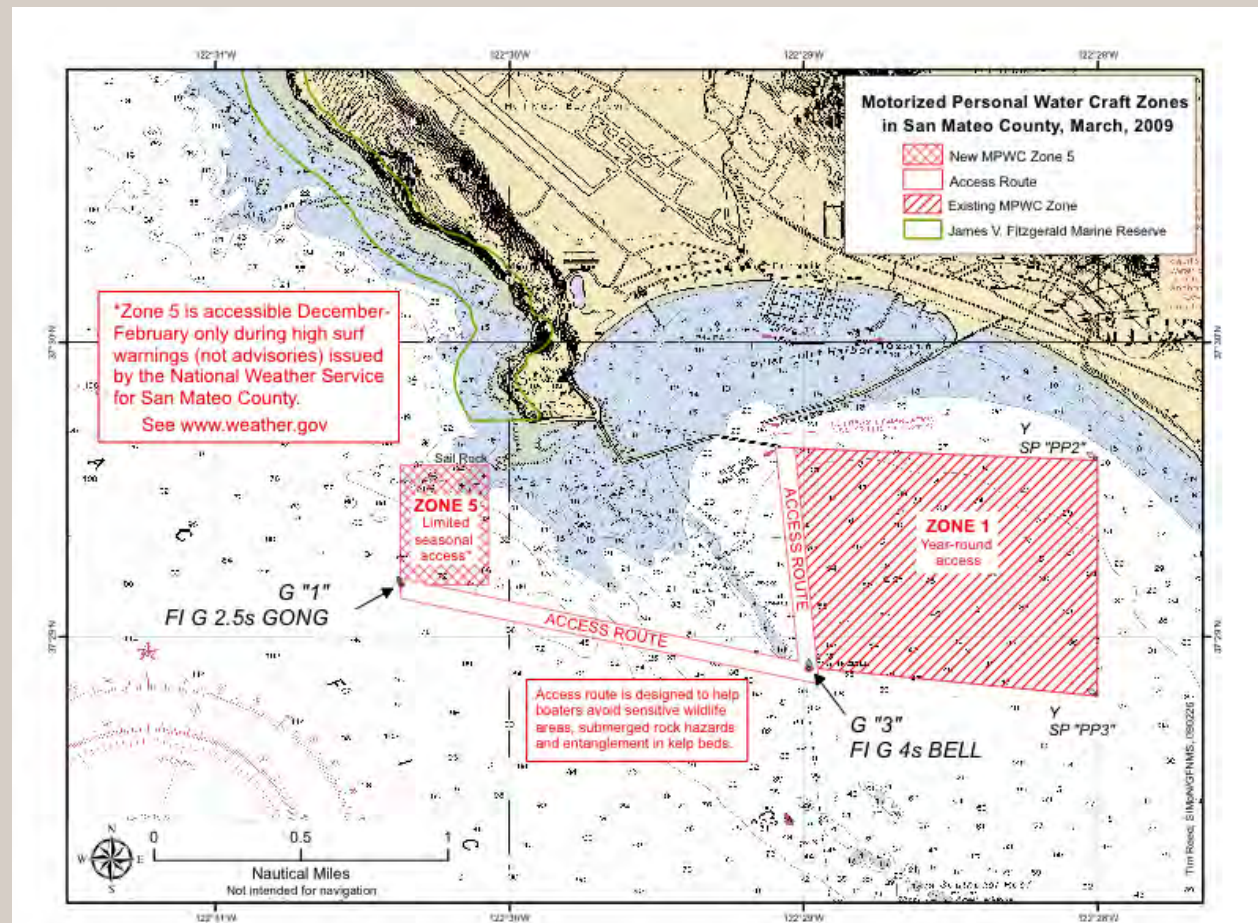
Motorized Personal Watercraft means:



- any vessel, propelled by machinery, that is designed to be operated by standing, sitting, or kneeling on, astride, or behind the vessel, in contrast to the conventional manner, where the operator stands or sits inside the vessel;
- any vessel less than 20 feet in length overall as manufactured, and propelled by machinery that does not require a U.S. Coast Guard Maximum Capacities Marking for Load Capacity required by 33 CFR, Parts 181 and 183 (except submarines); or
- any other vessel that is less than 20 feet in length overall as manufactured, and is propelled by a water jet pump or drive.

