Tomales Bay Vessel Management

GULF OF THE FARALLONES NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting
December 2007
Tomales Bay Vessel Management Plan

The first step in a comprehensive plan for Tomales Bay outlined in the GFNMS Draft Management Plan. (RP-12)
Vessel Management Goals and Objectives

• Protect public health and improve water quality

• Protect habitat and decrease threats to and disturbance of wildlife

• Ensure safe and enjoyable water-related recreation
Management Issues

- Pathogen impairment; sewage discharges
- Discharges of fuel, oil and toxics
- Invasive species
- Seagrass protection
- Preventing wildlife disturbance
- Protecting public safety
Process to Date

• On August 31st 10 agencies released a document for public input: “Protecting Tomales Bay by Managing Vessel Usage”
  – Outreach to the Tomales Bay Watershed Council
  – Informational meetings with interested stakeholders
  – Held three workshops- 98 participants
  – Completed a 90 day public comment period on December 3rd

• 41 items of written comment received
Recommendations for Action
Presented in Published Document

- Remove abandoned and derelict vessels and moorings
- Replace un-permitted moorings with better moorings and create a permit system
- Create seagrass protection zones and prohibit anchoring there (education & enforcement)
- Minimize sewage and other discharges (provide facilities, implement NDZ & boater education)
- Prevent introduction of invasive species (education)
- Expand current and future permitting and enforcement procedures and programs.
Moving Forward: Where We Are Headed

- Assess potential for surveys & seagrass monitoring
- Finalizing criteria for protection of resources
- Developing mooring permit program
- Develop criteria for acceptable mooring tackle
- Develop implementation strategy for seagrass protection zones (re: anchoring)
- Develop plan for removal of derelict moorings
- Install sewage and oil services - get NDZ designation
Requested SAC Action

1) Request for a Working Group

2) Proposed Composition:
   - SAC representative (Dominique Richard)
   - TBBA representative
   - TBWC/TAC representative
   - Reps of boating businesses in Tomales Bay
   - Littoral property owner with mooring
   - Key agency representatives
   - EAC/Marin, Sierra Club
   - Others?
   - *Facilitated by GFNMS Tomales Bay project staff*
Proposed Timeline

January/February
- SAC Working group starts meeting once every 6 weeks to assist interagency group in addressing core issues / uncertainties
- Publish response to comments

January- August
- GFNMS implementation of non-regulatory recommendations NDZ Designation
- Obtain funding for sewage and oil facilities
- Develop boater education and outreach plan

Summer
- Begin development of EIS/EIR
- Prepare Notice of Intent to release Draft Vessel Management Plan

Fall
- Release draft Vessel Management Plan