

## **INTRODUCED SPECIES RESOLUTION FOR MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

AT A MEETING OF THE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL HELD IN SALINAS, CALIFORNIA, ON APRIL 18, 2013

### **RESOLUTION-INTRODUCED SPECIES REGULATION SUPPORT**

WHEREAS, the introduction of non-indigenous species (flora and fauna) can seriously alter and damage marine ecosystems and commercial activities by disrupting predator-prey relationships, displacing key native species, altering habitat, impacting species diversity and abundance, and spreading disease and parasites.

WHEREAS, the Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) recognizes the critical importance of preventing the introduction and establishment of introduced species for the protection of the marine ecosystem within the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS).

WHEREAS, the greatest propagation of introduced marine species in California occurs within the nearshore waters of the state.

WHEREAS, the SAC commends the efforts of the national marine sanctuary system to implement consistent management policies to prevent the introduction and proliferation of introduced species within national marine sanctuaries in California.

WHEREAS, the SAC recommends that the National Marine Sanctuary Program and MBNMS regulations concerning the introduction or transportation of invasive species will minimize disruption to lawful and customary coastal transportation and recreational and commercial boating activities, including sailing and fishing,

WHEREAS, the SAC supports the draft federal rulemaking to prohibit the introduction of non-indigenous species (except striped bass) into state or federal waters of the Gulf of the Farallones and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries.

WHEREAS, the aforementioned federal rulemaking will establish consistent regulatory prohibitions for introduced species in all four national marine sanctuaries in California.

WHEREAS, the SAC has fully supported management efforts in the past to implement such prohibitions – most recently, a 2008 proposed rule by the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Sanctuary Advisory Council encourages the MBNMS to finalize the proposed regulations as appropriate to ensure that the integrity of the marine ecosystem within the sanctuaries is maintained for future generations, in accordance with the purposes of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act. The SAC also encourages the State of California to support applicability of these federal regulatory protections to state waters within the sanctuaries.

**14 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 abstentions**