



Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Management Plan Update

Proposed Changes to MPWC Zones 1 and 5

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

**GFNMS Advisory Council Meeting
February 27, 2019**

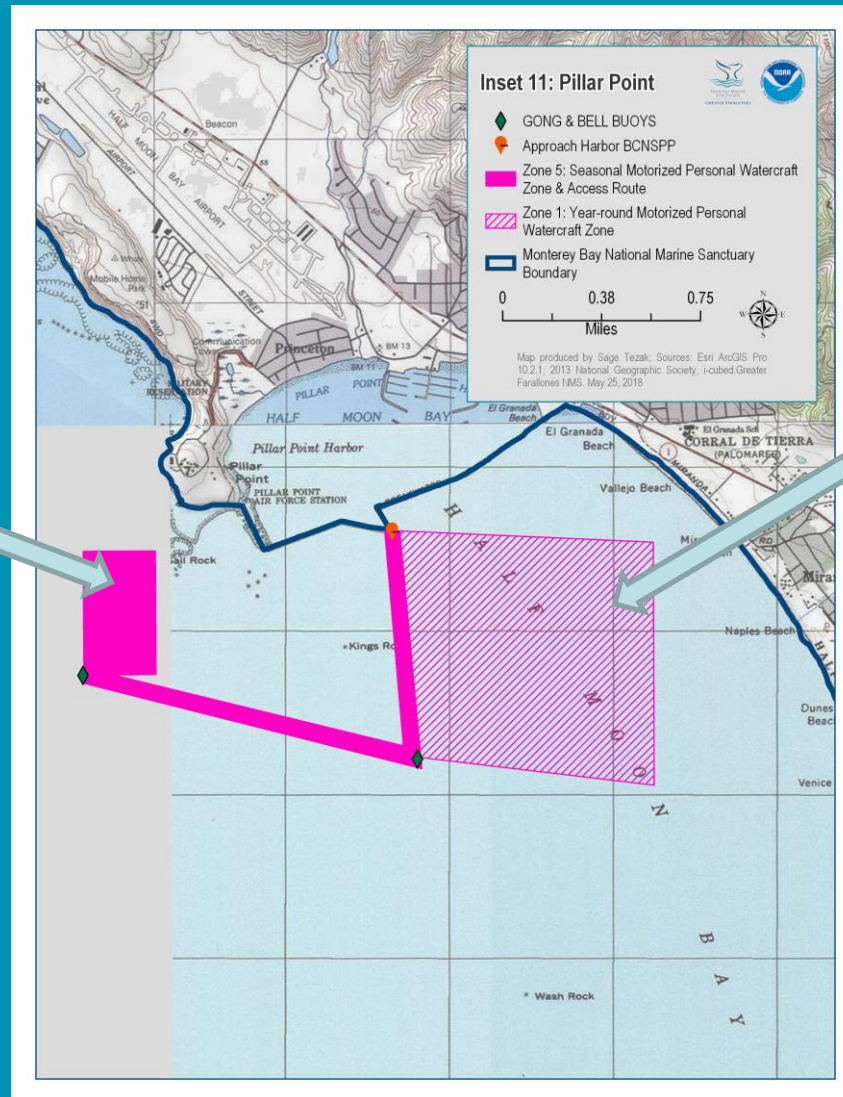
Max Delaney, Permit Coordinator, GFNMS

Background



Zone 5
Mavericks
(seasonal)

*Open
December
through
February during
A High Surf
Warning



Zone 1 Pillar Point
(year round)

Proposed Changes to Zone 5



Change the MBNMS regulations to allow MPWC use during a High Surf Advisory (instead of a High Surf Warning)

