

National Marine Sanctuaries



Maria Brown
Sanctuary Superintendent
Gulf of the Farallones
National Marine Sanctuary
(GFNMS)

Dan Howard
Sanctuary Superintendent
Cordell Bank
National Marine Sanctuary
(CBNMS)

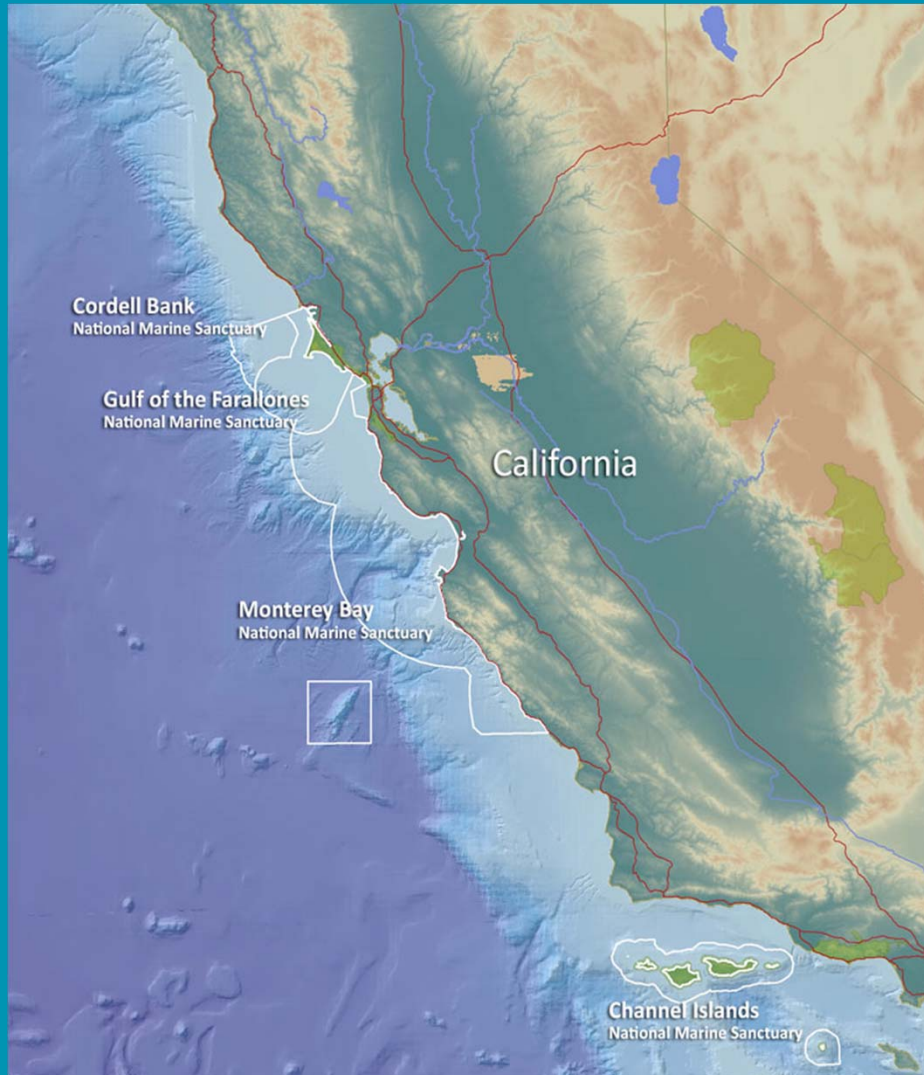
January 24, 2013
Bodega Bay Grange

National Marine Sanctuaries Mission



“The mission of NOAA's National Marine Sanctuaries is to serve as the trustee for the nation's system of marine protected areas, to conserve, protect, and enhance their biodiversity, ecological integrity and cultural legacy.”

