

City of Morro Bay

Harbor Advisory Board Agenda

PLEASE NOTE MEETING DATE & LOCATION

Mission Statement

The City of Morro Bay is dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of the quality of life. The City shall be committed to this purpose and will provide a level of municipal service and safety consistent with and responsive to the needs of the public.

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2015 – 6:00PM
MULTI PURPOSE ROOM
MORRO BAY COMMUNITY CENTER
1001 KENNEDY WAY, MORRO BAY, CA**

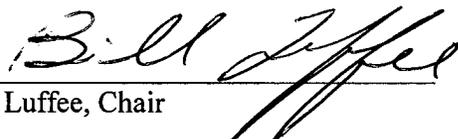
**ESTABLISH QUORUM AND CALL TO ORDER
MOMENT OF SILENCE
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
PUBLIC COMMENT RE: ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA ITEMS:

- I. **CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED CHUMASH HERITAGE NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY NOMINATION AND POSSIBLE HARBOR ADVISORY BOARD POSITION AND RECOMMENDATION TO THE MORRO BAY CITY COUNCIL**

ADJOURNMENT

DATED: September 10, 2015


Bill Luffee, Chair

MATERIALS RELATED TO AN ITEM ON THIS AGENDA SUBMITTED TO THE CITY COUNCIL AFTER DISTRIBUTION OF THE AGENDA PACKET ARE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION AT CITY HALL LOCATED AT 595 HARBOR STREET; MORRO BAY LIBRARY LOCATED AT 625 HARBOR STREET; AND MILL'S COPY CENTER LOCATED AT 495 MORRO BAY BOULEVARD DURING NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS.

IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, IF YOU NEED SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN A CITY MEETING, PLEASE CONTACT THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE AT LEAST 24 HOURS PRIOR TO THE MEETING TO INSURE THAT REASONABLE ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE TO PROVIDE ACCESSIBILITY TO THE MEETING.

The NMSA should be reauthorized every five years, but has been enabled by continuing resolutions of Congress since its last true reauthorization in 2000. In 2010, Congresswoman Lois Capps co-authored a bill to reauthorize the NMSA, however, that bill failed. A link to the NMSA itself is available at:

<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/library/national/nmsa.pdf>

In 2014, NOAA revised the process for sanctuary designation, changing from a “top-down” site evaluation process to a “bottom-up” nomination one. In the “bottom-up” nomination process, a community or entity builds a nomination and submits it to NOAA. NOAA then performs an initial review for completeness and that it meets the basic requirements for submission. If it does, it goes on to a second, more thorough NOAA review where it is evaluated and must meet at least one of four National Significance Criteria categories, and must meet all seven of seven Management Consideration categories. Management Consideration 7, broad community-based and other support, is especially important and critical. A link to the nomination process is available at:

<http://www.nominate.noaa.gov/>

If a nomination meets at least one National Significance Criteria and all seven Management Considerations, NOAA will add the site to an inventory list of potential new national marine sanctuary sites. NOAA may then consider an area on the inventory list for future designation in a completely separate public process that can take years to complete.

DISCUSSION

Under this new process five nominations were submitted to NOAA: Eubalaena Oculina in Florida submitted 9/2014, Mallows Bay in Maryland submitted 9/2014, Aleutian Islands in Alaska submitted 12/2014, Lake Michigan in Wisconsin submitted 12/2014, and Chumash Heritage on our own coast submitted 2/2015. Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary, submitted by the Northern Chumash Tribal Council, is proposed to connect the Monterey Bay and Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuaries.

Of these five, Eubalaena Oculina and Aleutian Islands were declined by NOAA, and Eubalaena was subsequently withdrawn 8/2015. Mallows Bay and Lake Michigan were both accepted, and Chumash Heritage was declined but subsequently resubmitted 7/2015 after NOAA made suggestions on areas in which the nomination package could be improved. Chumash Heritage was accepted as a complete application by NOAA in the initial review process, and is currently under review by NOAA for compliance to the National Significance Criteria and Management Consideration categories.

Attachment 1 to this staff report is the Chumash Heritage sanctuary proposal package as re-submitted, and Attachment 2 is NOAA’s letter of denial for the original Chumash submission. Attachment 3 is NOAA’s Sanctuary Nomination Process Guide which lists the submittal process

in more detail, in addition to listing the National Significance Criteria and Management Considerations.

The possibility of a new national marine sanctuary in local waters, or expansion of an existing sanctuary either north or south to encompass local waters, have a controversial history in San Luis Obispo County as evidenced by several resolutions in opposition passed over the years by the Morro Bay City Council. Attachment 4 is the most recent resolution passed in 2012.

CONCLUSION

Attached to this staff report are numerous informational and other documents, as well as “pro” and “con” documents regarding marine sanctuary designation. Staff is seeking Harbor Advisory Board review of the pertinent documentation and public input in order to make a recommendation, if any, for the City Council to consider at their September 22, 2015 meeting for a possible Council position on the Chumash sanctuary proposal.

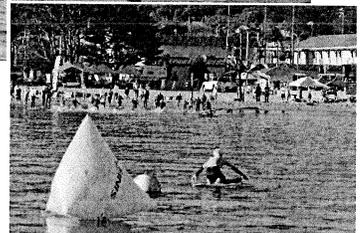
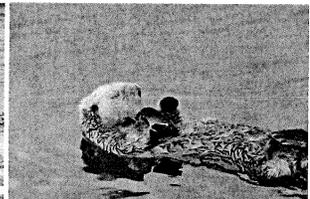
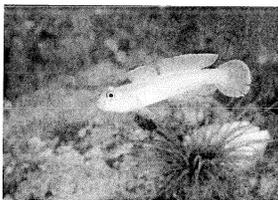
ATTACHMENTS

1. Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary proposal, including supporting letters
2. NOAA Chumash Sanctuary nomination denial response dated 3/6/15
3. NOAA Sanctuary Nomination Process Guide
4. Morro Bay City Council Resolution 18-12
5. NOAA’s Regulation of Fishing in National Marine Sanctuaries document, July 2008
6. Sierra Club’s Potential Economic Impacts of the Proposed Central Coast National Marine Sanctuary document, September 2014
7. Commentary document on Sierra Club’s economic impact document by Monica Galligan
8. Various San Luis Obispo Tribune news articles and viewpoints, 2015
9. Sierra Club’s Santa Lucia Chapter information page on Chumash sanctuary proposal
10. New Times commentary article, December 2014
11. Northern Chumash Tribal Council letter to Port San Luis Harbor Commission, June 2015
12. Minutes from Port San Luis Harbor Commission meeting, June 23, 2015, and Resolution 15-08 from Port San Luis Harbor Commission June 23, 2015 meeting
13. Morro Bay Community Quota Fund letter to NOAA regarding Chumash nomination, March 2015
14. Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries letter to NOAA regarding new or expanded sanctuaries on the West Coast, February 2015
15. Opinion article from The Rock online publication, February 2015
16. California Marine Affairs and Navigation Conference (CMANC) position paper on the National Marine Sanctuaries Act

Attachment 1

Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary Nomination

June 2015



Northern Chumash Tribal Council



With thanks to the Sierra Club, Surfrider Foundation, and countless community activists in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties who have given their time and energies in support of this project.

"The new marine sanctuary nomination process is an exciting opportunity to strengthen protections for our precious coastlines and marine ecosystems, and it takes a ground-up, consensus-driven approach with broad-based community support, including local fishermen, tribes, business, and other stakeholders. I am pleased that there is a local effort to take advantage of this opportunity and look forward to working with all these local stakeholders to ensure that everyone's input is fully considered as the process moves forward."

-Representative Lois Capps, 24th Congressional District, February 2, 2015

Cover: Chumash Tomol 'Elye'wun paddlers crossing at Santa Cruz Island. California, Channel Islands NMS, 2006. Photographer: Robert Schwemmer, CINMS, NOS, NOAA.

Blackeye goby (*Rhinogobiops nicholsii*). Kari Larson.

PISCO divers gear up to enter the water at San Simeon Point during a subtidal monitoring project. Josh Pederson / NOAA MBNMS.

Lunge feeding humpback whale with sooty and pink sheerwaters. Sophie Webb / NOAA SWFSC

Southern Sea Otter. Steve Lonhart / NOAA MBNMS.

2014 Monterey Bay SportsFest at Del Monte Beach in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Steve Lonhart

Section 1 – Basics

Name: Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary Proposal

Nominator Name/Affiliation: Fred Collins, Northern Chumash Tribal Council

Point of Contact: Fred Collins, Northern Chumash Tribal Council, 67 South Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 (805) 801-0347

Section II – Introduction

Designation of the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary will ensure protection of one of the most culturally and biologically diverse coastlines anywhere in the world. These waters are essential to the heritage of the Chumash, one of the few ocean-going bands among the First People of the Pacific Coast. The marine environment also provides a very special sense of place to coastal communities and international visitors because of the significant historic, archaeological, cultural, aesthetic and biological resources found here.

Point Conception, an intact natural and cultural landscape and nationally significant archaeological district, is sacred to the Chumash as the Western Gate. This significance is affirmed in contemporary marine science observations of this ecosystem. Located in a dynamic setting where two oceanographic regimes transition, these waters are critical to the sustenance of ecologically and commercially important species and support critical habitat that connects biogeographical species assemblages. This abundance of resources accounts for the richness and cultural complexity of the Chumash heritage.

The cultural significance of Chumash heritage makes this proposed national marine sanctuary the only one of its kind. The Chumash once lived in villages west of current tidal lines and on Point Conception. The ocean has submerged the homes of the Chumash ancestors. Protecting these submerged ancient villages from future industrial encroachment will ensure the resting places of the ancestors remain undisturbed.

Natural resource protection is in harmony with the Chumash history of nurturing health and balance. As stewards of the ocean and land, Chumash have been guardians of this region for thousands of years. This legacy expands and connects sanctuary concepts to include under-represented indigenous cultural and historic values. Protecting coastal resources and the Chumash concept of connectivity of all things provide special education, outreach and interpretive opportunities to enrich our national understanding and awareness of stewardship.

