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National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
Bill Douros -Superintendent
Monterey bay National Marine Sanctuary
299 Foam Street
Monterey, Ca. 93940

Re: Davidson Seamount

Bill;

Many local residents from Big Sur to San Luis Obispo, continue to contact me regarding the Davidson Seamount. And for good reason. They consider the Davidson Seamount an inverted Monterey Canyon. A special and unique place that should be protected for future generations.

These folks have a simple & realistic concept of the Davidson Seamount...One you may want to use in your future discussions ...

Consider compressing the 140 miles of the Sierra Mountains from Sacramento, California ... to Reno, Nevada ... into an area just 10 miles wide with the same height. Now it doesn't take a mental giant to conclude this gigantically steep land mountain would have a rather large impact on air movement, the atmosphere and life for many miles around it.... And ... Yes ... An undersea mountain of that size would drastically impact currents, the ocean, and life around it for many miles also.

Without exception, literally everyone on California's Central Coast who has contacted me, agrees the Davidson Seamount requires immediate protection. And the vast majority of these folks urge a MBNMS expansion as the fastest & most efficient method for this protection. Though not all agree on the silhouette of the end product.

Consensus is, the three most popular marine sanctuary expansions silhouettes are as follows:
(with folks desires in % for each. designated below)

• **BOX EXPANSION - 2% support**

Box the seamount - Separated from the main body of MBNMS.
At this time also delineate a *sphere of influence* from the box surrounding the seamount to the east, abutting the existing MBNMS boundary near Cambria with the sphere.

PROS:

- 1.) Protection of seamount.
- 2.) Small area engulfed in sanctuary - thus least resistance from those against any form of MBNMS expansion.
- 3.) Sphere of influence provides groundwork for future expansion.

CONS:

- 1.) Least area protected.
- 2.) Areas of seamount sloughing & gravity not protected.
- 3.) Less protection for various life forms impacted by or spreading to and from the seamount.

Sheet 2 of 2

- **EXPANSION WEST FROM CAMBRIA - 10% support**

Extend the southern most boundary of MBNMS west from Cambria at to a point past the seamount then north to a point west of Lopez Point ... Then east to MBNMS's existing boundary.

- PROS :**
- 1.) Larger area protected.. Including the seamount and oceans east of seamount.
 - 2.) Shelf toe, Lucia Submarine Canyon, and part of Sur Submarine Canyon protected ... Both close to and impacted by the seamount.
 - 3.) Less resistance from those against expansion.

- CONS :**
- 1.) Portion of Sur Canyon very close to the seamount is not protected suspected the seamount has a large impact on this area.
 - 2.) Large area to north that may be impacted by seamounts influence on ocean currents not addressed.

- **EXPANSION WEST AND NORTH - 88% support**

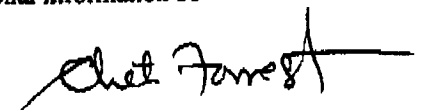
Expand west from MBNMS southern most boundary past seamount to a point that lines up with the western most point of the sanctuary at Pioneer Canyon west of Half Moon Bay.

- PROS:**
- 1.) Protection of the seamount and the area north impacted by its characteristics & influences on the ocean.
 - 2.) Protection of all the Santa Lucia and Sur Submarine Canyons including their fans.
 - 3.) Protection of the Shepard Meander and much of the Monterey Fan.
 - 4.) Protection of areas north to the large Monterey Canyon which appears to have many of its life forms influenced by the impact of the Davidson Seamount on the surrounding oceans.
 - 5.) Expansion done at one time... No repeat efforts to expand.

- CONS:**
- 1.) Most resistance by those against expansion.

The consensus from the majority of folks from the Central California Coast whom have contacted me, is that protective action for the Davidson Seamount is crucial, and should be precipitated during this MBNMS Management Plan. Using the largest expansion possible to provide the most protection.

We hope this data provides you with some input of use... And a feeling for emotions of the locals from Big Sur to San Luis Obispo. Feel free to contact me should additional information be required, ... and good luck with the wrapping up the Management Plan review.


Chet Forrest

Cc: Andrew Devogelaere
M. Roest
R. Massengill