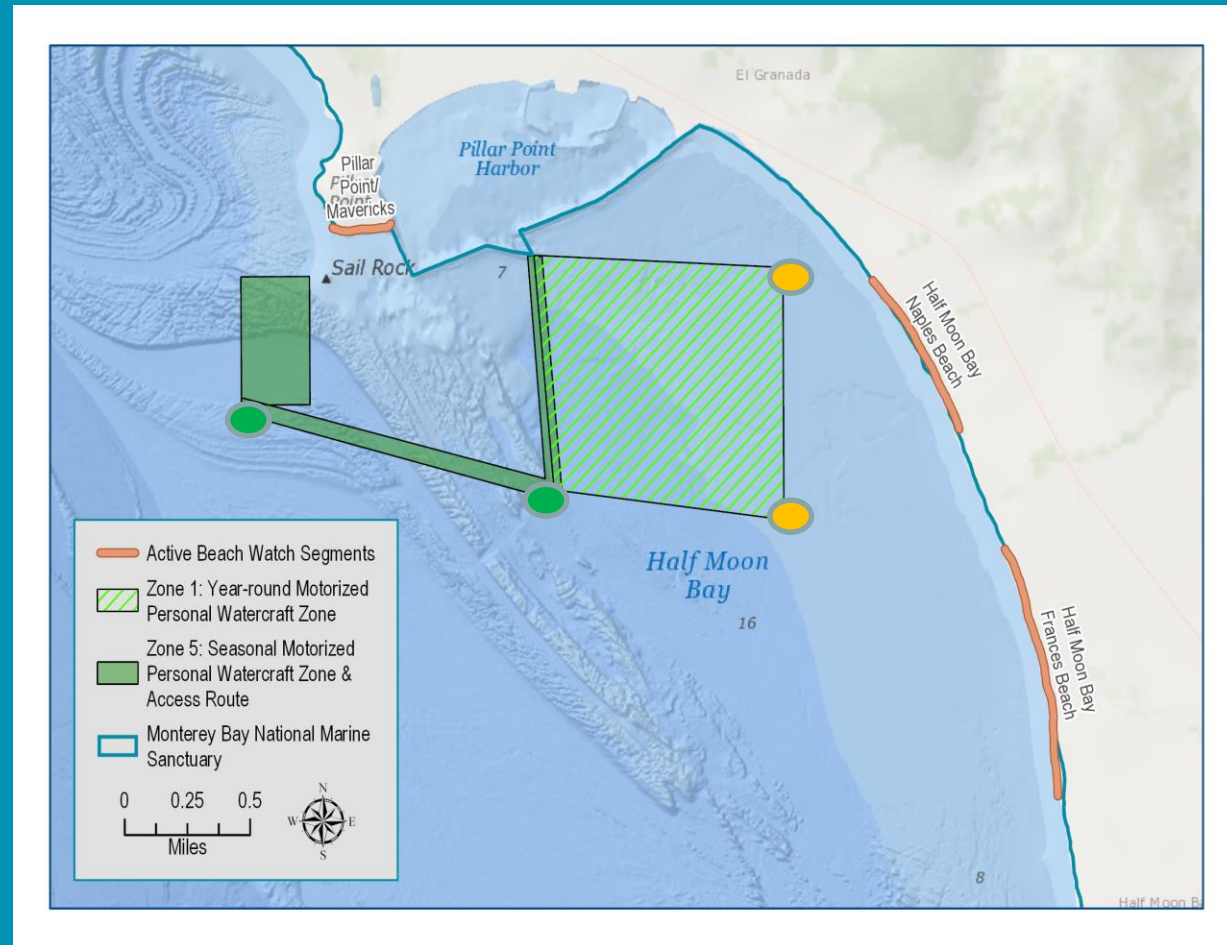
- Reducing seasonal surf height not likely to increase risk to wildlife
- Keep seasonal window based on presence of wildlife

Beach Watch Monitoring Data



Beach Watch data was analyzed from 3 Beach Segments:

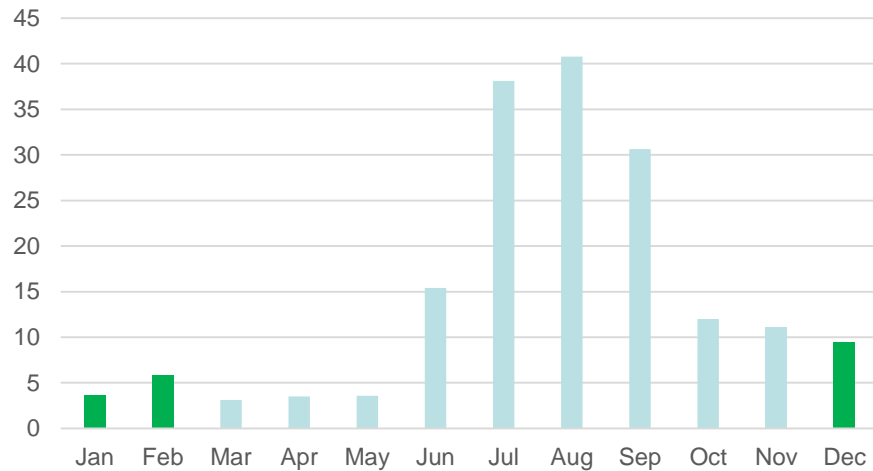
- 1) Francis Beach
- 2) Naples Beach
- 3) Pillar Point-Mavericks



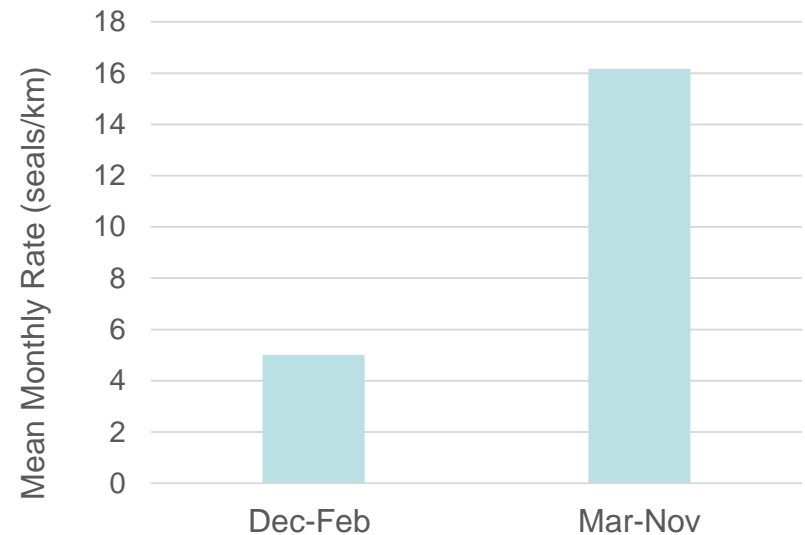
Beach Watch Monitoring at Mavericks (Zone 5)



