

RESOLUTION of the
Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

**To support the inclusion of the San Francisco-Pacific exclusion area into the
National Marine Sanctuary System**

At its meeting on August 2, 2024, the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (GFNMS) Advisory Council passed a resolution to send a joint letter (with the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council) expressing support for the resolution letter to support the inclusion of the San Francisco-Pacific exclusion area into the National Marine Sanctuary System and requested to send it to the GFNMS and CBNMS Superintendent, Maria Brown.

Attachments: Joint Proposed Resolution to support the inclusion of the San Francisco-Pacific exclusion area into the National Marine Sanctuary System

This resolution was passed with majority vote by a quorum of primary members (or alternate members serving in place of primary members) at a public meeting on August 2, 2024 held on-site in Point Reyes Station, CA. Council discussion regarding this resolution can be found in Meeting Highlights documentation at https://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/sac_meetings.html.

The council is an advisory body to the sanctuary superintendent. The opinions and findings of this letter/publication do not necessarily reflect the position of the sanctuary and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

COVER LETTER

Support Inclusion of the San Francisco-Pacifica Exclusion Area into the National Marine Sanctuary System

August 2, 2024

Maria Brown,
Sanctuary Superintendent

Dear Superintendent Brown,

By this letter, the Sanctuary Advisory Councils for Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries are recommending that the Greater Farallones and Cordell National Marine Sanctuaries (GFNMS-CBNMS) share the attached resolution with the West Coast Regional Office and the National Office of the National Marine Sanctuaries for consideration.

Sincerely,



Jaime Jahncke, Chair
GFNMS Advisory Council



Jeff Dorman, Chair
CBNMS Advisory Council

The councils are an advisory body to the sanctuary superintendent. The opinions and findings of this letter/publication do not necessarily reflect the position of the sanctuaries and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

Support Inclusion of the San Francisco-Pacific Exclusion Area into the National Marine Sanctuary System

Whereas, the protection and sustainable management of significant marine areas are priority issues for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS).

Whereas, the San Francisco-Pacific Exclusion Area, located adjacent to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS), possesses nationally significant ecological, historical, cultural, recreational, and educational qualities that align with the criteria for sanctuary designation under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA).

Whereas, the Exclusion Area's oceanographic characteristics and high biological productivity contribute to the health and diversity of marine life, including important species such as seabirds, marine mammals, fish, and invertebrates, supporting the broader ecosystem of MBNMS and surrounding sanctuaries.

Whereas, the Exclusion Area has a rich historical and cultural heritage, including numerous shipwrecks and significant archaeological sites, which provide valuable educational and research opportunities.

Whereas, the Exclusion Area supports diverse recreational activities such as beach-going, surfing, hiking, wildlife viewing, fishing, and boating, contributing to the local economy and enhancing public engagement with marine conservation.

Whereas, existing management of the Exclusion Area is fragmented and lacks comprehensive coordination, highlighting the need for integrated and coordinated management to effectively protect its resources and address emerging threats.

Whereas, improvements in infrastructure and management practices have addressed previous concerns related to dredged material placement, combined sewer discharges, and vessel traffic, which were reasons for excluding the area from MBNMS in 1992.

Whereas, the incorporation of the Exclusion Area, as a contiguous or non-contiguous part of GFNMS to be decided the Sanctuary managers or the public, will facilitate a comprehensive and

coordinated conservation efforts, leveraging existing relationships and management plans to enhance the protection of its significant resources.

Whereas, incorporating the Exclusion Area into GFNMS will help achieve the 50% reduction in whale ship strike mortality set by the GFNMS in response to shifting whale distributions, climate change, and marine heat waves.

Therefore be it resolved, that the Sanctuary Advisory Councils for Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries hereby jointly recommends that:

1. NOAA and ONMS should proceed with the process of incorporating the San Francisco-Pacific Exclusion Area into GFNMS
2. GFNMS collaborates with MBNMS and other relevant federal, state, and local agencies to ensure comprehensive and coordinated management of the Exclusion Area, addressing existing management gaps and leveraging existing programs and initiatives.
3. NOAA should allocate resources and support for the development of a management plan for the Exclusion Area as part of the ongoing process to update the GFNMS management plan, incorporating regulations and guidelines to protect its ecological, historical, cultural, recreational, and educational resources.

By taking these steps, we can ensure the protection and sustainable management of the San Francisco-Pacific Exclusion Area, contributing to the health and resilience of the greater Gulf of the Farallones marine ecosystem.

The councils are an advisory body to the sanctuary superintendent. The opinions and findings of this letter/publication do not necessarily reflect the position of the sanctuaries and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration