



GULF OF THE FARALLONES
National Marine Sanctuary



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BOUNDARY EXPANSION

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Background of the Proposed Expansion

In 2001, NOAA received public comment during joint management plan review scoping meetings requesting that Gulf of the Farallones (GFNMS) and **Cordell Bank** (CBNMS) national marine sanctuaries expand north and west. In response, the 2008 management plans included strategies to facilitate a public process to ensure that boundaries are inclusive of the area's natural resource and ecological qualities, including the biogeographic representation of the area.

Former Representative Lynn Woolsey and cosponsors introduced legislation to expand and protect the sanctuaries every Congressional session from 2004 - 2011; Senator Barbara Boxer and cosponsors also proposed legislation. The legislation was never passed by Congress.

In accordance with Section 304(e) of the NMSA, in Dec 2013 NOAA initiated a review of the boundaries for CBNMS and GFNMS to evaluate and assess a proposed expansion of the sanctuaries to an area just north of Point Arena in Mendocino County, and west to the edge of the continental shelf.

Three scoping meetings were held from Bodega Bay to Point Arena during Jan and Feb 2013 to receive public comment on the proposed expansion. A Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones Expansion Draft EIS, draft management plans for both sanctuaries and the proposed rule were published in April 2014 (April 4 for the DEIS and April 14 for the draft management plans and proposed rule). Public comment was accepted from the dates of publication of the documents through June 30, 2014. Four public hearings were held from Point Arena to Sausalito during that period. Public comment was also submitted online and by mail to the GFNMS Superintendent.

Timeline (2001-present)

2001

ONMS received comments to expand GFNMS and CBNMS north during Joint Management Plan Review scoping. GFNMS receives petition to expand sanctuary. GFNMS enters petition into scoping comments for Joint Management Plan Review

2003

April 22, 2003 - Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council meeting: Management Plan Review staff briefed Sanctuary Advisory Council on Internal Boundary Adjustment Team actions. Three meetings were held regarding boundary expansion north and west of GFNMS. Topics included: 1) reviewed areas of concern and special consideration; 2) reviewed technical changes and areas in question with the General Counsel and GIS expert; and 3) field trip to determine locations of technical boundaries and areas in question.

July 21-22, 2003 - Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council meeting: Advisory Council makes recommendation "increased protection should be considered for potentially prospective oil and gas tracts that have historically been of interest in previous Department of Interior outer continental shelf leasing programs that lie immediately outside of present GFNMS boundaries to the North, West and Southwest of current GFNMS boundaries..."

2004

May 4, 2004 - ONMS receives letter from Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey requesting "preparers of the Environmental Impact Statement for the Joint Management Plans to expand the scope of their research and analysis to investigate the feasibility of sanctuary expansion in the study area north of Bodega Bay." ONMS responds that GFNMS and CBNMS are currently involved in a Joint Management Plan Review process and the expansion should be a separate process to ensure adequate attention is given to it.

Congressional Field Hearing: Congresswoman Woolsey holds first field hearing on GFNMS/CBNMS Northern Expansion bill. Over 100 people show up including the Chamber of Commerce and the recreational fishing industry to hearing in Santa Rosa, CA and speak in support of bill.

2006

December 14, 2006 - Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council meeting: Advisory Council discussed 2001 JMPR public scoping comments and wants to understand why the Boundary Expansion Bill was not supported by the Department of Commerce. [Read the letter.](#)

2007

February 15, 2007 - Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council meeting: Sanctuary Advisory Council discussion on boundary expansion bill. Congresswoman Woolsey and Boxer reintroduced bill with a new extension to the 30th parallel, just north of Point Arena. The GFNMS Advisory Council requested MBNMS Advisory Council support of the boundary expansion bill.

Tom Roth, Senior Policy Advisor for Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey, meets with Zeke Grader of the Pacific Federation of Fishermen's Association to add additional language to the bill. Tom Roth presents at the April 19, 2007 GFNMS Advisory Council meeting during public comment.

April 19, 2007 - Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council meeting: Sanctuary Advisory Council discussion and action on sanctuary boundary expansion. Resolution: The GFNMS Advisory Council unanimously [passes a resolution](#), authored by Richard Charter, to the National Marine Sanctuary Program in support of the sanctuary boundary expansion bill (HR 1187).