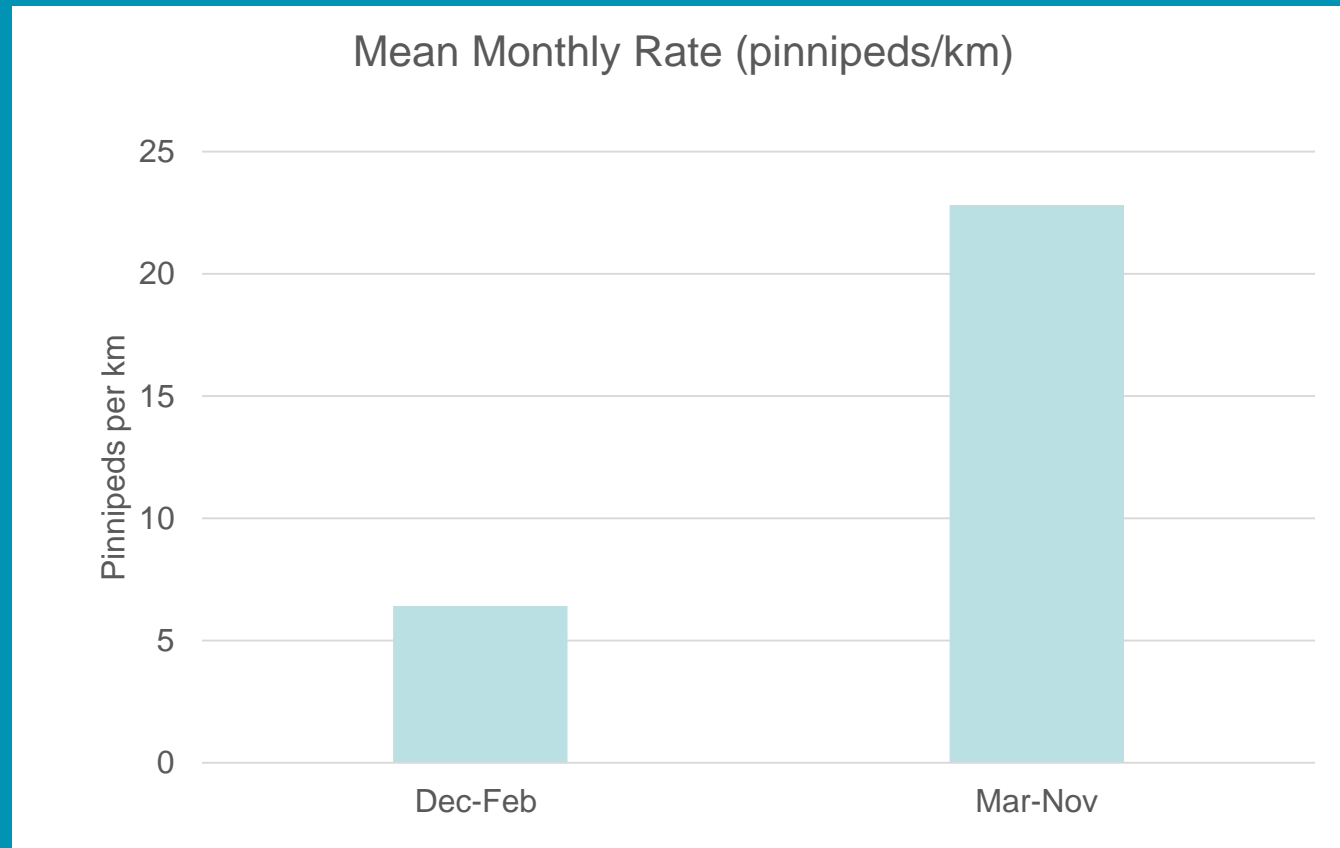
Harbor Seal Observations (monthly per kilometer)



Harbor Seal Observations (seasonal)



Beach Watch Monitoring at Mavericks (Zone 5)



Includes Harbor Seals, CA Sea Lions, Stellar Sea Lions, and all unidentified pinnipeds

Zone 5 - Actions to Date



MBNMS Subcommittee on MPWC use

Recommended lowering surf height to a High Surf Advisory (2016)

MBNMS Advisory Council

Passed a resolution recommending NOAA consider lowering surf height to a High Surf Advisory (2017)

Proposed Changes to MPWC Zone 1



Change MBNMS regulations to eliminate MPWC Zone 1 based on the following considerations:

- 1) Lack of MPWC use (Beach Watch data and stakeholder input)
- 2) Improved enforceability of Zone 5
 - 1) Difficulty of maintaining buoys

Beach Watch Monitoring – Zone 1



Beach Watch data collected since November 1, 2014

Frances Beach	No. Days
Sunday	14
Monday	6
Tuesday	1
Thursday	4
Friday	2
Saturday	61
Total No. Survey Days	88

172 total survey days

TOTAL NUMBER OF MPWCS OBSERVED IN ZONE 1 = 1 MPWC

Naples Beach	No. Days
Sunday	14
Monday	10
Tuesday	4
Wednesday	2
Thursday	4
Friday	8
Saturday	42
Total No. Survey Days	84

Total No. Survey Days (both beaches)	172
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Zone 1 - Actions to Date



GFNMS AC meeting (August 2018)

Passed a resolution recommending staff pursue possible regulatory change of eliminating Zone 1

MBNMS AC meetings (October and December 2018)

Passed a resolution rejecting the GFNMS SAC resolution and recommending and adhere to the Management Plan update currently underway

Issues Raised by MBNMS SAC



- Consensus that Zone 1 seldom used
- Need additional public input (surfers, PPHD)
- Concern about losing a recreational use
- Pursue technological solutions for enforcement of Zone 5
(GPS / pole mounted cameras)
- Buoy maintenance could be cheaper
- Need for surf rescue training
(move Zone 1 to another location)
- Preventing wildlife disturbance should be priority

