

**Resolution of the
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council
in Support of Restoring Protections
from Offshore Drilling**

Whereas, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council is charged with advising the Sanctuary Superintendent about matters affecting the stewardship and sustainability of the marine environment; and

Whereas, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council considers threats to our region's world-class commercial and sport fisheries, high concentrations of avian resources, aggregations of marine mammals, and other sensitive marine and intertidal living resources from routine toxic discharges and accidental oil spills associated with proposed offshore drilling to be among the greatest dangers to the survival of California's rich marine environment and coastal-dependent economy; and

Whereas, President George W. Bush has rescinded the longstanding executive Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) deferrals, removing protection from federal offshore oil and gas leasing that was not otherwise set to expire until 2012; and

Whereas, Congress, under White House threat of a presidential veto of a "continuing resolution" funding measure essential to continuance of U.S. government operations past October 1, 2008, was also forced to allow 27 years of continuous bipartisan legislative OCS moratorium protection to lapse, thereby opening the entire Pacific and Atlantic coastlines to federal offshore oil and gas leasing; and

Whereas, the combined result of these actions by the White House and the Congress currently leaves federal waters beyond three miles from shore along the entire California coast without protection from offshore oil and gas leasing, with the exception of waters within the boundaries of our national marine sanctuaries; and

Whereas, seismic airgun exploration, exploratory drilling, and development and transportation activities associated with offshore oil and gas leasing and extraction each produce region wide adverse environmental impacts which will inevitably damage living resources in nearby national marine sanctuary waters; and

Therefore, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council hereby respectfully calls upon the incoming Administration of President Elect Obama to promptly reinstate the executive Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) deferrals first put in place by former President George Herbert Walker Bush in 1991 and renewed by former President Clinton in 1998; and

Therefore be it resolved, that the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council also calls upon the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries Director Dan Basta to communicate to Congress the critical need to immediately reimpose the previous longstanding legislative OCS moratorium to reinstate protection for the Pacific and Atlantic coastlines; and

Therefore be it further resolved, that this resolution is directed to be transmitted to Sanctuary Program Director Dan Basta in a timely fashion.

Adopted this 12th day of December 2008, by the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council.