

Tomales Bay Vessel Management Plan

**GFNMS Advisory Council,
August 13, 2009**



Tomales Bay Vessel Management Plan

The first step in a comprehensive plan for Tomales Bay outlined in the GFNMS Management Plan (page 201). **(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



Working Group Process

Interagency Committee

- CA State Lands Commission
- SF Water Quality Control Board
- National Park Service
- CA Dept. of Fish and Game
- CA Coastal Commission
- CA Boating and Waterways
- CA State Parks
- Marin County Sheriff's Department
- CA Dept. of Health Services
- NOAA (GFNMS Superintendent)

Working Group

- Reviews and discusses options and makes recommendations to Sanctuary Advisory Council

GFNMS Advisory Council

- Reviews and discusses recommendations from the Working Group and advises Superintendent

GFNMS

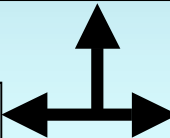
- Reviews, and accepts or rejects recommendations. All rejections must be made in writing and include a rationale for rejection.

NEPA/CEQA

Vessel Management Plan

SLC

ONMS



Vessel Management Issues for Working Group

- 1) Mooring Tackle Pilot Test and Selection
- 2) Seagrass Monitoring and Assessment
- 3) Spacing of Moorings and Total Number of Moorings
- 4) Mooring Fields
- 5) Mooring Criteria
- 6) Permit Program
- 7) Siting Environmental Services (Sewage and Oily Waste)
- 8) Education and Outreach Program
- 9) Identifying No-Anchor Zones



Vessel Management Issues for Working Group

Issues Already Completed to Date

- 1) Mooring Tackle Pilot Test and Selection
- 2) **Seagrass Monitoring and Assessment**
- 3) Spacing of Moorings and Total Number of Moorings
- 4) Mooring Fields
- 5) **Mooring Criteria**
- 6) Permit Program
- 7) **Siting Environmental Services (Sewage and Oily Waste)**
- 8) **Education and Outreach Program**
- 9) **Identifying No-Anchor Zones**



Vessel Management Issues for Working Group

To be Addressed by Advisory Council Today (8/13/09)

- 1) Mooring Tackle Pilot Test and Selection
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Vessel Management Issues for Working Group

Not Yet Completed by Working Group and Advisory Council

- 1) Mooring Tackle Pilot Test and Selection
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Progress to Date on Vessel Management Issues

1. Mooring Tackle Pilot Test and Selection

- Discussed at WG over two-meetings
- Recommendation made by Working Group to Advisory Council
- Recommendation made by Advisory Council to GFNMS
- Upcoming pull test—scheduled for 8/24/09
- Future topic of discussion for Advisory Council (likely 12/09 meeting)

2. Seagrass Monitoring and Assessment

- Seagrass experts meeting held
- Recommendations for assessment



Progress to Date on Vessel Management Issues

5. Mooring Criteria

- Discussed by Working Group over several meetings
- Recommendation made by Working Group to Advisory Council
- Recommendation made by Advisory Council to GFNMS

6. Permit Program

- Feedback on potential permitting scenarios provided by Working Group

7. Siting Environmental Services

- Recommendation made by Working Group to Advisory Council
- Recommendation made by Advisory Council to GFNMS
- Letters to DBW and Marin County—Success!



Progress to Date on Vessel Management Issues

8. Education and Outreach Program

- Recommendation made by Working Group to Advisory Council
- Recommendation made by Advisory Council to GFNMS
- Developed outline for an Education/Outreach plan which will be part of the Vessel Management Plan

9. Identifying No-Anchor Zones

- Recommendation made by Working Group to Advisory Council
- Recommendation made by Advisory Council to GFNMS