A central value of Chumash heritage is “Thrivability,” a balanced connected understanding of the natural world being practiced by many indigenous communities worldwide. Observing, learning and adapting to the interconnections of habitat, the Chumash value caring for the ecosystems of both ocean and land. The closest analog in the resource agency realm is the ecosystem-based management approach of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS.) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) strategic plan mirrors this concept of Thrivability. Navigating toward a future where people, communities, and ecosystems prosper and are resilient in the face of stresses of coastal urbanization, exploitation of ocean and coastal resources, and the pervasive effects of climate change on society and the environment results in a prospering and flourishing planet. And that is Thrivability.

Thrivability extends and enhances the message of ONMS ecosystem-based management and natural

resource protection while celebrating the importance of core indigenous values. It is a cycle that reinvests energy for future use and stretches resources further. It transcends sustainability by creating an upward spiral of greater possibilities and increasing energy. Each action builds the foundation for new things to be accomplished. Thrivability emerges from the persistent intention to create more value than one consumes. When practiced over time, this builds a world of ever increasing possibilities.

The Northern Chumash Tribe has teamed with local communities and organizations in a growing grassroots movement. These partners will be key contributors to the success of a proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary. San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara County communities want the central coast productive ocean waters to have the highest levels of protection for all generations to come. Establishment of a national marine sanctuary will preserve this special place and will add a distinctive treasure to the ONMS system.

Narrative Description – a brief overview of the nomination

Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties are popular destinations for recreation and tourism. Local, regional and international visitors are drawn by the beauty of the coast, the lure of wine country, outdoor recreational opportunities, and international festivals. The chambers of commerce, visitors' bureaus and stewardship travel organizations have vibrant programs that partner with government agencies and NGOs to do outreach and education. There are numerous museums, docent programs, education and conservation efforts already present in the area. Local volunteer communities are active in restoring and preserving historical and cultural resources (such as the Dana Adobe, Port San Luis Lighthouse, Fiscalini Ranch, and the Pismo Preserve;) maintaining trails (city and county trails, the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail and the California Coastal Trail,) helping maintain open spaces and public areas and interpreting the historic, cultural, biological, and aesthetic resources of this dynamic area. Thus stewardship focused on onshore coastal resources is prevalent in the area.

The proposed sanctuary contains diverse unique ecosystems. The central coast contains a key transition zone that includes vital upwelling of great bioproductivity providing sustenance for the proposed area and adjacent marine sanctuaries. There is a meeting of diverse benthic features, including a submarine canyon and two subsea basins that converge just offshore of Point Conception. The habitat can be characterized by a range of substrate types and depths that provide structure for a variety of organisms, including kelp forest, soft bottom and rocky reef communities. Large concentrations of kelp are found in the rocky nearshore of the central coast from Point Conception to Point Mugu. Wetlands, estuaries and rookeries abound in the proposed area. The Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes are the largest remaining dune system south of San Francisco and the second largest in California.

These diverse habitats are crucial for vulnerable species such as the endangered western snowy plover and the threatened southern sea otter. The area includes designated critical habitat for the endangered black abalone, Chinook salmon, coho salmon, Morro shoulderband snail, California red-legged frog and leatherback sea turtle. Sustaining these vulnerable populations requires maintaining ecosystem diversity through protection of this wide variety of representative and unique habitats.

In addition to the unique ecosystem, there are extensive cultural and archaeological Chumash sites in the area. There is evidence of early Chumash maritime navigation for travel and trade along the

coast and offshore islands. On land, there are more than a thousand recorded archaeological sites and 193 that have been determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. This provides a well-preserved archaeological record, spanning at least 15,000 years and containing evidence representative of specific time periods in cultural history. Chumash sites, including evidence of astronomical observatories, are now submerged off the current coastline.

Supplementary to the submerged Chumash historic and cultural resources, there are over 40 known historic shipwrecks in the region. The “Graveyard of the Pacific,” the area contains the Navy’s worst peacetime loss shipwrecks, the gold-laden steamship *S.S. Yankee Blade* and the oil tanker, *SS S.S. Montebello*. Sanctuary designation will preserve, study and interpret these distinctive natural treasures that are of special historic, cultural and archaeological significance.

Goals Description

1. Designate a unique indigenous cultural sanctuary that extends and deepens the ONMS natural resource protection message with the philosophy of Thrivability and heritage of the Chumash and First Peoples.
2. Protect and manage internationally significant ecological transition zone supporting high biological diversity and density of numerous important marine species.
3. Protect, study and interpret the region’s maritime heritage and Chumash cultural heritage.
4. Establish comprehensive management program to address increasing offshore industrial threats to vital habits, species and heritage resources.
5. Promote, support and collaborate with scientific research institutions to monitor ocean resources in a unique living laboratory. The overlap of biogeographic boundaries where oceanographic regimes meet provides one of the best biological and geological resources in the world for the study of ecosystem transition zones and climate change.
6. Monitor, survey and study the historical, present and future impacts of climate change on ecological processes, including those at the transition zone, and human occupation including past native settlements and contemporary coastal communities.
7. Enhance collaboration and partnerships - federal, state, local, tribal, NGOs and private sector to achieve critical management goals for the area.
8. Develop and extend education and outreach using existing visitors’ centers, tourism bureaus, educational institutions, museums, NGOs and adjacent sanctuary resources in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties.
9. Protect economic health of the area including commercial and recreational fisheries; whose viability depends on the health of the marine resources. The proposed sanctuary shall have no impact on treaty fishing rights and impose no future regulations upon commercial or recreational fishing.

Location Description

The proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary is located along the south Central California coastline, from Gaviota Creek in Santa Barbara to Santa Rosa Creek in Cambria (see Figure 1.) The western boundary of the proposed sanctuary is west of the submerged Santa Lucia Bank along the Santa Lucia Escarpment. The eastern boundary is the mean high tide line. These pristine coast waters are between Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS) and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS.) The boundaries are 100 miles north of Los Angeles and 190 miles south of San Francisco, covering 140 miles of coastline.

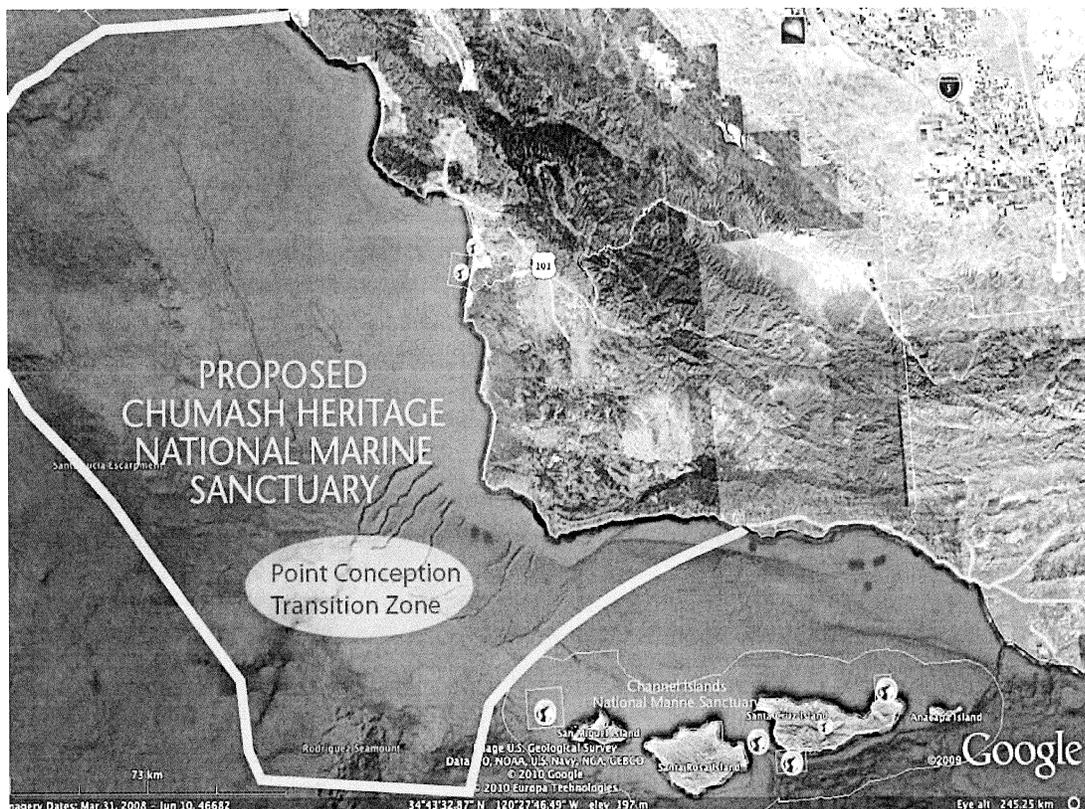


Figure 1 – Proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary.

Section III – Criteria Information

Criteria 1: *The area's natural resources and ecological qualities are of special significance and contribute to: biological productivity or diversity; maintenance or enhancement of ecosystem structure and function; maintenance of ecologically or commercially important species or species assemblages; maintenance or enhancement of critical habitat, representative biogeographic assemblages, or both; or maintenance or enhancement of connectivity to other ecologically significant resources.*

Transition Zone - The ecological systems in the California central coast contain qualities of special significance making this a distinctive and remarkable addition to ONMS. Here a unique interaction of species and natural phenomena occurs, feeding the web of life along the eastern rim of the Pacific Basin. The nutrients sustain diverse species, feed planktonic communities and kelp forests, and support various life stages of marine flora and fauna.

The multitude of diverse and important ecosystems provides a critical transition area for the ocean and coastal zones. The Oregonian Temperate Eastern Pacific current and the Californian Subtropical American Eastern Pacific current meet in the coastal waters off Point Conception. This region is unique in the complex interaction of the southward-moving California current, the warmer northward subcurrent, the nearshore northward-moving seasonal Davidson Current, and upwelling. Ocean fronts of warm and cool water act to increase bioproductivity improving the habitat and increasing fishery production. These fronts create convergent zones that aggregate food and resources in the ocean.

The terrain around Point Conception, combined with the change in orientation of the coastline from north-south to east-west, causes counterclockwise eddies to form east of the point. These eddies fluctuate from time to time and place to place, leading to highly variable winds along the southern coastal strip. Point Conception also marks the change in the prevailing surface winds from northwesterly to southwesterly. Offshore geological features such as the Santa Lucia Bank, Arguello Canyon, Concepcion Canyon, Rodriguez Seamount and Santa Barbara Basin provide this area with high physiographic complexity contributing to bioproductivity. Santa Lucia Bank is known as a hotspot for krill density attracting high marine mammal and bird diversity (See Figure 2).

This combination of terrain, wind and water currents, and oceanographic regimes creates biological productivity and diversity that is of special significance as an internationally recognized transition zone unlike any other found in the ONMS system. These natural resources and ecological qualities maintain critical habitat, diverse species and bioproductivity that provide important ecosystem linkages to the adjacent areas. A proposed sanctuary would enhance protection for these vital natural resources through ecosystem based management and adaptive strategies to maintain and enhance the ecosystem structure and function of this important transition zone.

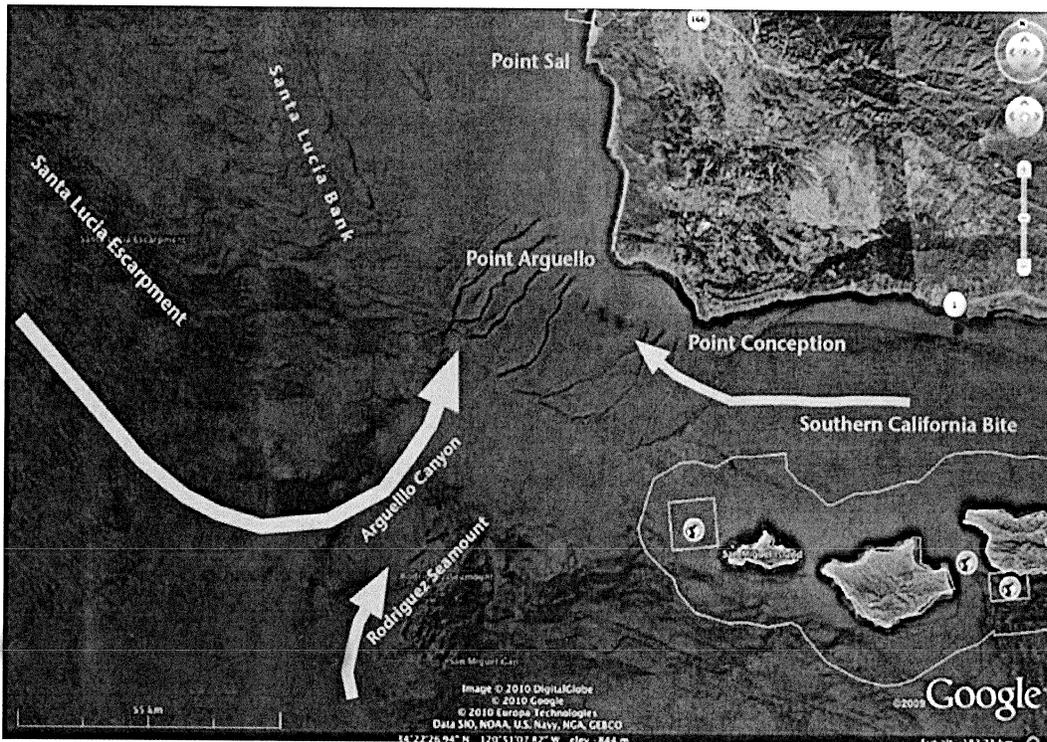


Figure 2 - Santa Lucia Bank, Arguello Canyon, Rodriguez Seamount, Point Conception.

Marine Flora and Fauna – The proposed sanctuary contains ecologically and commercially important species and species assemblages. Point Conception is considered to be a biogeographic boundary and overlap transition zone for numerous southern and northern species. It contains a diverse array of biological communities in dynamic settings where northern or southern extent of many species' ranges end and overlap, corresponding to major oceanographic features. These waters are important transiting and foraging habitat for numerous species. It is a region recognized for its abundance, importance and persistence. Several hundred invertebrate species inhabit the mainland shelf and slope. Many of these species have biogeographic breaks near Point Conception. Others are

more transient and have population centers north or south of the region. There are 25 threatened and endangered species in the proposed sanctuary including white North America abalone, southern sea otter, Southern California steelhead, as well as killer and humpback whales. (See Appendix for list.)

Benthic communities of world-wide significance thrive in the area. The high diversity and density of benthic populations resemble that of the North Sea, one of the world’s most productive regions. The meiofaunal (small benthic invertebrates) community is among the highest density reported globally. The macroinfauna diversities and abundances are much larger than those north or south along the California coast. The abundance of benthic populations appears related to the area’s unique combination of characteristics -- the transition zone, the geology of the area, composition of the sea floor, complex currents, and upwelling.

Significant ecological hotspots occur in continental shelf and nearshore waters from Santa Lucia Bank, Point Conception down through the Northern Channel Islands. The area around Point Conception and Santa Lucia Bank has been identified as a krill hotspot critical to key ecosystem functions such as trophic transfer. Bird density and diversity is linked to krill and krill-predator availability, an important component of marine ecosystems. This is prime territory on the Pacific Flyway, a major migratory route for birds, and acts as a stopover during north and south migrations. Over 195 species of marine birds use open water, shore or island habitats in the Southern California Bight south of Point Conception (See Figure 3.) Onshore, important breeding and nesting sites for threatened and endangered species such as the western snowy plover and California least tern are found along the coast’s critical habit. In this area spatial patterns of bird, fish, invertebrate and mammal habitat also overlap (See Figure 4.)

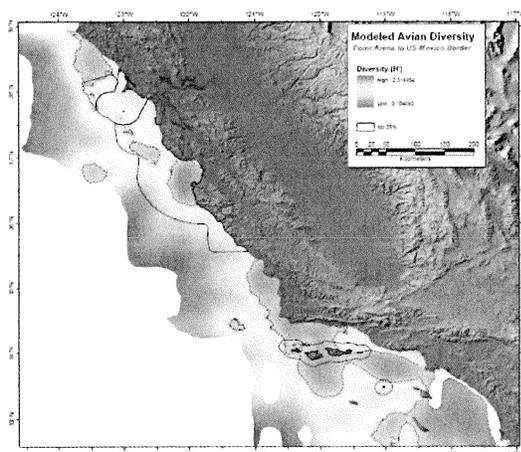


Figure 3 – Modeled Avian Density.

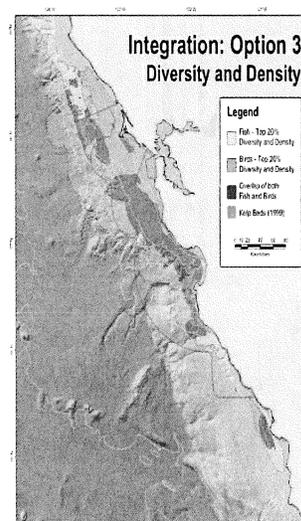


Figure 4 – Integration: Diversity & Density.

This area includes important migratory paths and feeding locations for marine mammals including humpback, Baird’s, fin, blue and sperm whales, dolphins and the vulnerable Morro Bay harbor porpoise stock. Commercially harvested fish species include sablefish, Dover sole, shortspine, longspine, and rex sole. Flora and fauna of the area are associated with two distinct oceanographic and climatic provinces critical to maintaining the biodiverse species assemblages to the north and the south of Point Conception. The natural resource protection strategies employed in the ONMS

adaptive ecosystem management will maintain resilience in these vital commercially and environmentally important species.

Southern Sea Otter – With their nearshore distribution, southern sea otters are especially susceptible to human-induced stressors in their environment, representing effective sentinels of the nearshore and coastal ocean health. The species plays a keystone role in preventing kelp forests from being overgrazed by herbivorous invertebrates such as sea urchins and large gastropods. Their larger role in the broader influences of this otter-herbivore-kelp trophic cascade, including the indirect effects on other coastal species and ecosystem processes, and the evolutionary consequences over longer periods of time require continuing research and study.

When MBNMS was established in 1992, the boundaries were designed with the southern sea otter range in mind. Now, vitally important areas of the southern sea otter range are in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties south of current sanctuary protection. According to the 2014 southern sea otter census survey, 32% of the vulnerable species is now located in the proposed sanctuary (See Figure #5.) The scientific community has concluded that range expansion is critical to the species’ recovery and the Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo County coast is an area where expansion and recovery should be promoted. The proposed nomination would substantially increase the amount of occupied southern sea otter habitat within ONMS protection and could provide a buffer zone for the expansion of this ecologically important keystone and sentinel species.

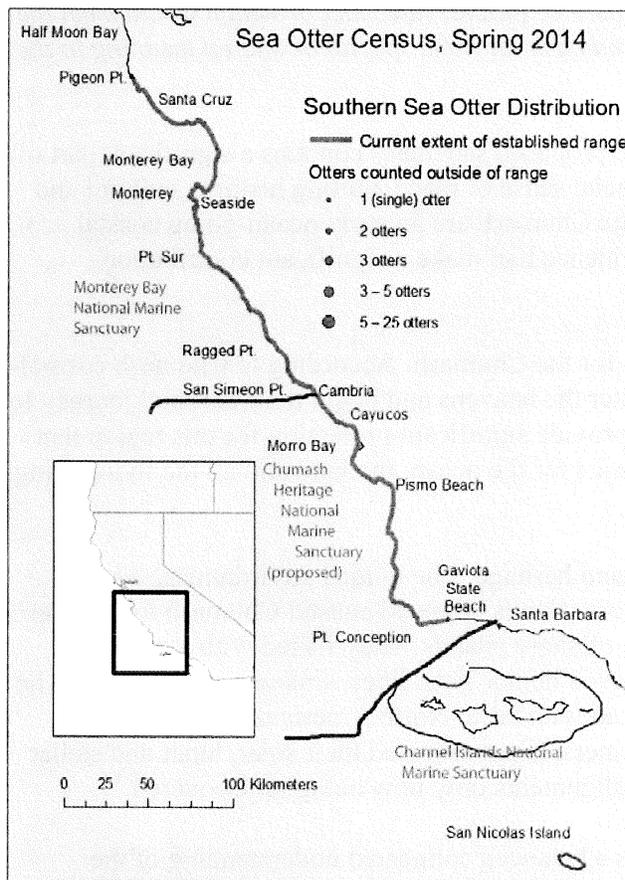


Figure 5 – Southern Sea Otter Range and Census 2014.

Kelp Forest, Seagrasses, Wetlands, Shallow and Deep Water Ecosystems – The proposed sanctuary contains critical habitat for diverse species. Large areas of important habitats such as kelp, seagrasses and wetlands along with a mixture of deep and shallow waters support many important species including commercial fishes and the threatened southern sea otter.

Kelp forests are critical habitat for many species, including commercial fishes and the threatened southern sea otter. Large kelp concentrations are found from Point Conception to Point Mugu. These rocky intertidal kelp forests support a vast trophic web feeding and sheltering invertebrates, young-of-the-year and juvenile fishes, rockfish, piscivorous birds, and marine mammals with populations of both the northern and southern oceanographic provinces. Kelp and algae form understories that provide numerous benthic, mid-water, and surface habitats, nursery areas and protective covers. These diverse habitats form an ecosystem structure that supports and maintains thriving species assemblages and enhances connectivity with adjacent Sanctuary ecosystems.

There are numerous lists and maps that illustrate the nationally and internationally significant marine species' densities and diversities in the proposed sanctuary area. Detailed maps can be found on the proposed sanctuary website at: <http://chumashsanctuary.com/area/>.

Criteria 2: *The area contains submerged maritime heritage resources of special historical, cultural, or archaeological significance, that: individually or collectively are consistent with the criteria of eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places; have met or which would meet the criteria for designation as a National Historic Landmark; or have special or sacred meaning to the indigenous people of the region or nation.*

Chumash Heritage Special Cultural Sites – The proposed sanctuary contains a significant part of the ancient history of our nation. It envelops a special sense of place, uniting historic, cultural and natural resources with a unique ocean heritage. The Chumash are an early ocean-going coastal people with thousands of years of artifacts and evidence that make a significant contribution covering an expansive period of our early history.

Point Conception is a highly revered sacred place for the Chumash. According to Chumash cosmology, it is a gateway for the souls of the dead to enter the heavens and begin their celestial journey to paradise (Similaqsa.) Sanctuary designation will provide significant protection for this region that the Chumash hold in their hearts with deep reverence for the ocean, the land and all the living things there.

The ocean is an integral part of Chumash culture and heritage. The unique environment, a south-facing coast with a channel sheltered by the offshore islands, allowed coastal Chumash to develop fishing and trading with Chumash residing on the offshore islands. They fished with a complex array of fishing gear, including harpoons, shell carved hooks, nets, lines, sinkers and fish traps. The tomol, the only sewn sea going plank canoe caulked with tar in North America, is central to Chumash heritage even today. Accomplished mariners, Chumash used their solar, lunar and stellar knowledge to create complex solstice and stellar alignments only now being rediscovered.

In Chumash culture, the concept of Thrivability is a balanced connected understanding of the natural world. Observing, learning and adapting to the interconnections of habitat, the Chumash value caring for the ecosystems of both ocean and land. It remains important to Chumash families

today. Chumash descendants are in the midst of a cultural revival that is a testament to their rich cultural heritage. The tomol is a symbol of connection with the past, the ocean and maritime culture. The tomol keeps the ways of our ancestors alive for generations to come. The Chumash way of life is interwoven with the ocean and the many clans who still exist and thrive on the Central Coast. Today, Chumash people celebrate their ancestral ocean voyages in tomol canoes to honor their ancestors' crossings to the offshore islands and continue to honor ceremonial sites within their historic areas.

In the coastal zone, several significant Chumash village and foraging sites are found near Point Sal and within the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes. Extensive shell mounds from thousands of years of clamming have been documented. Off Pismo Beach, an unknown number of submerged sites are located along possible old drainage systems dating back nearly 20,000 years. The old Chumash capital near Avila Beach and other archaeological Chumash sites have been partially covered by rising seas. Significant Chumash solstice alignments pass along coastal areas and then continue offshore to now submerged rock outcrops. Chumash coastal and submerged sacred site areas continue northward to Ragged Point. These sacred ancient historic and cultural sites embody distinctive characteristics of an indigenous seagoing people and have yielded important historic and prehistoric information. However, significant portions of the area have not been surveyed and inventoried. Rising sea level and oil spills threaten archaeological resources in the intertidal and nearshore zones making study of these sites even more crucial and imperative. There is much more to be learned from these areas that can enlighten and inform us about ancient human coastal culture and history. These areas will benefit from sanctuary protection against the disturbance or collection of important artifacts and sites. (See Figure 6.)

By studying and preserving the cultural legacy of the Chumash, unique historic sacred sites will be protected and our understanding of their culture and history expanded. The Chumash legacy of Thrivability, a balanced, connected understanding of the natural world caring for the ecosystems of land and ocean, will expand and enrich the stewardship and natural resource protection message of the ONMS.

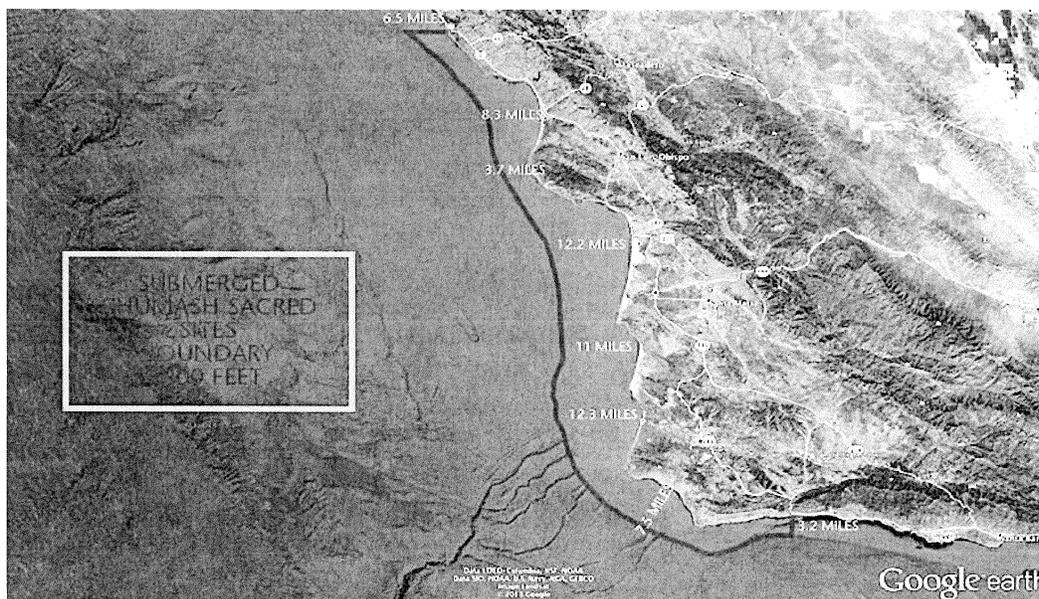


Figure 6 – Chumash Submerged Sacred Site Region.

Maritime Heritage – Not only will the proposed sanctuary focus on Chumash maritime heritage, but the area is rich with more recent maritime heritage shipwrecks. Because of the area’s rocky coastline, a large number of shipwrecks occurred along the coast, several of national significance. One of the most well-known shipwrecks is the oil tanker *S.S. Montebello*. A single Japanese submarine torpedo sank the *S.S. Montebello* carrying 3 million gallons of Santa Maria crude oil just two weeks after Pearl Harbor. Located just seven miles off the coast, the *S.S. Montebello* has been the subject of multiple NOAA research efforts by archaeologists, historians and biologists. In 2003, MBNMS and CINMS staff and local agencies conducted reconnaissance dives to monitor the condition of the vessel and characterize the fish and invertebrate assemblages. A later survey in 2011 determined that there was no substantial oil threat from the sunken oil tanker.

Two miles north of Point Arguello, seven U.S. Navy destroyers ran aground and sank in 1923, the Navy’s worst peacetime loss, the “Hondo Point Disaster.” Point Arguello has been called the “Graveyard of the Pacific,” and is home to over 40 known shipwrecks (See Appendix.) Probably the most famous was the wreck of the *SS Yankee Blade* in 1854 when 415 people perished as the steamship hit the near shore rocks. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the *SS Yankee Blade* shipwreck gold bullion has since been recovered.

The proposed sanctuary contains shipwrecks representing many different periods of history and culture. Some of these submerged resources have been studied while others remain to be surveyed. Along with the known and still to be discovered submerged sites of the Chumash people, this area can become a leading research destination combining history of indigenous people and their sacred sites covering thousands of years of coastal occupation with more contemporary historic shipwrecks in the Graveyard of the Pacific.

Criteria 3: *The area supports present and potential economic uses, such as: tourism; commercial and recreational fishing; subsistence and traditional uses; diving; and other recreational uses that depend on conservation and management of the area's resources.*

Tourism, recreation, agriculture, viticulture, commercial and recreational fishing, aquaculture and educational institutions are important economic sectors in the region.

San Luis Obispo County – recreation, tourism, retail trade, education and healthcare services, and government. The public employment sector dominates with large state institutions including California State Parks, Cal Poly State University, Cuesta College, Atascadero State Hospital, the California Men’s Colony, and the California Youth Authority.

