



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

February 18, 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR: Daniel J. Basta
Director, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

FROM: Maria Brown *MB*
Superintendent, Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary

Paul Michel *PM*
Superintendent, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

SUBJECT: Monterey Bay and Gulf of the Farallones National Marine
Sanctuary Advisory Councils' joint resolution on wave energy
projects within national marine sanctuaries.

On February 12, 2009, the Monterey Bay and Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Councils passed a joint resolution stating national marine sanctuary waters are not appropriate locations to experiment with industrial energy production projects.

The Advisory Councils have requested this resolution be sent to the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries Director, Daniel Basta, as well as the U.S. Secretary of Commerce.

cc: William Douros, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, West Coast Region

Attachment

**JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE GULF OF THE FARALLONES AND
MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCILS
REGARDING PROPOSED WAVE ENERGY PROJECTS
WITHIN NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES**

Whereas, as members of the community who are concerned about ocean conservation and local, sustainable fisheries, harbors, and healthy coastal communities and regional economies, we recognize the importance of increased energy efficiency as a precursor to the transition to clean, renewable energy sources; and

Whereas, increasing levels of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases pose major threats to our ocean and we understand that in addition to conserving energy, we must develop new sources of energy that do not contribute to ocean warming and acidification; and

Whereas, ocean energy technologies in particular – wave, tide, current, wind and biofuel – may eventually play an important role in our energy future but are also likely to be stressors to sensitive marine ecosystems, thus for renewable energy to meet its considerable promise, it must be both carefully designed and appropriately sited; and

Whereas, an expedient effort to significantly curb CO₂ is imperative, but we must not, and need not, steamroll sensitive and valuable resources to achieve this end; and

The siting of ocean renewable energy industrial facilities should be carefully performed using comprehensive marine spatial planning that identifies areas with the best combination of high energy potential, availability of proven mitigation measures, and low risk of environmental harm and interference with existing uses and habitat values, including fisheries, shipping lanes, marine mammals, and seabirds; and

The Gulf of the Farallones and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries were created under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act based on the special national significance of the area's conservation, recreational, ecological, historical, scientific, cultural archeological, educational and aesthetic qualities and the communities of living marine resources they protect; and

Constructing wave energy devices, platforms, seabed anchoring systems, and burying and laying transmission cables along the seafloor of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, would directly conflict with sanctuary regulations, and such activities would not likely qualify for a sanctuary permit since such permits are limited to a narrow range of purposes including research, education, salvage and recovery or to assist in managing the sanctuary; now therefore be it resolved that:

The Gulf of the Farallones and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Councils believe that sanctuary waters are not an appropriate location to experiment with industrial energy production projects.

Be it further resolved that this recommendation be communicated to all relevant parties including the Director of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries and the Secretary of Commerce.