

Heidi Nilsen Vandegrift  
4215 Bain Avenue  
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

To Stephanie Harlan  
and the Members of the Sanctuary Advisory Council

(831) 647-4250

7/22/03

Dear Stephanie Harlan and the Members of the Sanctuary Advisory Council:

My name is Heidi Vandegrift. I have been a scuba diver since 1983 and a Santa Cruz resident since 1995. I am writing you today about supporting the establishment of more non-consuming-user accessible reserves in the Sanctuary and more effective control of sewage and pollution releases.

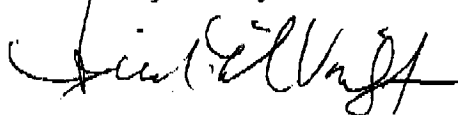
Over the last 8 years I have been an avid diver and kayaker in the Monterey Bay area I have personally witnessed an incredible and extremely distressing reduction in the number and diversity of fish life. Years ago the near shore waters were full of large rockfish, giant schools of kelp fish, bat rays, eels and octopus. Today, one must dive at Point Lobos to have anywhere near this sort of experience, because the other parts of our beautiful bay are almost without fish.

I firmly believe that some small part of our Marine Sanctuary (the best science recommends 30%) should be preserved for future generations to insure increased bio-diversity and a stable, non-polluted and sustainable fishery.

I realize that there are many vocal factions on every side of this issue, but few are as painfully aware of the drastic reductions in fish populations as longtime, local divers, because we see the startling evidence every single time we enter the water. We go into this environment and have a feel for it that those who simply harvest from the surface cannot. I know every side of this debate has facts and figures and science that supports their point of view, but I have my eyes. There is no getting around the fact that our waters are nearly depleted of the life that was so abundant a mere fifteen years ago.

I urge you to please understand how drastic this situation truly is and to please allow some small area of our Marine environment to be protected. Surely those who have their livelihood depend on this environment must come to realize that these protected areas will ultimately protect their industry as well as our fragile marine environment.

Thank you for your kind consideration.



Heidi Nilsen Vandegrift

From Jim Vandegrift  
4215 Bain Avenue  
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

To Stephanie Harlan  
and the Members of the Sanctuary Advisory Council

(831) 647-4250

7/22/03

Dear Stephanie Harlan and the Members of the Sanctuary Advisory Council:

My name is Jim Vandegrift. I have been a scuba diver since 1966 and a Santa Cruz resident since 1978. I am writing you today about supporting the establishment of more non-consuming-user accessible reserves in the Sanctuary and more effective control of sewage and pollution releases.

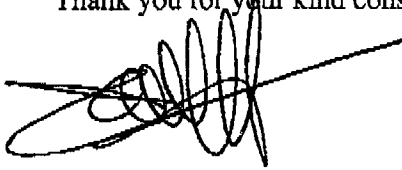
Over the last 15 years I have been an avid diver and kayaker in the Monterey Bay area I have personally witnessed an incredible and extremely distressing reduction in the number and diversity of fish life. Years ago the near shore waters were full of large rock fish, giant schools of kelp fish, bat rays, eels and octopus. Today, one must dive at Point Lobos to have anywhere near this sort of experience, because the other parts of our beautiful bay are almost without fish.

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Thank you for your kind consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Vandegrift', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jim Vandegrift

**American Cetacean Society, Monterey Chapter – BAY NET  
Defenders of Wildlife – Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo County  
Environmental Defense – Friends of the Sea Otter  
Natural Resources Defense Council – Oceana  
San Lorenzo Valley Women’s Club – Save Our Shores – Surfrider Foundation  
The Ocean Conservancy – The Otter Project – World Wildlife Fund**

July 25, 2003

Stephanie Harlan, Chair and  
Advisory Council Members  
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary  
299 Foam Street  
Monterey, CA 93940

Re: Support for Special Marine Protected Areas Action Plan

Dear Chair Harlan and Advisory Council members:

On behalf of the organizations listed below please accept the following comments regarding the proposed Special Marine Protected Areas Action Plan prepared as part of the Joint Management Plan Review process for the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Collectively, our organization represent millions of citizens, including thousands of Central Coast residents, committed to the long-term protection of the fish, wildlife, and underwater habitats of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS).

Our organizations support the creation of a scientifically based network of fully protected marine reserves along the California Coast and within the waters of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and we urge the MBNMS and the Advisory Council to help facilitate such protection. We believe that the proposed Special Marine Protected Areas Action Plan represents a reasonable, balanced approach to a critically important resource protection issue. We urge the Sanctuary Advisory Council to recommend approval of this plan.

In recent years, a strong scientific consensus has emerged regarding the value and necessity of establishing no-take areas to protect ocean biodiversity and habitats. The public overwhelmingly supports establishment of marine reserves within the California national marine sanctuaries. However, currently far less than 1% of the MBNMS is included within the three tiny existing marine reserves located at Point Lobos State Reserve, Hopkins Marine Life Refuge and Big Creek Ecological Reserve.

In its final report released in May 2003, the Pew Oceans Commission, chaired by former Monterey Bay area Congressman Leon Panetta, specifically recommends adoption of marine reserves:

“Federal agencies should use their existing conservation and management planning and implementation authority to establish marine reserves or networks of marine reserves within designated marine protected areas (i.e., the National Marine Sanctuaries Program, National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges).” American’s Living Oceans: Charting a Course for Sea Change. Report by the Pew Oceans Commission. May 2003.

Our organizations support the recommendations contained in the Special Marine Protected Areas Action Plan and urge the Advisory Council to recommend adoption of this Plan.

Thank you for your consideration.

Rod Fujita  
Marine Ecologist  
Environmental Defense

Joe Geever  
Regional Manager  
Surfrider Foundation

Pamela Heatherington  
Executive Director  
Environmental Center of San Luis  
Obispo

Kate Wing  
Ocean Policy Analyst  
Natural Resources Defense Council

Jim Curland  
Marine Associate  
Defenders of Wildlife

Nancy B. Macy, Chair  
Environmental Committee  
San Lorenzo Valley Women's Club

Tim Eichenberg  
Senior Advisor  
Oceana

Vicki Nichols  
Director of Research and Policy  
Save Our Shores

Tom Kieckhefer  
Education Director  
Friends of the Sea Otter

Mike Osmond  
Senior Program Officer  
World Wildlife Fund

Carol Maehr  
Conservation Chair  
American Cetacean Society, Monterey  
Chapter

Milos Radakovich  
Director  
BAY NET

Steve Shimek  
Director  
The Otter Project

Linda Sheehan  
Pacific Regional Director  
The Ocean Conservancy