Next Steps



Provided to MBNMS Staff:

- GFNMS Report on MPWC Zones 1 and 5
- GFNMS Resolution
- MBNMS Resolution

MBNMS Staff will consider during preparation of Draft Rule and Draft Environmental Document
For public comment



Beach Watch Monitoring



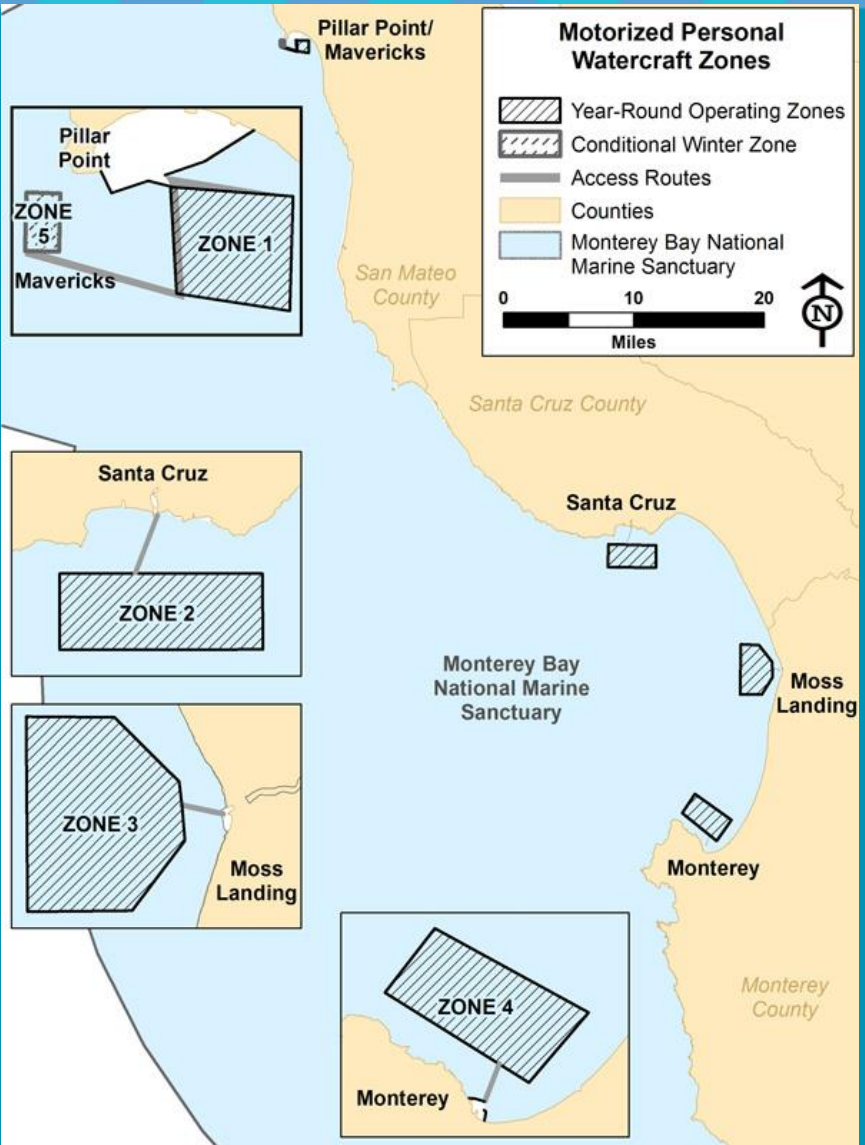
Beach Watch data methods:

Beach Watch surveyors collect wildlife and human use data out to 1/4 mile from shore. This distance reaches Zone 1 but does not include all of zone 1.

However, all of zone 1 can be observed from these beaches and surveyors are directed to document activities of interest (including vessel use, MPWCs) when observed outside of the count zone

These observations are documented in the comment section of each data sheet.

Background



5 MPWC Zones in MBNMS

(Monterey, Moss Landing, Santa Cruz, Pillar Point, Mavericks)

Beach Watch Monitoring at Mavericks (Zone 5)