Santa Barbara County – recreation, tourism, retail trade, education and government. The public employment sector dominates with institutions including Vandenberg Air Force Base and University of California at Santa Barbara (UCSB), a public research institution ranked ninth among all public universities by *U.S. News and World Report*. UCSB’s marine science program was recognized as a major contribution to their high ranking.

From 2005 to 2011, according to the National Ocean Economics Program) San Luis Obispo County’s ocean tourism and recreation economy grew from \$227 million to \$252 million. Santa Barbara County’s ocean tourism and recreation economy grew from \$512 million to \$564 million.

People come to the region to swim, surf, ski, sail, kayak, dive, picnic on the beach, beachcomb, take

ocean tours and see whales, dolphins and elephant seals. While they are here, they contribute to the local restaurants, grocery stores, lodging, camping facilities and other commercial services. These valuable economic sectors depend on the conservation and management of the area's natural resources to continue to attract visitors to the healthy ocean and coastal zones. A national marine sanctuary would strengthen and connect important existing management among local, state and federal partners to keep this area an international attraction for tourism, recreation and commercial uses while encouraging good stewardship of the natural resources. The vibrant existing tourism base provides the ONMS a wonderful platform to educate national and world visitors about the importance of sanctuaries and natural resource protection. This region has a large and varied tourism base that will increase the number of ocean and climate literate people who are capable of making informed and responsible decisions that may impact the ocean and its resources.

A study commissioned by the Sierra Club entitled "The Potential Economic Impacts of the Proposed Central Coast National Marine Sanctuary" estimated that designation of a national marine sanctuary on San Luis Obispo County would conservatively:

- Result in additional revenues of \$18,245,014 annually and 547 new jobs.
- Increase tourism in San Luis Obispo County by at least 5% or more if marketing were done to promote new museums and sites of historic and cultural significance

Much of the economic impact from a new sanctuary will be dependent on the extent to which a) the sanctuary staff aggressively market the unique natural, cultural, and historic resources as a focal point for preservation and education, b) the local tourist industry markets the sanctuary, c) academics and NGOs seek to leverage the sanctuary for research funding, d) the amounts of funding forthcoming from the Federal Government, and e) the extent to which Sanctuary policies lead to tangible improvements in coastal ecosystems.

Commercial and recreational fishing contribute to the regional economy. In 2012, the value of the regional landings was \$6,200,000 in Morro Bay and \$10,400,000 in Santa Barbara. The San Luis Obispo County fishing economy generated \$2,420,947 and a GDP of \$8,263,000.

The fisheries are dependent upon the productivity of the region's important transition zone upwelling and biomass maintenance. Aquaculture at onshore abalone farms and oyster operations in the region are impacted by harmful algal blooms and ocean acidification. A proposed sanctuary can bring comprehensive and coordinated management of critical habitats that support these vital commercial and ecologically important resources.

Many economic sectors such as aquaculture, commercial fisheries, tourism, recreation and the harbor economies depend on a healthy ecosystem. Protecting this area, rich with biodiversity, is vitally important to the shifting ocean regimes that come with climate change. As temperatures rise and acidification changes, study of transition zones becomes important and may provide early signals of environmental stressors and their impacts. The proposed marine sanctuary can reduce the environmental perturbations and allow populations and ecosystems to survive the coming changes through research, monitoring and adaptive ecosystem management.

Criteria 4 – *The publically derived benefits of the area, such as aesthetic value, public recreation, and access to places depend on conservation and management of the area's resources.*

Conservation and management of this area's abundant wildlife and natural beauty are crucial to

prevent negative impacts to the public's aesthetic, cultural and recreation experiences. The proposed sanctuary will bring conservation and management benefits to the public by assisting coastal cities and counties with recreational beach access, ocean water quality, and marine education to preserve and enhance aesthetic value, marine habitat protection, and public recreation.

This area includes recreational opportunities in California State parks, beaches, and reserves as well as county and city parks (Los Osos Oaks State Natural Reserve, Montana de Oro State Park, Estero Bluffs State Park, Morro Bay State Park/Morro Strand State Beach, Pismo State Beach, Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area, Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes, Jalama Beach, Point Sal State Beach, Gaviota Slough, Gaviota State Park, the Juan Bautista Anza National Historic Trail.) This is a limited list of the parks but due to space constraints we have not explained in detail all of the publically derived benefits but would welcome the opportunity to do so.

The proposed sanctuary will contribute to the preservation and protection of the offshore resources linked to the existing onshore parks. The onshore parks need the protection that sanctuary designation provides to maintain the public's aesthetic and recreational quality experiences in the coastal zone. Prohibition of offshore industrialization and maintenance of water quality is key to the public benefit.

Section IV – Consideration Information

Consideration 1 - *The area provides or enhances opportunities for research in marine science, including marine archaeology.*

Per The Island Chumash: Behavioral Ecology of a Maritime Society, by Douglas Kennett, "some archaeologists consider the people that lived on this section of the California coast to be among the most socially and politically complex hunter-gatherers in the world."

The proposed sanctuary will enhance, support and collaborate with established scientific research and monitoring of coastal resources. This exceptional and unusual region contains numerous dynamic and complex characteristics that make it significant and noteworthy for marine research. These features provide a wealth of opportunities for NOAA, the ONMS and partner scientists to conduct research in many different fields. Sanctuary designation will attract research grants, increase collaboration in research and monitoring with adjacent sanctuaries, and increase scholarship in seagoing indigenous heritage and prehistoric archaeology.

Transition Zone - Though many oceanographic processes have been described in great detail, our understanding of their linkages to ecological processes is just unfolding. This area has special circumstances that make it an unprecedented living laboratory to study these linkages. Geographic, geological and biological features provide a transition mixing zone around Point Conception. At this area there are bioproductivity shifts, important biogeographic mixing zone and overlapping boundaries for many species. As various stressors occur, these boundaries and mixing zones become shifting passages of instability and change.

El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) provide chain reactions of oceanographic changes strongly evident in the area. The relaxation of the trade winds in the central and western Pacific results in shifts in temperature, sea level, onshore and northward flow and reduced coastal upwelling of deep, cold, nutrient-rich water. These changes create a shift

in abundance of plankton with a decrease in planktivorous invertebrates and fishes. This results in a shortage of food for marine mammals and seabirds. The recurring El Niño pattern is one of the strongest in the ocean-atmosphere system and may directly affect the composition and structure of biological communities.

The PDO occurs every 20 to 30 years shifting the surface water temperature in the central and north Pacific Ocean. This shift impacts production in the eastern Pacific Ocean affecting organism abundance and distribution throughout the food chain. Numerous changes in terrestrial and marine ecosystems are associated with the PDO. Changes in zooplankton abundance impact species that rely upon zooplankton and their predators for food; species such as Cassin's auklets, Sooty Shearwaters and marine mammals.

High marine bird diversity along the shelf from Morro Bay to Point Conception spreads throughout the Southern California Bight. Upwelling off of Point Conception, Point Arguello and the Santa Lucia Bank attracts seabirds, marine mammals and fishes. Linkages between oceanographic character, marine biological productivity and bird populations correlate to high bioproductivity. Marine commercial resources rely on this productivity for feeding, reproduction and migration.

This transition zone provides an important living laboratory for integrating concurrent research and innovation processes. Having a national marine sanctuary in the transition zone would provide unique collaboration with research institutions as a management partner in grant writing, coordination of projects, research vessels and teams. The dynamics of the oceanographic regimes mixing, diversity of species and bioproductivity of the region provide an opportunity for academia, research institutions and government agencies to monitor the changes in the ecosystem to ensure viable ocean ecosystems in the future. A proposed sanctuary's education and outreach programs can provide translation and interpretation of this ecological and environmental research information to instill climate literacy for informed public decision making.

Climate Change – One approach to understanding the impact of climate variability on marine ecosystem dynamics is to explore the impact of climate variability on key oceanic habitats. In addition to ENSO and PDO, longer-term climatic phenomenon also influence this transitional region. Climate change influences ocean acidification, sea level, temperature, storm events, water quality, species displacement, and oxygen in the ocean.

As a transition zone between oceanographic regimes, the area presents numerous distinctive opportunities for scientific research as the shifting conditions of climate change impacts the mixing transitional waters. There are areas of increased upwelling, dynamic surface currents and eddies and persistent thermal fronts. Monitoring and studying the stressors that impact this region can inform collaborative adaptive management to adjust to climate changes for a more resilient ecosystem.

The proposed sanctuary would collaborate with the University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB) and California Polytechnic State University (CAL POLY.) The Marine Science Institute at UCSB has extensive multidisciplinary programs combining marine chemistry; marine anthropology and policy; biological oceanography and marine biology; marine geology, geophysics and paleoceanography; ocean engineering; ocean physics, optics and remote sensing; and maritime anthropology and policy.

In San Luis Obispo, Cal Poly offers majors in Archaeology, Geology, Environmental Science,

Biological Science, Fisheries, and Marine Sciences. The university operates the Center for Coastal Marine Sciences with research labs, faculty and student offices augmented by labs at a research pier in Avila beach. Internship programs staff conservation and environmental work programs with the National Geographic Society, National Wildlife Foundation, San Luis Obispo County Archaeological Society Research and Collections Facility, and Student Conservation Association.

Marine Archaeology - The extensive historic evidence of the Chumash has been documented on land with over 188 archaeological sites eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic places on Vandenberg Air Force base alone. The region contains a well preserved land archaeological record containing evidence representative of specific time periods in cultural history.

There are many gaps in understanding underwater Chumash sites with exceptional potential for research and interpretation that will answer questions about human activities along the coast for over 10,000 years. California State Parks Underwater Archaeology studies and manages inundated cultural resources such as prehistoric coastal sites of the Chumash. A proposed sanctuary would provide support and coordinated management as a longtime partner with California State Parks and provide protection of these cultural resources that state protection cannot. Strengthening the role of underwater archaeology as part of early coastal sites research would not only be extremely advantageous for research into the initial human migration into the New World but would also benefit any archaeologist investigating an ancient landscape that has been partially or fully submerged. Monitoring and surveying underwater sites will provide a more comprehensive and inclusive picture of indigenous culture and history of the Chumash seagoing regional communities and enrich our national history.

Consideration 2

The area provides or enhances opportunities for education, including the understanding and appreciation of the marine and Great Lakes environments.

The proposed sanctuary will greatly enhance educational opportunities to understand and appreciate the marine environment and make national marine sanctuary resources more available to educational programs. Programs such as Long-term Monitoring Program and Experiential Training for Students (LiMPETS) intertidal monitoring have sites in the proposed sanctuary area and can expand with sanctuary support and outreach to area educational facilities. Team OCEAN, BeachCOMBERS, Snapshot Day, beach cleanup, Naturalist Corps, MERITO and other programs expand the mission of natural resource protection to the education sector. The region's rich marine ecosystem provides opportunities for outreach and education to all age levels and to a plethora of residents and visitors.

The proposed sanctuary can facilitate ocean literacy in partnership with existing California K-12 education curriculum. Programs and materials developed by the national sanctuary system such as the Ocean Guardian School Program assists teachers in providing a range of activities, learning programs and classroom materials. The Ocean Guardian Activity Book, Virtual Submersible Dive and Ocean Adventures Interactive Games fit squarely within the established curriculum standards. The Data in the Classroom program provides programs in El Niño, sea level rise, water quality, ocean acidification and coral bleaching. This would augment the schools' offerings and enhance NOAA's goals for a population that understands its vulnerabilities to a changing climate to make informed decisions about the ocean.

Specific to the established California curriculum, the proposed sanctuary's characteristics and their dynamics form a very important learning laboratory contributing to the understanding and appreciation of the marine environment. Here are some examples of the California K-12 curriculum standards and their relevance to the region's ecology:

- Climate change – Students learn about how variations in temperature and salinity drive a global pattern of interconnected ocean currents. The ocean exerts a major influence on weather and climate by absorbing energy from the sun, releasing it over time, and globally redistributing it through ocean currents. The transition zone presents a working model of interconnected ocean currents.
- Oceanographic regime transition zone and variability influenced by the PDO and El Niño - Students study patterns of movement of water in the atmosphere, determined by winds, landforms, geology, and ocean temperatures and currents. The transition zone contains a wealth of mixing diverse wind and ocean currents and unique seafloor structures.
- High resolution paleoceanographic and paleoclimate evidence zones- Students learn how tectonic processes generate new ocean floors. The region has exceptional historic evidence of plates shifting. The transition zone provides diverse examples of seafloor structures such as ridges, fracture ridges, bank, basins, a seamount and continental shelves.
- Diverse and abundant bioproductivity and species assemblages – Students study how anthropogenic changes in the environments, habitat destruction, pollution, introduction of invasive species, overexploitation and climate change, can disrupt an ecosystem and threaten survival of some species.
- Chumash culture and heritage– The proposed sanctuary presents a really distinctive and unique opportunity to expand student and teacher knowledge about early seagoing indigenous people through the cultural and ecological legacy of Thrivability. It brings to life the reality of sea level rise with the submerged ancient sites of a different historic coastline.
- Historic shipwrecks- The numerous shipwrecks and the stories that they encompass enriches learning about the history and circumstances of the ships and their voyages.

The California Regional Environmental Education Community (CREEC) network coordinates environmental education in the region. They provide area teachers with resources and training for Next Generation Science Standards, Green Curriculum resources and field trip opportunities. CREEC is a supporter of the proposed sanctuary. There are outdoor education schools, such as the Kern County Environmental Education Program (KEEP) and Camp Ocean Pines in Cambria.

The Marine Science Institute at UCSB already collaborates with CINMS in developing the Outreach Center for Teaching Ocean Science (OCTOS.) The proposed sanctuary will expand the messages of this collaboration to include the dynamics of the transition zone, Chumash cultural heritage and climate change. UCSB, CAL POLY, Cuesta Community College, Hancock Community College and Santa Barbara City College all have ocean-related programs. UCSB, CAL POLY, Cuesta College and Antioch University have offered letters of support for the proposed sanctuary. (See Appendix.) Many also offer anthropology and ethnic studies programs that would benefit from the Chumash heritage outreach and education opportunities.

Along with the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History; the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum, the Morro Bay Natural History Museum, the Central Coast Aquarium and the UCSB OCTOS Center are prime examples of facilities and programs available to partner with to provide technologically current education and outreach for a proposed sanctuary.

Among local active NGOs with ocean-related outreach efforts are: the San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara chapters of the Surfrider Foundation working to clean up coastal waters; Central Coast Salmon Enhancement working in stream cleanup; The Marine Mammal Center rescuing injured and ill marine mammals; Pacific Wildlife Care center for injured wildlife; The Sierra Club working on many environmental issues; SLO Science and Ecosystem Alliance studying and supporting marine resources; Morro Bay National Estuary Program; Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center; and The Nature Conservancy completing its fishery enhancement work with Morro Bay fishermen to ensure sustainable fishing practices.

Groups maintaining outreach programs to schools and the community, educating with beach signs and docent programs, and websites advocating ocean protection include: The Pecho Coast Trail docent program; the San Luis Lighthouse Keepers; Friends of the Otter; Friends of the Elephant Seal; Cambria Land Trust; the Northern Chumash Tribal Council; the Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation; Citizens Against Seismic Testing, and the California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife's Marine Protected Area Collaborative Implementation Project (MPA CIP) for the Central Coast MPA Network. The California State Parks, San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties have ranger and junior ranger programs that conduct marine educational outreach.

A proposed sanctuary could encourage access and good stewardship through a Chumash Heritage Trail. The trail could expand the NOAA-endorsed Whale Trail and offer information for wildlife viewing sites, interpretive messages about Chumash heritage and seagoing history; ancient communities in the area; stewardship messages explaining Thrivability; historic shipwreck information and MPA education. In the region, there are markers along the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail primarily along the coastal bluffs and camp sites. Signage could be augmented to include these interpretive themes and expand the historic dialogue to include under represented indigenous history and culture.

Consideration 3 - Adverse impacts from current or future uses and activities threaten the area's significance, values, qualities, and resources.

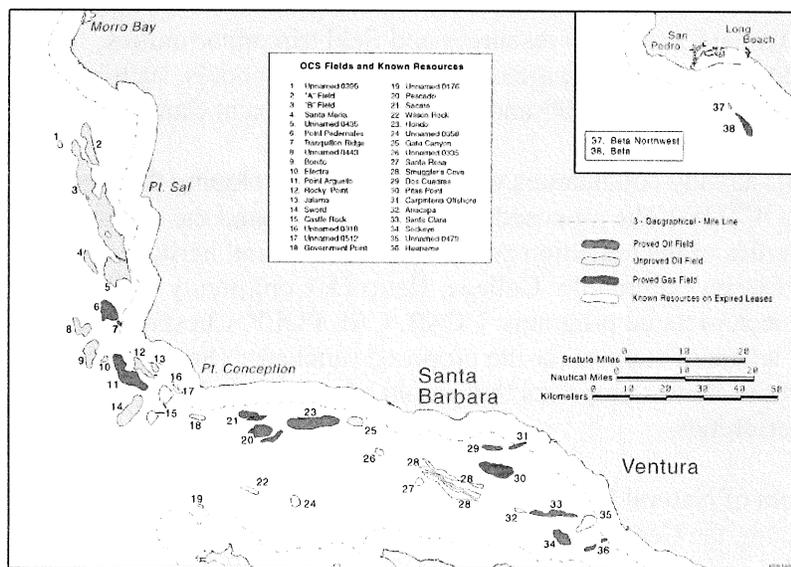


Figure 7 - Known oil and gas fields in federal waters off California's Central Coast (U.S. Minerals Management Service).

The oil spill off Santa Barbara in 1969 resulted in environmental devastation and spawned the call for national marine sanctuaries. Tragically, an oil spill on May 19, 2015, in the same region has prompted a call for both emergency and long-term protection from the threats associated with off-shore oil drilling. A proposed sanctuary would benefit the region by providing resource protection staff familiar with the area that are first responders to emergency incidents in sanctuary waters, such as vessel groundings, airplane crashes and oil spills.

Central Coast communities have seen an increase in other offshore industrial activity and proposed development. The adjacent CINMS and MBNMS have succeeded in protecting the natural resources of the California coast, leaving the coastal region in between a target for escalating development (see Figure 7). National marine sanctuary designation will protect the ecosystem, historic and cultural heritage sites of the Chumash people and vulnerable intertidal and shoreline natural resources from oil and gas drilling or exploration, harmful seismic surveys, and other disturbances of the sea floor and habitat.

Threats to Central Coastal waters have included attempted ocean disposal of Central Valley agriculture waste, air gun seismic blasting in near shore areas and proposals for slant drilling from onshore facilities into the marine environment. Harmful discharges to the proposed sanctuary waters include:

- California Men's Colony waste water treatment history of overflow discharges that flow through the Morro Bay National Estuary.
- Sewage outfalls discharging into the ocean.
- The Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant once-through cooling technology that kills billions of organisms and discharges unnaturally warm water.

Central Valley Drainage Project. On two occasions, in 2002 and 2005, the Bureau of Reclamation considered the project "Drainage service to the San Luis Unit of the Central Valley" to dump untreated selenium and pesticide-bearing agricultural waste water from the San Joaquin Valley in Estero Bay a mile and a half from shore and 15 miles south of MBNMS waters. The Environmental Impact Statement for the project stated that a potential northern location for the disposal site had been eliminated from consideration because that site would have been within the boundaries of MBNMS.

