

National Marine Sanctuaries



Update on Proposal for Expansion and Revision of Regulations for GFNMS and CBNMS

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary
Advisory Council

August 20, 2014
Half Moon Bay, CA

Process for Proposed Boundary Expansion



1. Scoping

Published Notice of Intent; solicited comments to determine the scope of issues



2. Develop DEIS; draft related documents

Considered scoping comments; conducted impact analysis; developed Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), regulations, revised terms of designation, and revised site management plans.



3. Reviews & Public Comment

DEIS and draft revised mgt. plans, draft proposed regulations, and draft revised terms of designation released; conduct agency consultations; Congress and Governor review; and public comment.



4. Publish FEIS, Final Docs.; Decision Effective

Respond to comments, revise documents based on public comment. Publish Final EIS, mgmt. plans, final rule, and Record of Decision. Congress and Governor review.

Dec. 1, 2012 -
March 1, 2013

March 2013 –
April 2014

April 14 -June 30,
2014

July 1, 2014 –
Winter 2014/15

Step 3: Public Comment (completed)



Public Comment Period: April 14, 2014 to June 30, 2014

Comments submitted by: mail, online, and at public hearings

Four Public Hearings:

May 22, 2014

Sausalito, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Bay Model Visitor Center

Jun 16, 2014

Point Arena, City Hall

Jun 17, 2014

Gualala, Community Center

Jun 18, 2014

Bodega Bay, Grange Hall

Step 4: Review Comments



- About 1,500 comments submitted by around 830 commenters
- Reviewed comments
- Categorized comments
- Consider agency action in light of comments
- Respond to comments
- Revise documents as needed based on comments



Step 4: Review Comments: Comment Categories

Support Expansion

- Existing Regulations
- Proposed Action
- Expansion with Modifications

Oppose Expansion

Authorization

- Oppose
- Support
- Limit

Boundaries

- Adjust Western Line
- MHWL
- Estuaries
- Arena Cove
- Expand
- Giacomini

Fishing

- Sport Fishing
- Commercial Fishing
- Methods
- Discharges

MPWC

- GPS and Radios
- Oppose
- Marine Mammals
- Data
- Process
- Protocols
- Safety
- Boundaries
- Buffer
- Definition
- Enforcement
- Zones
- Fishing
- Low Wake
- MPA s
- Permit or License
- Use
- Volunteer Stewardship

Management Plan Edits

DEIS Edits

Proposed Rule Edits

Enforcement

Special Wildlife Protection Zones

- Definition
- ASBS
- Maps
- Support
- Boundaries
- Overlay regulations
- Expand

Low Overflight Regulation

- Flight Ceiling
- Oppose
- Overflight Regulation
- Expand
- Private Airstrip

Dredging

- Disposal
- Harbors
- Prohibit

Vessels

Name Change

Step 4: Review Comments: Comment Categories (cont.)



Pollution

Military

- Exemption
- Consultation
- Oppose

Funding

Education

Science

Regulations

Sanctuary Advisory Councils

Alternative Energy

Methane Hydrates

Energy Development

Ocean Noise

Wildlife Disturbance

Wildlife

- Endangered Species
- Take
- Protection
- Populations

Historic Shipwrecks

Cruise Ship

Restrict Vessel Speed

Introduced Species

Aquaculture

Whale Entanglement

Russian River

- Flow
- Mouth
- Breaching

Desalination

Climate Change

Collaboration

Permits

Penalties

Fireworks

NEPA

Discharges

Sewage

Agency Coordination

Oil

Ship strikes to whales

Step 4: Internal Review and Approval of Final Action



Site and Region present recommended action to ONMS

Decision point: ONMS reviews recommended action and documents



General Counsel and NOS review FEIS, Final Rule, and Management Plan

Decision Point: General Counsel and NOS comment on recommended action and documents



ONMS/NOS presents recommended action to NOAA

NOAA and DOC comment/approve recommended action

NEPA office reviews, comments, and approves FEIS

Step 4: Publication of Final Action and Record of Decision



Sanctuary Advisory Council Informational Meeting
Coastal Commission Reviews for Federal Consistency



Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Management Plan
Published

30 day cooling off period



Final Rule and Record of Decision Published

45 days of continuous session of Congress and Governor's review



Final Action Effective