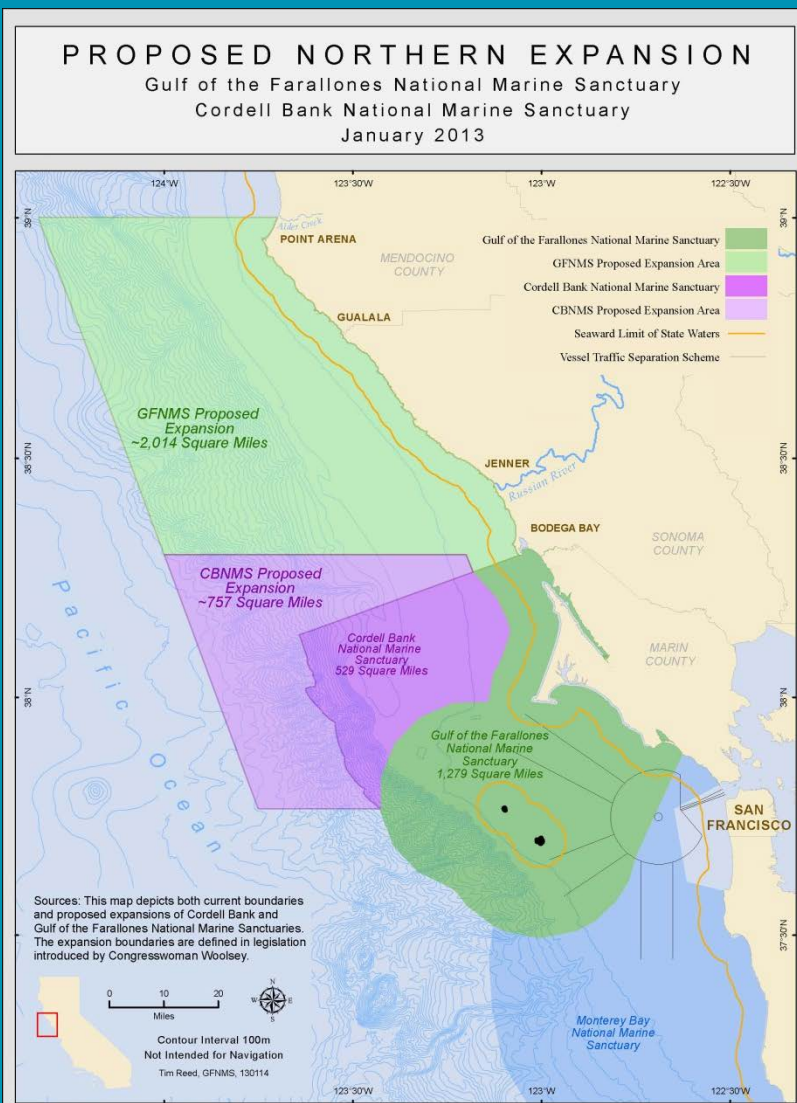
Existing National Marine Sanctuaries in California