October 23, 2007 - John Dunnigan, Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management testifies before the Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Oceans on H.R. 1187: Gulf of the

Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Boundary Modification and Protection Act.

December 13, 2007 Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council meeting: Sanctuary Advisory Council discusses boundary expansion bill hearing and NOAA's testimony. : The GFNMS Advisory Council unanimously **passes a resolution in support of HR 1187.**

2008

April 18, 2008 - Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council meeting: Sanctuary Advisory Council discusses boundary expansion bill passes the House of Representatives.

May 6, 2008 - NOAA testifies before the Committee on Commerce on S.2635 Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Boundary Modification and Protection Act.

July 25, 2008 - Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council meeting: Sanctuary Advisory Council discusses boundary expansion bill successfully marked up in the U.S. Senate.

2009

October 29, 2009 - Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council meeting: Sanctuary Advisory Council discusses status of boundary expansion bill.

Coastwalk California hosts public meeting in Bodega Bay to reignite interest in GFNMS/CBNMS northern expansion and establishes the Marine Sanctuary Expansion Network

2010

December 9, 2010 - Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council meeting: Sanctuary Advisory Council discusses status of boundary expansion bill.

2011

Read a **[Letter of Support from the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors](#)** (PDF)

August 11, 2011 Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council meeting: Sanctuary Advisory Council discusses status of boundary expansion bill.

October 7, 2011 - **[Surfrider Foundation sends a letter to Senator Boxer supporting S. 179](#)**: The Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Boundary Adjustment and Protection Act.

November 10, 2011 - Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council meeting: Sanctuary Advisory Council discusses status of boundary expansion and passes **resolution** to expand the boundaries of GFNMS and CBNMS.

Read a **[Letter of Support from the Ocean Conservancy](#)** (PDF)

2012

Read a **[Letter of Support from Governor Jerry Brown & Secretary John Laird](#)** (PDF)

December 20, 2012 - Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey and other members of the California congressional delegation joined NOAA officials at a news conference in

Washington D.C. announcing a public process to review the boundaries for Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank national marine sanctuaries off northern California. The sanctuaries currently protect nearly 2,000 square miles of ocean near the coast of San Francisco. The proposed expansion area is north of the existing sanctuaries and extends from Bodega Bay in Sonoma County to Alder Creek in Mendocino County. This area encompasses Point Arena-North America's most intense "upwelling" site- which is home to diverse species and a productive ecosystem.

2013

January 15, 2013 - **Sonoma County Board of Supervisors passes unanimous resolution** in support of sanctuary expansion

The public scoping (comment) period was open from Dec 21, 2012 to Mar 1, 2013. NOAA held three public scoping meetings during the scoping period: one in Bodega Bay in Jan 24, 2013, one in Point Arena in Feb 12, 2013, and one in Gualala in Feb 13, 2013. These public meetings were attended by several hundred people. NOAA received more than 300 written submissions, along with the oral comments received during the three public scoping meetings, posted under docket number NOAA-NOS-2012-0228 on www.regulations.gov.

Read the **summary of comments** (PDF, 94Kb).