Concerns raised by scientists and the public included a myriad of deleterious impacts. Discharge of untreated nutrient-laden agricultural irrigation waters creates "dead zones" and stimulates harmful algal blooms toxic to marine mammals, humans and birds. Bacteria, viruses and parasitic protozoal cysts are introduced into the marine environment, resulting in potential pathogen bioaccumulation in the marine food chain impacting marine ecosystems far beyond the point of discharge. Mercury, boron, molybdenum, chromium, copper, nickel, nitrates, ammonia, phosphates, herbicides and pesticides at very high concentrations pollute the ocean water quality. The communities responded to these threats through a county-wide movement against the project resulting in the removal of the Estero Bay site as a project alternative. These community members welcome the proposed sanctuary as a better alternative for consistent ocean protection and ecosystem management through a prohibition on harmful discharge into sanctuary waters.

Diablo Canyon Seismic Survey. In 2012, the Pacific Gas & Electric Company proposed an offshore seismic survey, using towed arrays of 250db air guns to determine nature and strength of seismic faulting around Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant. Concerns about short and long term damage to marine life from the surveys were raised by the community. Known impacts on marine species from air guns range from hearing and organ damage to displacement from important feeding or mating areas, masking or obscuring of sounds and behavioral effects, and catch reductions. Humpback, Baird's, fin and beaked whales and vulnerable Morro Bay harbor porpoise stocks are particularly sensitive to the air gun blasts.

PG&E proposed that a seismic vessel tow air guns through prime Central Coast fishing grounds, firing 250-decibel blasts every 15 seconds, 24 hours a day, for a month. Every commercial and recreational fisher on the Central Coast would have been ordered to tie up their boats at the dock for the duration. Originally the project design called for northern survey track that extended into MBNMS. The design was subsequently revised to remove the proposed survey track in MBNMS.

Thus, the seismic survey proposal shared a similar feature in common with the Central Valley Drainage Project and grassroots community campaigns to avert those potentially disastrous environmental consequences: The proposed project site was located adjacent to, but deliberately not within, the waters of a neighboring national marine sanctuary. The Central Coast will continue to be the target for such projects as long as it lacks national marine sanctuary protections. ONMS and NMFS collaboration in reducing wildlife disturbances will protect our diverse and bountiful species from harmful impacts.

Diablo Canyon Once-Through Cooling. Since 1986, the two-unit nuclear power station has drawn in and discharged 2.5 billion gallons of heated water a day into Diablo Cove's rocky intertidal zone. The intake volume is equivalent to a square mile of water to a depth of 14 feet, passed through the power plant intake into the plant's cooling system. This results in the entrainment of marine species, killing all the plankton, fish and fish larvae removed from the cove. The coolant system discharges the water, warmed to a higher than ambient temperature and altering the abundance of many marine life species. Indigenous species around reactor discharge systems are displaced and replaced by others unnatural to that environment. Warmer waters also attract sea turtles, fish, crabs, sea birds, and other organisms. Periodically, reactors are shut down, the flow of warm water stops, and temperature abruptly drops, resulting in cold-stunning species in the waterway.

Warming water decreases reproduction and increases mortality in seabirds. The once-through cooling kills organisms that nurture ocean life. This degradation of the marine environment causes serious repercussions for the ecosystem. The science of ecology recognizes that destruction or disturbance of vital life cycles or balance of a wildlife species in one part of the world may have a profound effect upon the health and welfare of people in distant parts. The effects of the warm water discharge have expanded beyond Diablo Cove and are greater than predicted. In March 2000, the Dept. of Fish and Game and the Regional Water Board concluded that the discharge caused loss and degradation of habitat, decreases in several species' diversity and density, and loss of entire species. The discharge does not provide for protection or propagation of species or habitat suitable for indigenous species.

Low density population and development with increasing pressures from densely populated metropolitan areas. The population of San Luis Obispo county is under 300,000 (2010 census) and

Santa Barbara county around 400,000 (2010 census.) Sandwiched in between San Francisco and Los Angeles metropolitan areas, the central coast is facing tremendous pressure to develop coastal zones. Technology companies are attracted to the area for its beauty and are locating new businesses here. This brings added development with attendant impacts on water quality and marine habitat.

Increasing human populations pose threats to the survival of the ocean ecosystem. As coastal and inland populations grow, their pollutant load impacts and development and conversion of coastal habitats can be expected to grow as well. Nutrient pollution has increased dramatically with the increasing use of fertilizers, growth in domestic and industrial sewage, and increased aquaculture. Increasing fishing pressures have left many major fish stocks depleted or in decline.

A mecca for tourism, the area also draws international visitation for the beautiful coast and beaches; major wine country businesses; numerous wine, lifestyle and film festivals; and the draw of major attractions like Hearst Castle, Oceano dunes and the Santa Barbara “American Riviera.” This popularity equates to increasing wildlife harassment, beach degradation, marine debris and other harmful impacts. Sanctuary designation would provide helpful outreach and education to highlight good stewardship and curb these escalating deleterious impacts.

Offshore industrialization. Several wave power projects off the Central Coast are in the preliminary stages. In December 2013, Florida-based Archon Energy announced its intention to build wave energy parks off of Morro Bay and Purisma Point and has filed permit requests for both with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC.) Starwood Energy is working with Dynegy, owner of the decommissioned Morro Bay power plant, on re-purposing the coastal natural gas power plant for some other form of energy generation.

At the most sacred of places, Point Conception, Chumash and many local Santa Barbara organizations successfully fought and won a battle to stop the development of a proposed liquefied natural gas receiving terminal at Cojo Bay. The plan called for the unloading of 127 ocean tankers annually from Indonesia and Alaska at a proposed marine terminal on the sacred site. Local landowners, environmentalists, Chumash tribes, surfers, kelp harvesters, and fishermen pressed for its defeat.

Given the extent of threats this area has faced, there is a likelihood that there will be more in the future. Sanctuary protection against seabed disturbances and prohibition against taking artifacts would provide much needed protection for sacred cultural and historic Chumash region coastal zone and submerged artifacts. Prohibition against offshore industrialization would protect the water quality and habitat. The Chumash and coastal communities recognize that all these current, future and proposed activities are threats to the area’s beauty, water quality, ecosystem health and natural resources. National marine sanctuary designation is imperative in protecting and sustaining the Central California coast.

Consideration 4 - *A national marine sanctuary would provide unique conservation and management value for this area or adjacent areas.*

As the only effective and comprehensive ecosystem based ocean management regime that allows for multiple uses compatible with preservation, a proposed national marine sanctuary would protect the Central California coast natural resources while promoting ecologically sound recreation and

commercial economic uses. Only a national marine sanctuary stretching across state and federal waters can provide this conservation, management and promotion of multiple uses and access.

Sanctuary prohibition against petroleum development will provide much needed conservation value. The sanctuary's proscriptions against dumping, drilling, disturbance of the seabed and harmful discharges will be uniquely protective of Chumash submerged sites, historic shipwrecks and diverse habitats of kelp forests, seagrasses and rocky intertidal zones. With a history of oils spills in this region, the ONMS experienced resource protection staff for incident response in oil spills, boat groundings and other emergencies is particularly relevant and compelling for our coast. Communication coordination, mobilization of response assets, contingency planning and preparedness would benefit the vulnerable region and add immense conservation value.

The leader in maritime heritage programs, ONMS sanctuary designation will provide the area's numerous shipwrecks, Chumash heritage sites and marine cultural landscape with coordinated conservation, scientific research, and opportunities for educating the public. While much is known about the heritage resources on land, there is great potential for further study and description of historic and prehistoric resources submerged in the proposed sanctuary.

The ONMS initiatives to expand collaboration with recreation and tourism businesses will assist a major regional economic sector by recognizing the area's special significance to enhance branding on well-known visitor destinations. The region's efforts at marketing will benefit by sanctuary designation and the natural resource protection messaging reaching out to the expansive visiting public. This will strengthen and improve the tourism-based economy of the Central Coast and provide a platform for teaching stewardship to local, national and international visitors.

Management will be supplemented by the community and citizen engagement with continued local input through ONMS's well recognized public processes and via the sanctuary advisory council informing sanctuary management and policy. The sanctuary advisory council will be made up of diverse representation by local government, Chumash, agencies and other stakeholders. Our communities have a history of extensive involvement in public issues and look forward to participating in the process.

Adjacent national marine sanctuary programs for citizen science monitoring and surveying of beach conditions and water quality testing could easily be expanded to include the proposed sanctuary. These volunteer efforts would provide a great benefit to the region and provide invaluable information about the coastal zone condition to the science and management of marine resources. Team OCEAN, BeachCOMBERS, Snapshot Day, beach cleanup, Naturalist Corps, MERITO and other programs expand the mission of natural resource protection, education and outreach. They are powerful tools to involve public participation and expand awareness and understanding of ONMS.

Consideration 5 - *The existing regulatory and management authorities for the area could be supplemented or complemented to meet the conservation and management goals for the area.*

National marine sanctuary designation will supplement the conservation and management goals for the area by collaboration with state marine management and providing additional protections the state laws do not provide. The Marine Protected Areas established under the California Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) can benefit from sanctuary protections from oil and gas development; prohibition of seabed disturbance and prohibition of harmful discharges. The MLPA does not

protect the ocean from fracking, oil development and other human impacts other than sustainable fishing and gathering. A proposed sanctuary will complement, enhance and supplement the research, management and natural resource protection of the first MLPA-established Central Coast MPA system.

The ONMS's ecosystem based management goals are in keeping with the MPA system's focus on an integrated approach to ocean science and management. The communication and collaboration between the MPA network and the ONMS program strengthens the ecosystem management and a unified approach to managing protected areas. National marine sanctuaries in California already assist with implementation of the statewide network through activities in research, monitoring, outreach and education and enforcement.

- Broad community involvement has laid the groundwork for increased stewardship and compliance in support of effective state MPA management. These engaged communities are ready to support the natural resource protection goals of the ONMS program.
- Partnerships established by the Central Coast MPA system include academic institutions, citizen scientists, fishing communities and state and federal agencies.