Cordell Bank
Established 1989
529 sq miles

Gulf of the
Farallones
Established 1981
1279 sq miles

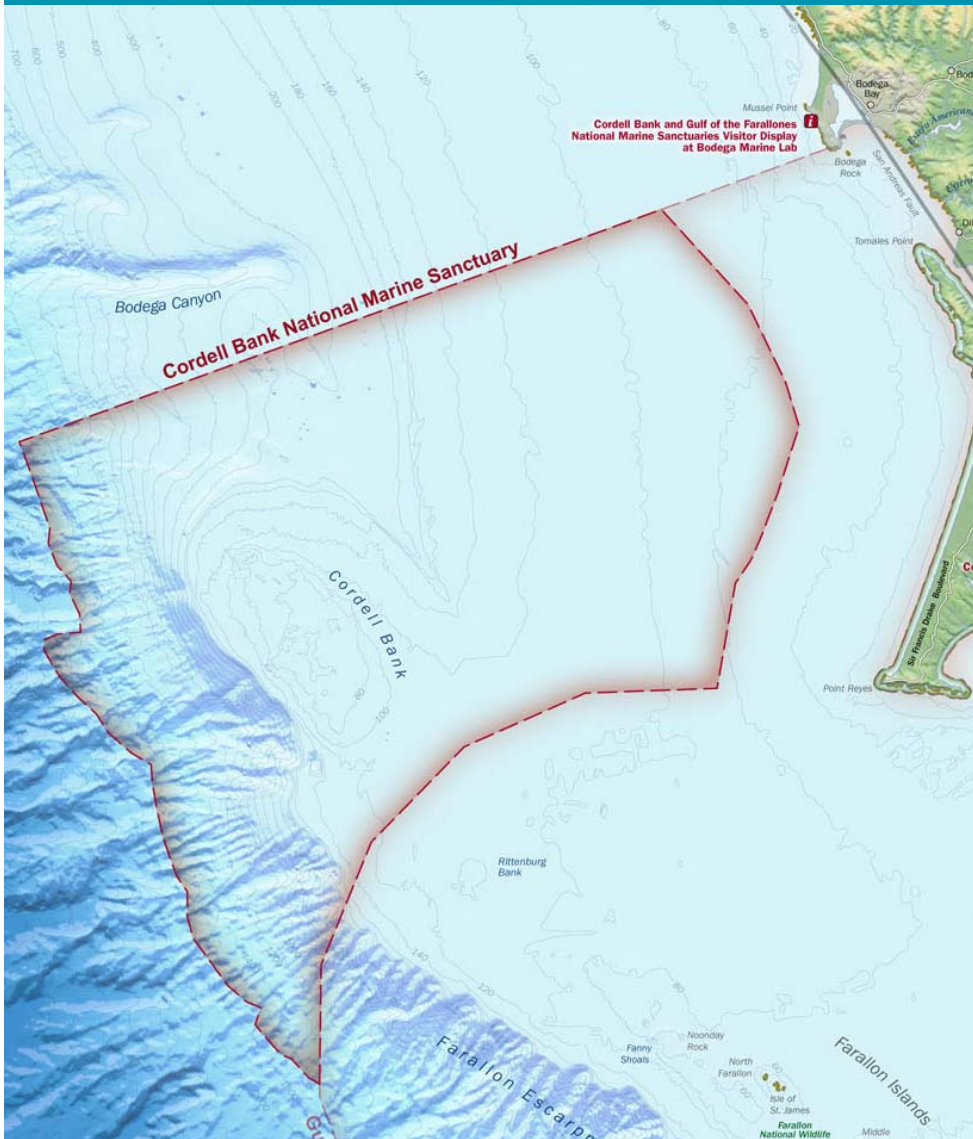
Area Proposed for Expansion?



