

# Online Public Meeting Instructions



We will begin promptly at 6:00 pm Pacific Time using GoToWebinar.

Webinar ID: 394-620-243

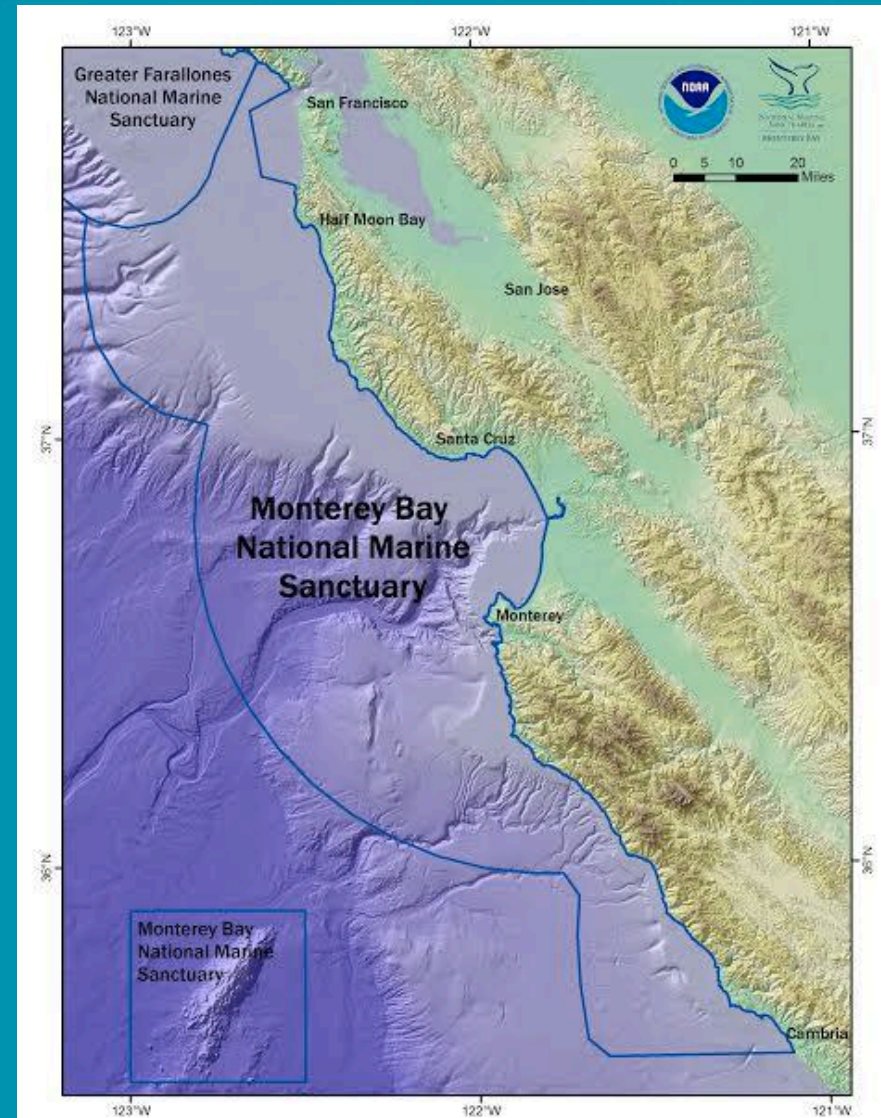
Call or text (831) 236-6536 if you experience any issues accessing the webinar or are unable to utilize the question box during the webinar.

If you are unable to participate online, connect via phone using (415) 930-5321, with the attendee code: 811-630-048.

# *Management Plan Review Public comment meeting*

*Draft Management Plan  
Proposed Rule  
Draft Environmental Assessment*

*Paul Michel  
July 24, 2020*

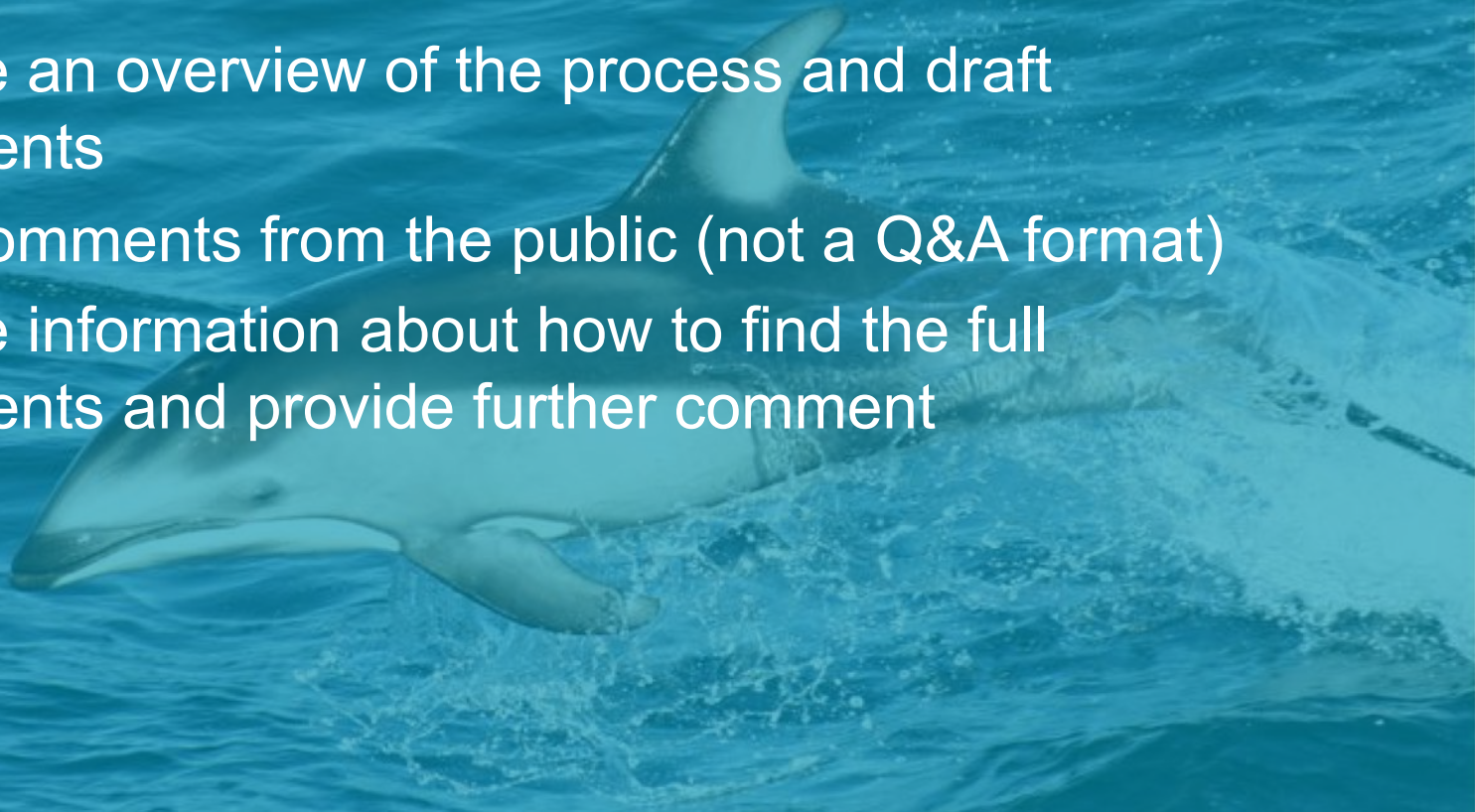


# Meeting Purpose



## Purpose of the Public Comment Meeting

- 1) Provide an overview of the process and draft documents
- 2) Hear comments from the public (not a Q&A format)
- 3) Provide information about how to find the full documents and provide further comment





