MEMORANDUM FOR: John Armor  
Director, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

THROUGH: William Douros  
West Coast Regional Director

FROM: Maria Brown  
Sanctuary Superintendent  
Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary

SUBJECT: Resolution of the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Supporting Established Site Configuration and Management Protocols

At the May 24th council meeting, the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council passed a resolution and requested it be transmitted to the ONMS Director, the Assistant Administrator of the National Ocean Service, and the Acting NOAA Administrator.

The duly-constituted Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council is chartered to advise the Sanctuary Superintendent on matters relating to site management. The Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council has, as a matter of record, taken past formal actions to call for and support a range of actions, including the boundary expansion leading to the designation of the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. The present resolution, recently adopted and now being submitted, supports the current boundary configurations and management protocols for the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, and is being forwarded to decision makers conducting the review proceedings called for in an Executive Order announced on April 28, 2017, which initiated an evaluation of any Sanctuary designated or expanded within the past ten years. The Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council respectfully submits the attached resolution for consideration during this review process. No response is needed at this time.

The Sanctuary Advisory Council’s resolution accurately represents the economic value of sanctuaries to the North-central California coast as well as accurately states the public process conducted to expand the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary.

If you have any questions please contact me at (415) 530-5355.

Attachments
Sanctuary Advisory Council
GREATER FARALLONES NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

June 9, 2017

Mr. John Armor
Director
NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Mr. Armor,

Thank you for your attention to the current review of the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary.

We are attaching a resolution recently adopted by our Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council on May 24, 2017.

We appreciate your consideration of this resolution in your current process.

Sincerely,

Dr. John Largier
Chair
Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

Cc:
Mr. Bill Douros, West Coast Regional Director, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
Sanctuary Advisory Council

GREATER FARALLONES NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Resolution of the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Supporting Established Site Configuration and Management Protocols

Whereas, the geographic boundaries, Designation Document, and regulatory framework of the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary were duly promulgated during a multi-decade robust public process conducted in compliance with all relevant laws and regulations consistent with persistent bipartisan support evidenced by resolutions and formal actions as adopted by affected local and state elected entities, the fishing industry, sitting California governors of both parties, California’s U.S. Senators, and timely unanimous action by the U.S. House of Representatives; and

Whereas, a review has occurred from 2012-2015 that included an extensive public process with public scoping, public hearings, consultations with federal, state, local agencies, businesses, as well as tribes; and

Whereas, the sanctuary benefits for the community include a 1.1 billion dollar value from visitation, a 16 million total harvest revenue from commercial fishing, and a 17.5 million dollar value added from the recreational fishing industry to the North Central Coast of California; and

Whereas, the peer-reviewed sound science upon which all facets of the management and regulatory framework of the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary are based has consistently supported the adopted configuration of this site as necessary to protect one of the four most important ocean upwelling systems on the planet as it provides the base of the essential food chain creating the vibrant marine ecosystems critical to the economic well-being of the multitude of California Current communities and industries dependent on a valuable clean-ocean economy; and

Whereas, the duly-constituted Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council has had the responsibility of advising the Site Superintendent for decades and represents all sectors of the affected user-groups and constituencies; and

Therefore, the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council hereby adopts this resolution of support for the existing duly-established geographic boundaries, Designation Document, and regulatory framework of this site, thereby concluding that any proposed external agency “review” of any aspect of the site would demonstrate there is full compliance with the required considerations during the expansion designation process.