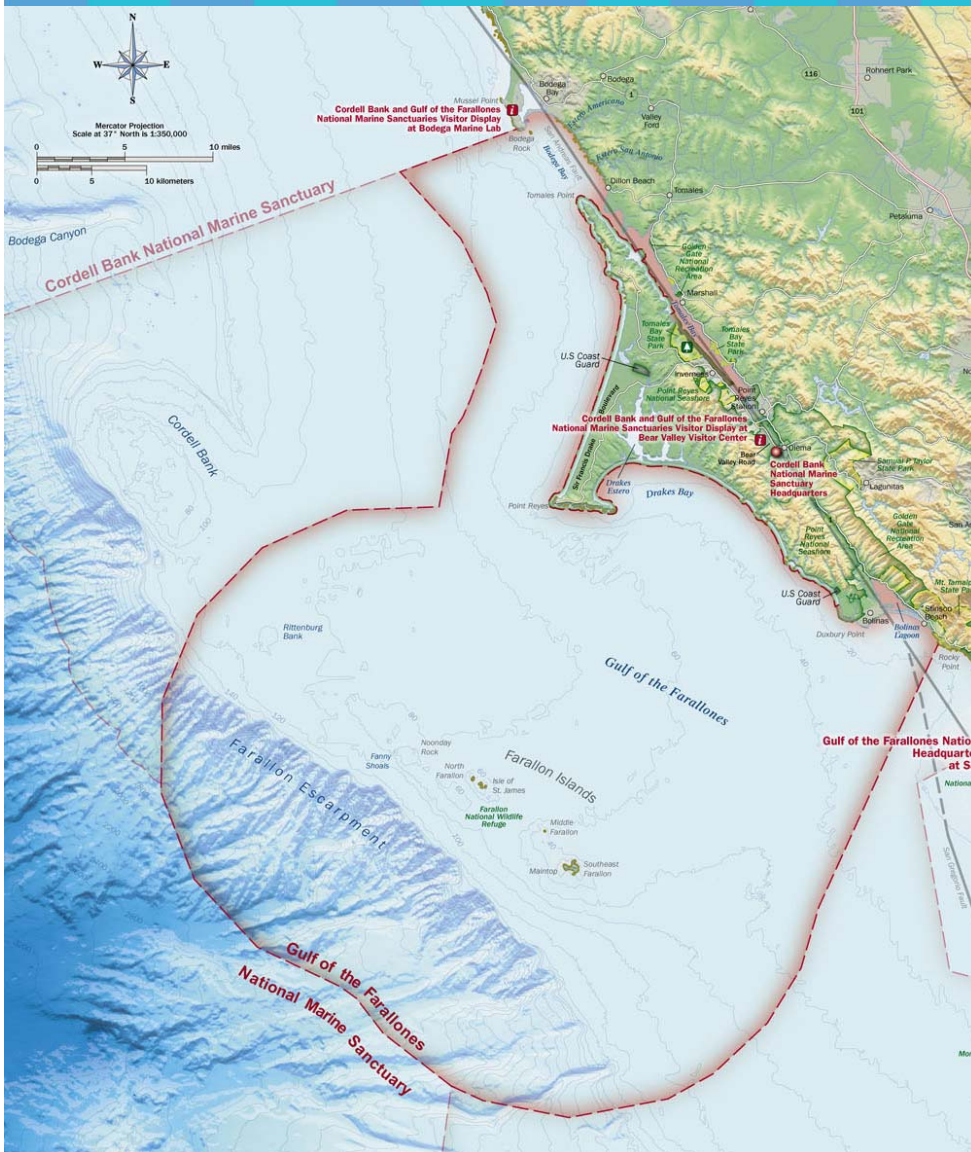
Representative Lynn Woolsey and Senator Barbara Boxer have introduced legislation in every Congress since 2004 to expand the sanctuaries' boundaries.

NOAA is considering extending the boundaries of the two sanctuaries from Bodega Bay, Sonoma County to Alder Creek, Mendocino County, and beyond the edge of the continental shelf.

Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary



Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary



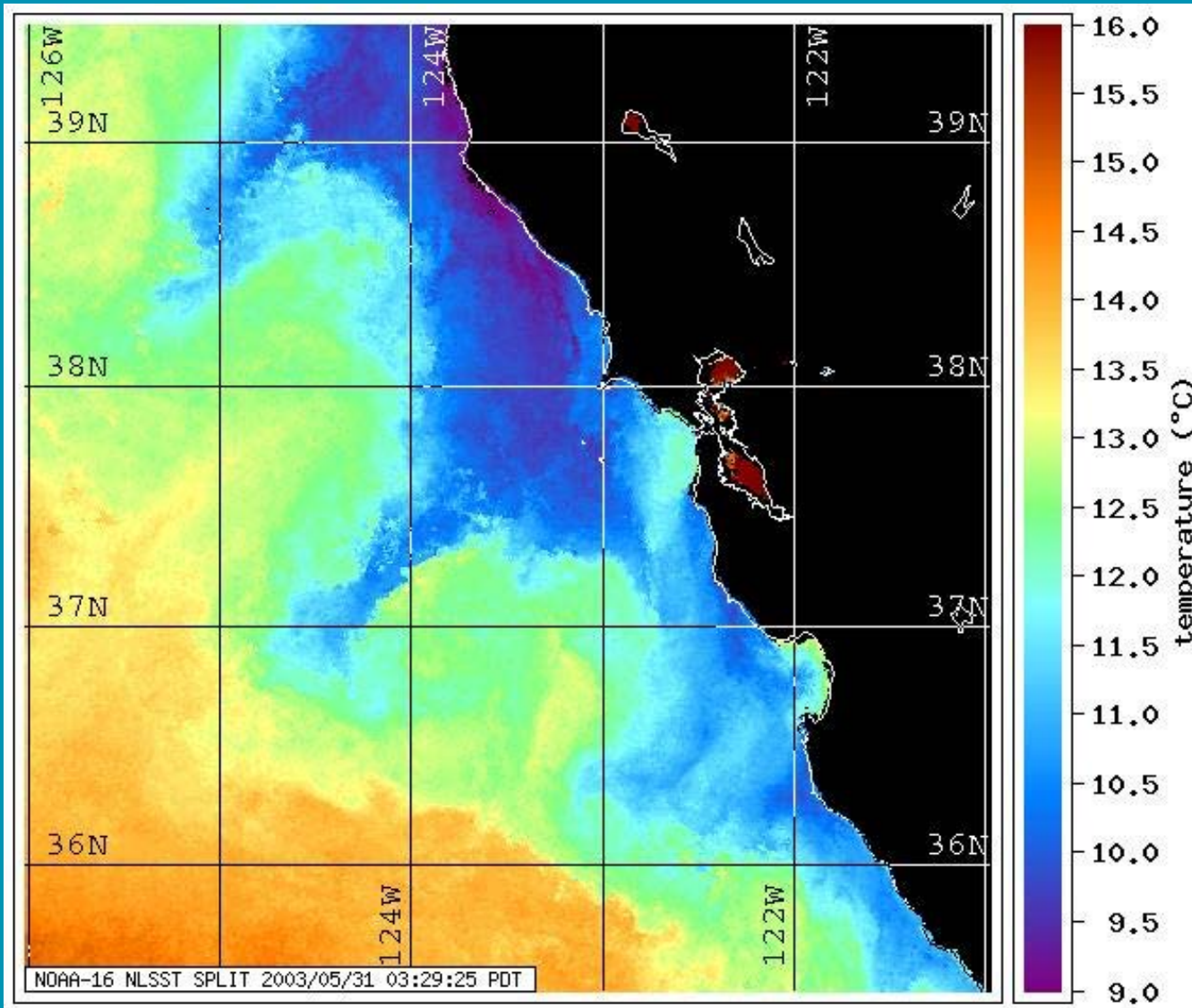
Why is NOAA Proposing this Expansion?



