Sanctuary Advisory Council
GREATER FARALLONES NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

August 18, 2021

Maria Brown, Sanctuary Superintendent

The Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council (GFNMS/SAC) would like to request and express support for holding the October retreat in person. The initial part of the day when we conduct our workplan can be held indoors in a space that allows for plenty of ventilation and social distancing and can be masked, while the other activities can be held outdoors. These measures would reduce the spread of Covid. The council is entering a period of change with many new members joining for the first time on this day and we feel that an in-person event would facilitate a greater discussion of the topics and challenges facing the sanctuary in the coming year and would allow the new members to become familiar with the group. The delta variant is expected to peak by early mid-September and return to a baseline by mid-October when the retreat is planned for. While we understand if covid or facilities prevent this we do request that the Sanctuary investigate the feasibility of this, perhaps with a hybrid option for virtual attendance in the morning and a presentation available to view later. We recommend looking into managing risk in the most appropriate way.

Sincerely,

Abby Mohan, Chair
Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

Attachment: none