

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

APR 11 2003

Ms. Stephanie Harlan  
 Chair  
 Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary  
 Advisory Council  
 299 Foam Street  
 Monterey, California 93940

Dear Ms. Harland:

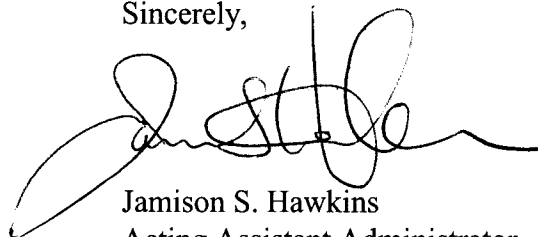
Thank you for your letter to Secretary of Commerce Donald L. Evans, regarding the recently released document entitled "Regulatory Coordination Between the National Marine Sanctuaries Program and Fishery Management Agencies." Your letter was referred to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Ocean Service for a response.

I recognize your concerns that the document will hinder Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's (MBNMS) relationship with the fishing community on issues of mutual concern. Let me assure, however, that this document, which was requested by the Gulf of the Farallones fishing working group, merely explains the process used across the National Marine Sanctuary Program when coordinating on fishing issues. It does not address or supercede individual site regulations.

This program-wide statement does not replace the language found in the MBNMS designation documents. I understand that you are currently engaged in the Joint Management Plan Review Process. Please know that any changes to the Monterey Bay Sanctuary regulations or designation document would be considered and reviewed as part of this public process.

If you have any further questions, please contact Dan Basta, Director of the National Marine Sanctuaries Program at (301) 713-3125, Extension.

Sincerely,



Jamison S. Hawkins  
 Acting Assistant Administrator