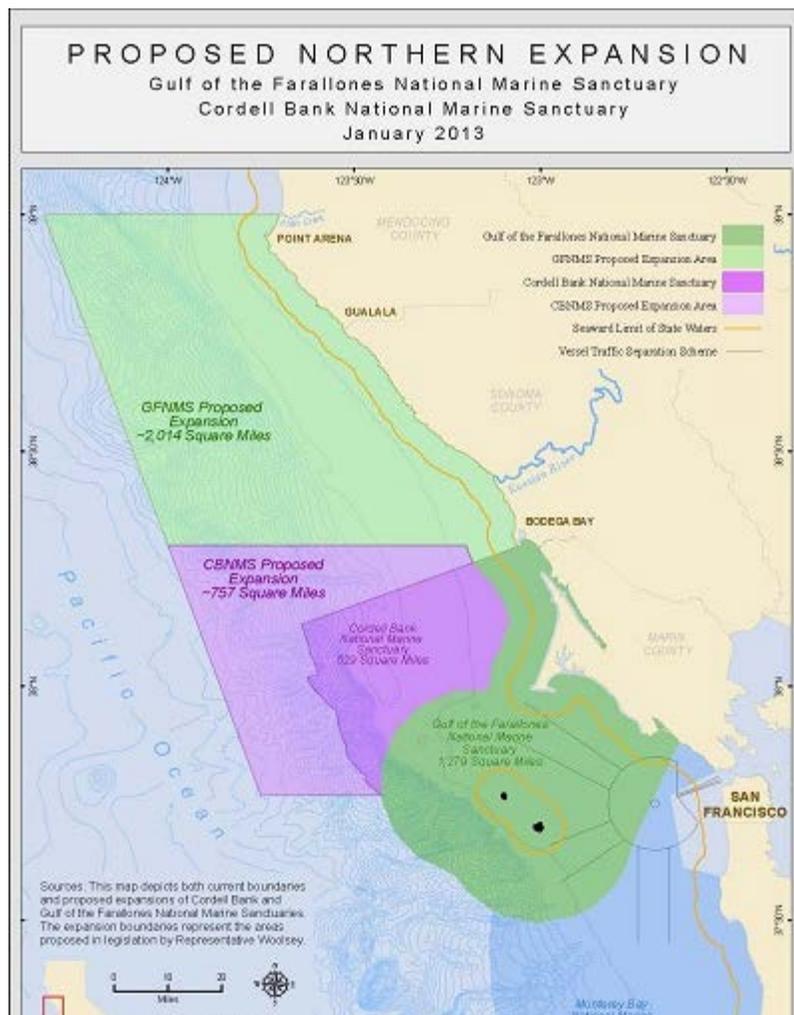
Read the **informational brochure** (PDF)

Read the **press release** (PDF)

Read the **Federal Register Notice** (PDF) and **correction** (PDF)

Review a sample **Scoping Meeting Presentation** (PDF)

Review the Expansion **Timeline** provided at scoping meetings (90KB, PDF)





[Download a full map](#) of the proposed area (PDF 4.6Mb)

The map depicts the current CBNMS and GFNMS sanctuary boundaries and the expansions proposed by legislation introduced by Representative Woolsey. The proposed GFNMS expansion area extends from Bodega Bay, Sonoma County to Alder Creek in Mendocino County including both state and federal waters. The proposed CBNMS expansion extends west and slightly north to protect important subsea features such as Bodega Canyon.

Dec 10, 2013 - Sanctuary receives [Pledge of Support from the America's Cup Healthy Ocean Project](#) (PDF). Over 1600 people from around the world support NOAA extending the boundaries of the existing sanctuaries along the San Francisco and north-central coast.

2014

May 1, 2014 - Discussion at joint Cordell Bank / Gulf of the Farallones Advisory Council Meeting. Resolutions passed in [support of sanctuary expansion](#) (PDF), and in [opposition to proposed motorized personal watercraft zones](#) (PDF) and [authorizations](#) (PDF).

Apr 4 - Jun 30 - NOAA solicited public comment on the [Draft Environmental Impact Statement](#) (PDF, 15MB), draft [proposed rule](#) (PDF, 450KB), and revised [CBNMS](#) (PDF, 2MB) and [GFNMS](#) (PDF, 2MB) management plans (the rule and management plans published on Apr 14). Public hearings held:

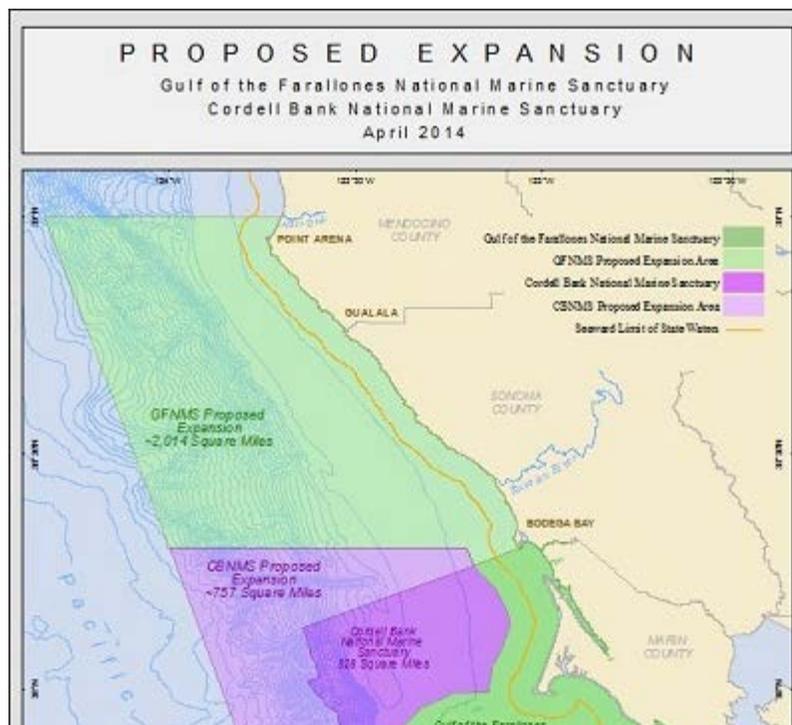
May 22, 2014 - Sausalito Bay Model Visitor Center

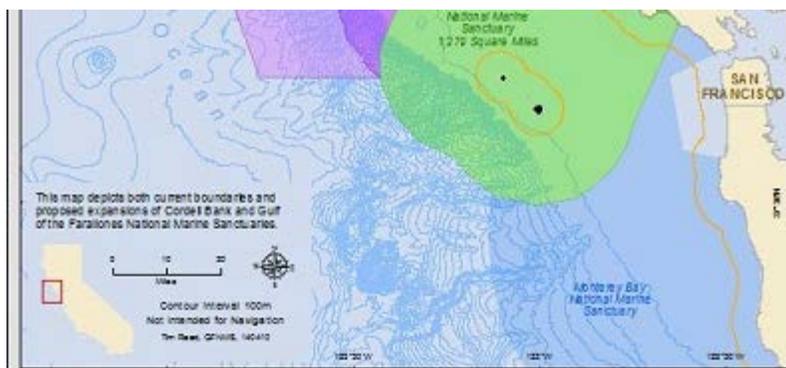
Jun 16, 2014 - Pt Arena City Hall

Jun 17, 2014 - Gualala Community Center

Jun 18, 2014 - Bodega Bay Grange Hall

NOAA also provided a [Press Release](#) (PDF, 100KB), [Informational Flyer](#) (PDF, 200KB), [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (PDF, 60KB) Images: [Pt. Arena](#), [Geologic](#), [Sea Ranch](#), [Steller Sea Lions](#) (JPG, <4MB) & [Captions](#) (PDF, 80KB) and this map.





[Download larger map \(JPG, 1.2MB\)](#)

This map shows the regional location of the proposed expansion area, including the existing and proposed sanctuary boundaries and surrounding area. The proposed expansion area covers the offshore coastal area from Bodega Bay in Sonoma County to a point just north of Point Arena in Mendocino County. It also includes extension of CBNMS farther west offshore of Marin County and north to include Bodega Canyon. The total expansion area is 2771 square miles (sq miles) (2093 square nautical miles [sq nm]). Approximately 757 sq miles (572 sq nm) of offshore ocean waters and the submerged lands under those waters would be added to the existing CBNMS size of 529 sq miles (399 sq nm), for a total size of approximately 1286 sq miles (971 sq nm). The expanded GFNMS area would be north of the existing GFNMS and would add approximately 2014 sq miles (1521 sq nm) to the existing 1279 sq miles (966 sq nm) sanctuary, with a total size of approximately 3297 sq miles (2490 sq nm) (including the additional four sq miles of restored wetlands on the Giacomini property).

Aug 20, 2014 – Sanctuary presents summary of comments received during the public comment period to the Sanctuary Advisory Council.

Nov 19, 2014 – Sanctuary presents process for finalizing the proposed expansion documents to the Sanctuary Advisory Council.

Dec 12, 2014 – California Coastal Commission Public Hearing consistency determination regarding whether the NOAA proposal is consistent with the marine resource, water quality, and commercial and recreational fishing policies (Sections 30230, 30231, 30232, 30234, and 30234.5) of the Coastal Act.

Photo by Martin L. Nelson, VideoLab Multimedia

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