

**Marine Sanctuary Boundary Workshop Special Advisory Council Meeting
December 4, 2003, Half Moon Bay, California**

Note: The following meeting notes are an account of discussions at the Advisory Council meeting and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or position of the Gulf of the Farallones NMS or NOAA.

Council Members (Seats and Alternates):

Bob Breen	Education Seat/Council Vice Chair
Richard Charter	Conservation Seat
Barbara Emley	Maritime Activities Seat/Council Chair
James Kelley	Research Seat
Mick Menigoz	Maritime Activities Seat
Bob Wilson	Conservation Seat
Brenda Donald	Research (Alternate)
Peter Grennell	Maritime Activities (Alternate)

Gulf of the Farallones

National Marine Sanctuary Staff:

Maria Brown	Assistant Manager
Mary Jane Schramm	Advisory Council Coordinator
Ed Ueber	Sanctuary Manager

JMPR Team

Ruth Howell	Management Plan Review Assistant
Ann Walton	Management Plan Review Coordinator

Guests:

Julie Barrow	NMSP West Coast Community Outreach
Susan Andres	Farallones Marine Sanctuary Association
Brad Damitz	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Paul Chitirkin	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Copies to/Absent:

Gwen Heistand	Education/Alternate
Mark Dowie	Public-at-Large (Alternate)
Brian O'Neill	National Park Service (NPS) Representative
Don Neubacher	NPS Government (Alternate)
Karen Reyna	Conservation (Alternate)

The special council boundary meeting was convened at 7:15 p.m.

Roll was called, a quorum was present.

Boundary Workshop 12/04/03

Rev/amended 02/10/04

BOUNDARY POSITION:

MOTION: A motion was made that the Council should accept the position paper “Position paper on the GFNMS southern boundary issue” that the council had developed over the previous few days, and that the council should be able to make amendments or additions before the 30 day comment period is over.

Motion: Richard Charter

Second: Robert Wilson

Vote: Unanimous

MOTION: A motion was made that the council address the oil issue that had been raised during the boundary meeting earlier that evening.

Motion: Robert Wilson

Second: Richard Charter.

Vote: Unanimous

MOTION: Council requests that the sanctuary manager convey this document as approved by this council to Dan Basta.

Motion: Robert Wilson

Second: Jim Kelley

Vote: Unanimous

Boundary/Management Plan: Concerns were raised about the implication that the council suggested the boundary issue be removed from the management plan. This is the reverse of what the council wished. The point was that a rationale for the proposed boundary change was missing. Logistical issues were also posed, and financial issues were raised. (Bob Wilson noted that if the working group were involved in the first phase of the process, the additional items would have been addressed). Council heard earlier that evening from some panelists that they agreed some data sets should have been brought into the process. The science behind the report is flawed and deficient.

Agricultural Concerns: A discussion addressed concerns raised in the earlier boundary meeting regarding the county’s agricultural business, and how things might change with a boundary shift. Ed noted that in Marin the Farallones sanctuary helped farmers receive funds to take measures that would alleviate the common problem such as runoff. Regarding worries that if the boundary shifts, the county would lose money, Ed assured the council that the sanctuary has no plans to disband Monterey’s current agricultural program. Maria added that the council can propose that the sanctuary investigate agricultural issues, and look into programs that would alleviate concerns regarding funding issues. The Farallones sanctuary has been involved with the coast for years, when it was fragmented into three areas, with Ano Nuevo considered the proper dividing line. The sanctuary will continue to work with agriculture.

Oil and Gas Exploration/Development: Council advised that the sanctuary should move forward on the oil and gas issue, regarding uniform protection against exploration and development, across the sanctuary boundaries.

An option exists that the administrative boundary can be changed so that GFNMS can be responsible for the San Mateo County coastal area, without the actual sanctuary boundary being changed. This would be joint management. The boundary issue can then be raised again further down the road.

Ed Ueber noted that until 1997 GFNMS had all responsibility for that stretch of coast. When asked about any administrative (i.e., budgetary or regulatory) problems under that previous arrangement, he responded that GFNMS has always used its own money. When Fitzgerald was turned down for program funding by MBNMS, GFNMS gave them money for four years.

Richard Charter emphasized that public support of any issue was essential, such as the boundary issue, or Monterey's decision to site its visitor center in Santa Cruz. Public testimony has proven that people identify with what they see along their coast, and empathize with what's likely to affect their coast.

The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors has voted that the San Mateo coastal area be included in the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary.

Jim Kelley suggested taking the boundary issue out of the management plan, to be addressed later by another process.

Mick Menigoz invited discussion on a comparison of oil development regulations, and asked how the sanctuaries could secure a less biased comparison than had been stated earlier. Richard Charter assured council members that the information is available now. The statute concerning oil derives from the Hurricane Andrew Restoration Act. The rumors about oil protections being weakened by the boundary change are causing concern, but there should be no "spin" or bias of the comparisons if the analysts go by the actual language of the Hurricane Andrew Restoration Act.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Meeting notes by Mary Jane Schramm/GFNMS Advisory Council Coordinator. Please address questions to maryjane.schramm@noaa.gov, or call 415/ 561-6622 ext. 205.