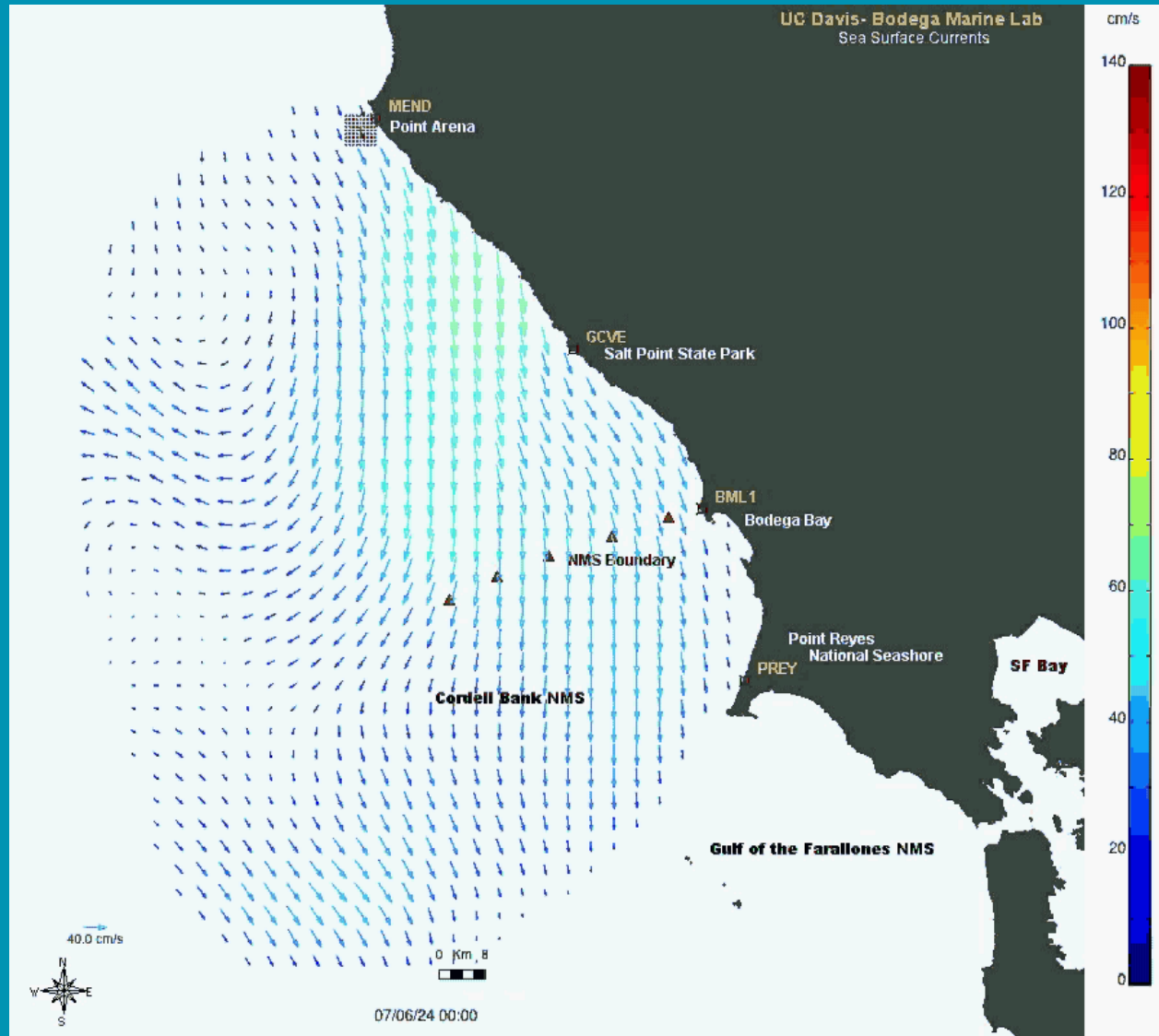
In 2008, the joint management plan for CBNMS and GFNMS recommended that managers in these sanctuaries facilitate a public process in the next five years to ensure that “current boundaries were inclusive of the area’s natural resource and ecological qualities.”

Since 2003 sanctuary advisory councils from both sites have regularly discussed the boundary expansion alternative and have expressed support for boundary expansion when proposed by local congressional members.

Why is NOAA Proposing this Expansion?



Video produced by: U.C.Davis Bodega Marine Laboratory



Sanctuary Program Areas



Research-Collects information on the health of wildlife and habitats

Education-Provides experiences to connect people to the ocean

Sanctuary Advisory Council-Advises the Sanctuary on management priorities

Volunteer Programs- Involves the public in protecting the sanctuary and educating others about its wildlife and habitats

Resource Protection- Ensures our local coast and ocean is protected against pollution, harm to wildlife, and destruction of habitat while allowing people to enjoy the sanctuary.

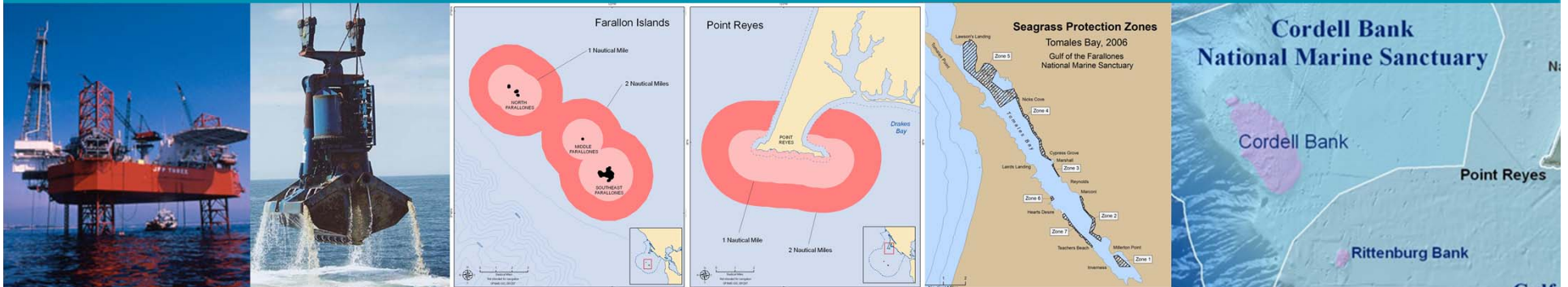


Sanctuary Protections



Sanctuary regulations can have prohibitions that apply throughout the entire boundary. For example, oil and gas exploration and development is prohibited throughout both CBNMS and GFNMS

Sanctuary regulations can have prohibitions that apply in specific areas where there may specific resources that warrant additional protections. For example, Tomales Bay has no anchor zones in eel grass beds. Anchoring is allowed outside those areas throughout GFNMS.



Sanctuary Protections



Protects against gas, oil, and mineral development

Protects water quality

Protects wildlife

Protects important seafloor habitat



NOAA's Proposed Timeline For this Process



1. Scoping

NOAA solicits comments on the proposal; NOAA reviews the comments to determine the scope of the issue and to identify issues to be addressed during the environmental analyses.

March, 2013

2. Draft Proposal

If an expansion is determined to be beneficial, NOAA prepares and releases a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) that identifies boundary expansion alternatives.

November, 2013

3. Public Comment

Public review and comment on DEIS, proposed rulemaking, and related documents

February, 2014

Publish Decision

NOAA prepares and releases a final environmental impact statement (EIS) and related documents, including a response to public comments, with a final rule if appropriate.

July, 2014

The Purpose of Public Scoping



1. Gather information and public comments from individuals, organizations, and government agencies on whether Gulf of the Farallones & Cordell Bank sanctuaries should adjust their boundaries and the potential effects of boundary adjustments;
2. Help determine the scope of issues to be addressed in the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) pursuant to the NEPA, if warranted.

Process for this Public Meeting



All participants will be split into groups. Each group will have a facilitator and a note taker. Depending on the size of the groups, each member of the public will be given an allotted time to make their comments.

The note taker will record comments as accurately as possible. If time allows, the facilitator will repeat back what she/he heard for the benefit of the note taker and the speaker.

There is no benefit to several people repeating the same comment. All comments are weighted once and equally and all will be addressed by the sanctuary. Please ask your group to choose one representative to make their comment for the group. A member of the public may also choose to say, 'I agree with 'blank' comments, and would like to add...'

Public Comment Period December 21, 2012 to March 1, 2013



Online: Federal eRulemaking Portal: Submit electronic comments at <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NOS-2012-0228>

Mail: Maria Brown, NOAA GFNMS 991 Marine Drive, The Presidio San Francisco, CA 94129

In Person at Public Scoping Meetings:

February 12, 2013 at Point Arena High School, 185 Lake Street Point Arena, California

February 13, 2013 at The Gualala Community Center, 47950 Center Street Gualala, California

More Information: www.farallones.noaa.gov/manage/northern_area

For More Information:



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http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/northern_area.html