Vessel Management Issues for Working Group

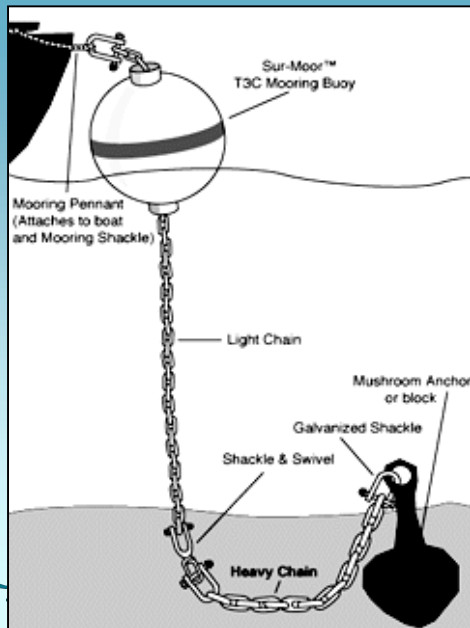
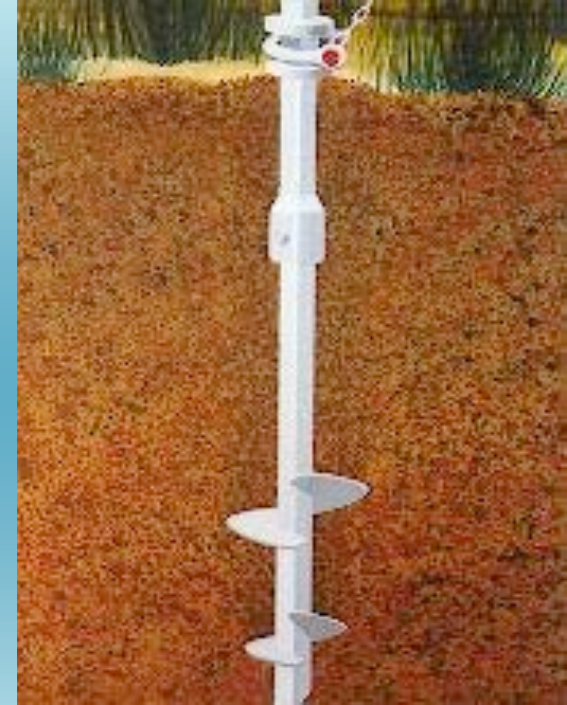
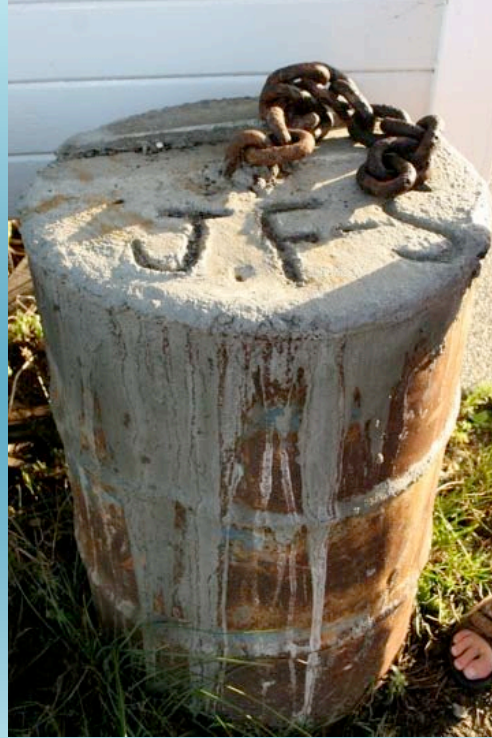
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Mooring Tackle and Pull Test

Brief Overview of Mooring Tackle Issue:



Mooring Tackle and Pull Test

Work Completed:

- Initial sediment survey and installation of 3 Helix and 3 MANTA RAY mooring anchors in 3 locations in Tomales Bay

Work Scheduled for August 24th:

- Pull test using *RV Mussel Point* (with strain gauge attached to line), of 3 Helix and 3 MANTA RAY mooring anchors, and 2 existing 55-gallon drum deadweight moorings
- Not necessary to test rodes and pendants
- Working Group members will receive a report following pull test and may submit a recommendation on mooring tackle requirements, pending Advisory Council action today



Mooring Permit Program

Work Completed:

- Working group provided feedback on permitting scenarios at two meetings, as reflected in the notes that the Advisory Council is receiving today.

Proposed additional permitting task:

- GFNMS proposes that the Working Group provide feedback on communicating and facilitating the permitting process to the boating community.

Rationale:

- To ensure that the permit application process is straightforward and understandable for people to apply.

Example:



Provide working group, for their review, with a decision tree on obtaining a mooring permit in Tomales Bay

GFNMS Next Steps:

- Conduct mooring anchor pull test
- Develop criteria for acceptable mooring tackle
- Finalize criteria for protection of resources, in coordination with Interagency Committee
- Develop mooring permit program, in coordination with permitting agencies
- Develop implementation strategy for seagrass protection zones (re: anchoring)
- Develop plan for removal of derelict moorings
- Plan for the installation of sewage and oil services - obtain *USEPA No Discharge Zone* designation
- Develop education/outreach and monitoring/assessment Plan
- Complete environmental documentation (NEPA/CEQA)
- Finalize *Tomales Bay Vessel Management Plan*



Vessel Management Issues for Working Group

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Maximum Number of Moorings

GFNMS Rationale:

- ✓ Need to establish a number range to analyze as part of the required environmental analysis for the TBVMP.
- ✓ Need to limit number of moorings to: protect public health and improve water quality; protect habitat and decrease threats to and disturbance of wildlife, and; ensure safe and enjoyable water-related recreation.

Sources Analyzed:

- October 10, 1979 Aerial Photos from CDBW
- 2006 Mooring Survey
- September 6, 2003 CDBW Survey
- Tomales Bay Buoy Count June 18, 2008
- Average of 113 moorings; Range of 82-132 moorings



Tomales Bay Mooring Zones

Based on *Historical Mooring Areas* from historical photos and mooring surveys.

And meeting *Mooring Criteria*:

- Avoid seagrass areas
- At least 100' from boat launch ramps
- Avoid 1000' State Parks offshore buffer
- At least 100' from swimming beaches
- Outside of private parcels



Tomales Bay Mooring Zones

GFNMS Proposal:

All mooring anchors will be required to be located within the confines of Mooring Zones except:

- Moorings for mariculture operations will be considered separately by CDFG.
- Moorings for exclusive use by owners of developed littoral parcels will be considered by SLC on a case-by-case basis, to be located on public lands in front of that property.