MPWC in the Marine Sanctuary: 2008 NOAA Regulatory Revision

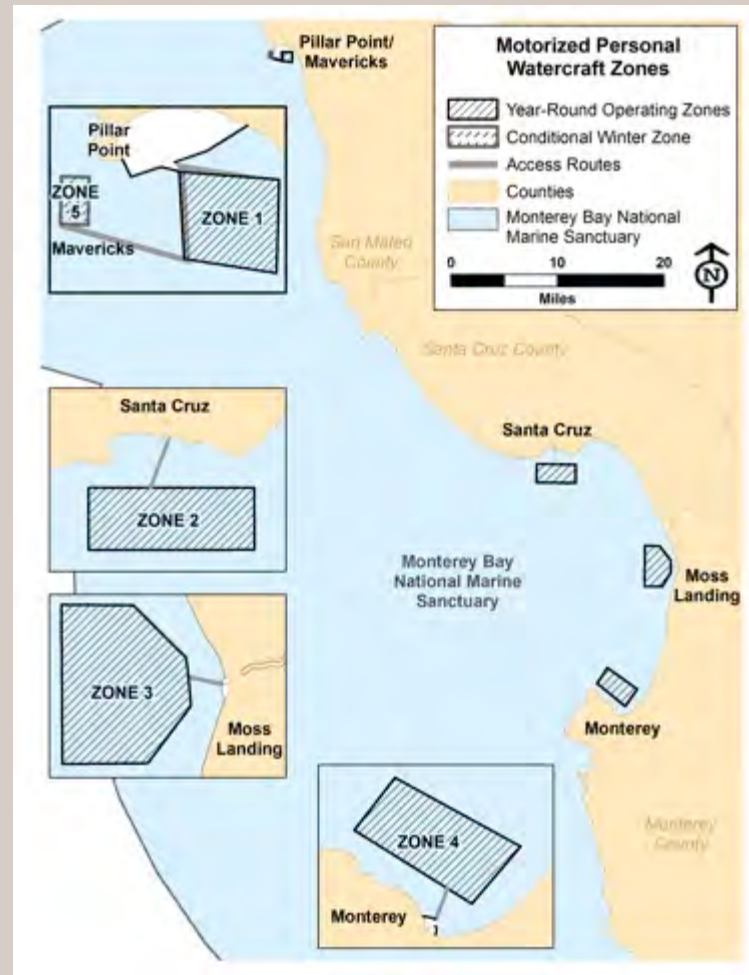
New Seasonal Zone at Mavericks





MPWC in the Marine Sanctuary: Regulation

Current MPWC Zones





MPWC in the Marine Sanctuary: Regulation

Zone Restriction Exceptions

- Authorization and protocols for training of public safety personnel





MPWC in the Marine Sanctuary: Trained Lifeguards v. Private Rescuers





MPWC in the Marine Sanctuary: Trained Lifeguards v. Private Rescuers





MPWC in the Marine Sanctuary: Trained Lifeguards v. Private Rescuers






MPWC in the Marine Sanctuary: Final Points

- The sanctuary MPWC restrictions were created in 1992 and validated in 1995 by the US Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.
- NOAA has made provision for MPWC recreation, while meeting its mandate to protect sanctuary resources for both the present & future.
- This area of regulation was thoroughly reviewed during the 7-year JMPR by the SAC, its MPWC working group, the public, and NOAA.
- NOAA has always facilitated use of MPWC by trained professionals and affiliated volunteers for search & rescue.

MPWC in the Marine Sanctuary: Questions and Answers



Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

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**Resource Management Issues:
Motorized Personal Watercraft FAQ**

**Frequently Asked Questions
About Motorized Personal Watercraft (MPWC)
Within the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary**



- [Why does the marine sanctuary regulate skis and other motorized personal watercraft?](#)
- [Why doesn't NOAA apply the same restrictions to paddle craft and motorboats that it applies to MPWC within the MBNMS?](#)
- [If MPWC are Class A vessels, according to the Coast Guard, why have they been singled out and regulated differently than any other Class A vessel?](#)
- [What is NOAA's official definition of a Motorized Personal Watercraft \(MPWC\)?](#)
- [Where can I operate my MPWC within the marine sanctuary?](#)
- [Is NOAA considering revising the restrictions on MPWC in the sanctuary?](#)