# Participatory Public Process



- Public Scoping Meetings
- Advisory Council Working Group input (MB/GF)
- Presentations and discussion with Advisory Councils
- Public comment meetings
  - Tonight
  - August 21<sup>st</sup> (MBNMS Advisory Council meeting)
  - August 24<sup>th</sup> (GFNMS Advisory Council meeting)

# MBNMS Draft Management Plan



13 Action Plans

2 Categories

Issue Based Action Plans

Programmatic Action Plans

# Issue Based Plans



- Wildlife Disturbance
- Climate Change
- Coastal Erosion and Sediment Management
- Emerging Issues
- Introduced Species
- Marine Debris
- Water Quality

# Programmatic Plans



- Education, Outreach and Communications
- Operations and Administration
- Marine Spatial Planning
- Maritime Heritage
- Research and Monitoring
- Resource Protection

# MBNMS Proposed Regulations



- Add a definition for the phrase “beneficial use of dredged material”
- Modify the prerequisite conditions for motorized personal watercraft access to the riding zone at Mavericks surf break
- Change the size and shape of four motorized personal watercraft zones to improve access
- Make a minor technical correction to document the list of exempted Department of Defense activities at the Davidson Seamount Management Zone

# Draft Environmental Assessment



## 3 Alternatives Assessed

- Alternative A, no change, continue with current management plan
- Alternative B, new management plan, no new regulations
- Alternative C (preferred), new management plan and new regulations

# Draft Environmental Assessment



## Summary of Conclusions

- The continued operation and management of MBNMS, the revision of the sanctuary management plan and adoption of revised regulations would have an overall beneficial effect on resources within the sanctuary.
- Because the management plan is a broad, guidance document, many of the anticipated beneficial effects would be indirect, resulting from MBNMS efforts to:
  - 1) improve public understanding of ocean stewardship issues;
  - 2) further scientific understanding of sanctuary ecosystems and cultural and historical resources;
  - 3) implement resource protection and maritime heritage programs; and
  - 4) implement regulations to limit stressors on marine resources.

# Draft Environmental Assessment



## Summary of Conclusions

- Some actions proposed under all alternatives would have adverse effects on resources. These adverse effects include:
  - 1) disturbance of the seafloor and benthic habitat from marker buoy deployment and sampling activities; and
  - 2) disturbance of wildlife through research and monitoring of species.

In all cases, adverse effects were found to be less than significant because NOAA conducts these activities on a small scale.

- Cumulative effects of the actions proposed would be less than significant because the actions (both beneficial and adverse) are small in scale and localized.

# Timeline



Documents released July 6, 2020

Close of comment period September 4, 2020

Public meetings:

July 24 (Public comments)

August 21 (MBNMS AC mtg)

August 24 (GFNMS AC mtg)



# Next Steps



- Complete public comment period
- Compile, categorize, and analyze comments
- Draft responses to comments and submit for approval
- Revise documents (MPs, Regs. and DEA) where appropriate
- Release Final MP/EA (Winter 2020)
- Publish Record of Decision (final Regs.) (Spring 2020)

# Tonight's Format



- Speakers will be called in the order in which they registered if they indicated they wanted to comment, then by order on registrant list
- 3 minutes per speaker - timing device on screen
- One speaker at a time, time is non-transferable
- Please direct your comments to Paul Michel
- We are here to receive comments on the Draft Management Plan, DEA, and Proposed Rule

# Tonight's Format



- Comments can be specific suggestions on how to improve the documents, areas needing clarification, etc. or general comments on issues
- Questions will not be answered as formal part of hearing, but will be carefully considered in coming months
- Please follow up with sanctuary staff after the meeting if you have any questions on process or need clarification on the draft documents

# Ways to comment



- Comment tonight
- Comment online directly to [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov)  
use docket# NOAA–NOS–2020–0094
- E-mail comments to:  
[mbnmsmanagementplan@noaa.gov](mailto:mbnmsmanagementplan@noaa.gov)
- Web address:  
<https://montereybay.noaa.gov>



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