



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

JAN 28 2002

Ms. Stephanie Harlan
MBNMS Sanctuary Advisory Council Chair
1941 42nd Avenue
Capitola, CA 95010

Dear Ms. Harlan: *Stephanie*

The National Marine Sanctuary Program recently completed 20 public scoping meetings for the Joint Management Plan Review. In addition, we received thousands of additional comments via e-mail, fax and letter. I would like to personally thank you and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) members for their assistance in raising the level of awareness within their constituencies, providing comments, and helping to make these public meetings a successful first step in this joint review. I also want to request your assistance in the "next steps" of the process.

I understand that at the December 7th meeting, the SAC and Superintendent Douros agreed that at your next meeting the SAC would prioritize issues raised during the scoping process and that Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary staff would provide a summary of comments on February 1st. I need to ask you to reconsider this schedule and delay, until April 5th, your recommendations on priority issues to address for the joint management plan review. There are two reasons for my request.

First, it is important during this joint management plan review that both the Gulf of the Farallones and the Cordell Bank Sanctuary Advisory Councils are up and running before the prioritization process begins. Modifying the timeline will allow these newly formed SACs to conduct their first meetings and to come up to speed on the issues facing their respective Sanctuaries.

Second, considering the volume of comments received during the scoping period and the joint nature of this process, this additional time in the schedule will allow us to produce a value-added document that adequately summarizes the entire volume of comments and functions as a useful tool for all SACs as they prioritize issues. The document will highlight the major



themes and issues raised for all three sites and the contiguous region.

Given this amended schedule, we are currently creating a document to be distributed to all of the SACs on February 25th (Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones SACs will receive the document via U.S. Mail and electronic mail). The Monterey Bay SAC will receive this document at their meeting scheduled for February 25th rather than prior to it. During the meeting, we will also distribute draft criteria intended for the SACs to use as a tool in helping to prioritize issues to be addressed in the joint management plan review. The actual prioritization work by the Monterey Bay SAC would then occur at your April 5th meeting. This schedule would allow the SAC more time to review the scoping summary document prior to the prioritization exercise.

My staff and I look forward to working closely with the Monterey Bay SAC as we begin to identify priority issues and solutions that will be addressed through this joint review. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this amendment to the schedule, please call me at 301-713-3125.

Sincerely,



Daniel J. Basta, Director
National Marine Sanctuary Program

cc: William Douros, Superintendent, MBNMS