



Sanctuary Actions and Kelp Recovery Recommendations



NATIONAL MARINE
SANCTUARIES

MAY 22, 2019

NOAA, GREATER FARALLONES

NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Recommendations

On November 14, 2018 the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council made recommendations to the Sanctuary for consideration.

The main recommendation was that the Sanctuary, in partnership with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, develop a Kelp Recovery Program and a Kelp Recovery Network, operated by a coordinator and working with existing citizen science programs, to implement recommendations, with initial priority to develop a consistent funding stream and best practices.

Recommendations

Three “Topic” Recommendations

- Monitoring and Research - focused on monitoring and understanding needed to inform kelp recovery management, and not the actions pertaining to management of bull kelp and the ecosystems they support.
- Community Engagement - reflect a broader view of opportunities to engage the public and include concepts of adaptive restoration and adaptive learning.
- Site Selection Process - specific recovery actions for specific sites are not identified, and are not the intent of these recommendations.

Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Proposed Actions

In recognition of the identified need for a systematic approach for lead agencies to select coves for urchin removal based on the best possible scenario for success, the sanctuary will pursue the following actions:

1. Create and lead a Kelp Recovery Network and integrate the Sea Star Wasting Syndrome Task Force.
 - ★ *This will require a new position (Kelp Recovery Program Coordinator) at the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary focused on the expansion area.*

Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Proposed Actions

2. In partnership with the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries' Dive Program and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, conduct SCUBA bull kelp surveys from the R/V Fulmar at key monitoring sites annually.
 - ★ *This will require NOAA divers and additional R/V Fulmar days.*
3. Investigate the use of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS or drones) for bull kelp surveys.
 - ★ *Sanctuary staff will coordinate with CDFW.*
4. Integrate LiMPETS sea star citizen science monitoring sites with bull kelp monitoring sites.
 - ★ *Funding has been secured to accomplish this task.*

Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Proposed Actions

5. Develop a program to educate the expansion communities and recreational divers about the Kelp Recovery Network activities to restore the ecosystem including producing an Earth Is Blue video; media presence; talking points; and web site.

★ *This would require support from the Office of National Marine Sanctuary videography team.*

6. Integrate ACCESS offshore ecosystem monitoring data with nearshore kelp monitoring data.

★ *This will require additional R/V Fulmar days to support ACCESS surveys in the expansion area.*

Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Proposed Actions

7. Track progress and provide in-kind support to research efforts studying the viability of seeding kelp forests to accelerate ecosystem recovery.
★ *This would require a Kelp Recovery Network Coordinator*
8. Develop a community engagement program that addresses the desire to continue opportunities for recreation and tourism and community-based monitoring.
★ *This would require a Kelp Recovery Network Coordinator*