Conservation and management of this area's resources are crucial to preserve and protect this productive ecosystem. The citizens of California share this conservation and management goal passing an initiative ultimately creating the California Coastal Commission (CCC.) The CCC addresses issues of shoreline public access and recreation; terrestrial and marine habitat protection; and visual resource standards applied to planning and regulatory decisions of the CCC and local governments. The CCC and NOAA have a long history of successful partnerships in protecting water quality, marine and coastal habitats, recreational access, and archaeological and aesthetic resources. The CCC has written a letter of support for a proposed sanctuary. (See Appendix.)

The region's harbors, state MPAs, estuaries, Harbor Patrol offices and U.S. Coast Guard facilities will be complemented by the collaboration with a national marine sanctuary and federal enforcement authorities.

A sanctuary will also supplement the conservation goals of coastal parks in the region such as Harmony Headlands State Park, Morro Strand State Beach, Morro Bay State Park, Elfin Forest Natural Preserve, Montaña de Oro State Park, Pismo State Beach, Oceano Dunes Vehicular Recreation Area, Pismo Dunes, Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes, Santa Maria Estuary Beach, Point Sal, Lompoc Surf Beach, and Jalama County Beach. A sanctuary will enhance the communication between the land-based partners and the connection of the watershed, coast and ocean management and protection.

Consideration 6

There are commitments or possible commitments for partnerships opportunities such as cost sharing, office space, exhibit space, vessel time, or other collaborations to aid conservation or management programs for the area.

Commitments of Support and Partnership

Partnerships currently exist between the national marine sanctuaries and the CAL POLLY's SLO SEA vessel research program, Center for Coastal Marine Sciences (CCMS,) the CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife MPA Collaborative Implementation Project and the Morro Bay National Estuary Program.

California Coastal Commission

The Coastal Commission and NOAA have a long history of successful partnership. In support of the sanctuary nomination, the Commission has expressed that it is prepared to support the effort in a collaborative manner that furthers both state and federal goals including coordination and review between NOAA and the Commission under the Coastal Zone Management Act for the establishment and management of the sanctuary.

Education Institutions

California Polytechnic University San Luis Obispo - Ethnic Studies Department

The Ethnic Studies Department wants to partner to develop on-going educational opportunities to highlight Chumash archaeological sites and preserve the history, lifestyle and culture of the Chumash. Faculty will benefit from such a partnership in increase understanding and protecting coastal ecosystems and submerged cultural resources.

University of Santa Barbara Bren School of Environmental Science and Management - One of the top schools of its kind in the nation, the Bren School strongly supports and wants to partner with the proposed sanctuary. The special dynamics of this ecological region provide a critical ocean laboratory their work on national and world's coastal oceans.

Antioch University Environmental Studies Program – The program strongly supports the proposed sanctuary and identifies the desperate need of conservation and management of the vital area with their intertidal monitoring program.

Tribal Trust Foundation – A foundation with an indigenous education focus, The Tribal Trust Foundation supports the proposed sanctuary with its significant cultural, environmental and ecological assets. The foundation supports ecocultural preservation and curriculum development.

Business and Tourism

Santa Maria Chamber of Commerce and Visitors and Convention Bureau

The Chamber and Visitors Bureau is eager to partner with the proposed sanctuary. The Bureau is interested in being active in the type of public-private partnerships with tourism and recreational industries called for by the Sanctuary Advisory Councils in 2014 to promote visitor centers, foster citizen science by engaging visitors in data collection and develop an ocean steward program.

Central Coast Tourism Council

The Central Coast Tourism Council has pledged their support for a proposed sanctuary. The Council promotes the area with a multimedia outreach and education effort to encourage tourism and recreation in the Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura regions. A major theme in their outreach is outdoor adventures, pristine beaches and local events. They publish maps, brochures and itineraries for visitors and residents designating areas for surfing, kayaking, hiking and fishing. They will include the proposed sanctuary in their tourism promotion efforts.

La Isla Fashion Group

A regional manufacturer of socially conscious and eco-friendly swimwear using recycled materials, the company offers its support for a proposed sanctuary and an offer to highlight the sanctuary in their advertising materials, social media and public relations efforts.

Possible non-regulatory opportunities to collaborate with coastal zone partners

Wine Coast County Stewardship Travel San Luis Obispo County

A well-established program in San Luis Obispo County Wine Coast County Stewardship Travel offers outreach to tourism and recreational visitors with an emphasis on responsible stewardship. This program already actively participates in and supports the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Coastal Discovery Center through advertising, outreach and a

donation opportunity. Tours covering history, culture, farmer's markets, agriculture, outdoor activities, state parks, wine, craft beer, culinary events, hikes, guided walks, boardwalks, dog friendly activities, relaxation, spas and family activities are encouraged. There is a list of several volunteer activities for visitors to clean up a beach, learn about toxic algal blooms, take a nature walk on conservation or park land, or learn about the natural history of cultural or historic site.

Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival

The Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival is a yearly eco-tourism event promoting an understanding and appreciation of birds and other wildlife and an awareness of environmental and conservation issues of the Central Coast, while contributing to the well-being of the Morro Bay community. The event is sponsored by the Morro Coast Audubon Society with California State Parks, the Central Coast State Parks Association, and the City of Morro Bay. Located on the Pacific Flyway, Morro Bay is a Globally Important Bird Area and a designated State and National Estuary. Over 200 different bird species were spotted during the 2014 Festival. The Festival features pelagic cruises, boat rides and kayaking in the Bay and in wide variety of habitats, including deep water pelagic, oak woodland and riparian, wetland and estuary, and the unique grassland habitat of the Carrizo Plain. There is a natural resonance of the Audubon mission to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, Chumash Thrivability and the ONMS mission of natural resource protection.

Santa Barbara Land Trust

The Land Trust for Santa Barbara County protects nearly 23,000 acres of rolling hills, working ranches and farms, watersheds, oak woodlands and coastal bluffs in Santa Barbara County. It shares knowledge of land conservation strategies with landowners, planners, public agencies and conservation organizations. SBLT educates the community through field trips with experts in ecology, agriculture and the arts promoting responsible stewardship. The Sanctuary is a natural partner for integrating the land-sea connection with stewardship and natural resource protection.

Film Festivals

Two well-established and successful International Film Festivals are located in the area. The Santa Barbara International Film Festival and San Luis Obispo International Film Festival regularly sell out to capacity crowds. This can be a platform for ocean-themed productions that would provide outreach and education to community residents, international visitors and the media.

Consideration 7 - *There is community-based support for the nomination expressed by a broad range of interests.*

The supporters of the proposed sanctuary are numerous and diverse. The Northern Chumash Tribal Council and tribe strongly support this sanctuary. Other indigenous support comes from the Bakersfield Chumash Tribal Council and the Modoc Nation-Government for the Modoc People of Southern Oregon and Northern California. Community supporters include archaeologists, businesses, colleges, community organizations, conservation organizations, corporations, education networks, indigenous peoples and foundations, kayak and surf shops, recreational fishers, students and universities.

The Appendix contains letters of support from:

- Elected officials and agencies: the California Coastal Commission, San Luis Obispo City Council, California State Senators Fran Pavley and Hannah-Beth Jackson, California Assemblymember Das Williams, San Luis Obispo County Supervisor Bruce Gibson and Santa Barbara County Supervisor Doreen Farr
- Regional education centers: Bren School of Environmental Science and Management, UCSB; Uta

Passow, Ph.D, Marine Science Institute, UCSB; Cal Poly San Luis Obispo Ethnic Studies Dept.; Kristina Foss, Native American Studies, Santa Barbara City College; Lisa Mifsud, Anthropology Professor, Cuesta College; and the California Regional Environmental Education Network.

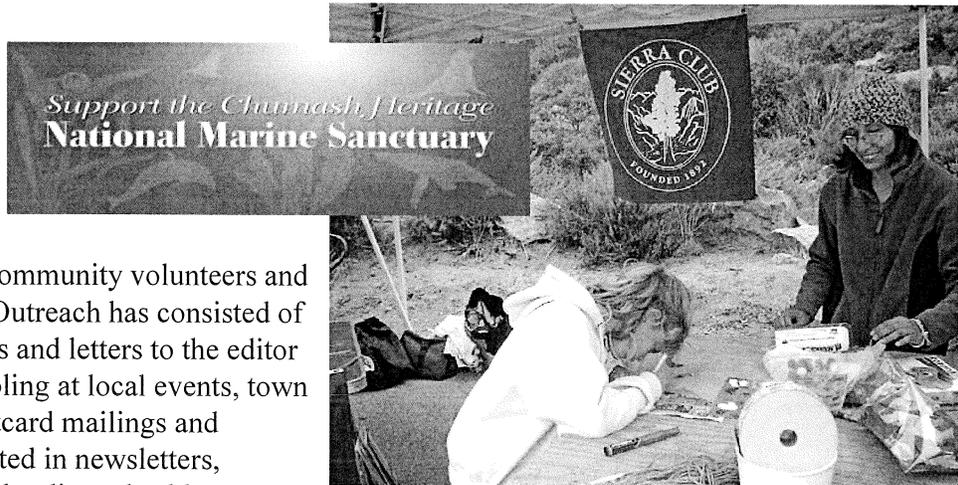
- NGOs: more than 30 non-governmental organizations representing local, regional, state and national memberships, including the California Central Coast Marine Sanctuary Alliance, Center for Biological Diversity, Earth Law Center, Environmental Defense Center, Friends of the Sea Otter, Los Padres Forest Watch, Sierra Club, SLO Clean Water Action, SLO Coastkeeper and Surfrider Foundation.
- The community: Santa Maria Valley Visitor and Convention Bureau, 60+ regional professionals, businesses and corporations; and more than 500 community members.
- The 2010 update of San Luis Obispo County's General Plan commits to:

Make every effort to secure permanent protection and management of the County's ecologically and economically significant marine resources using the National Marine Sanctuary, National Estuary, or other programs and legislation as vehicles for protection and management.

Our communities stand ready to be key partners enhancing the goals of ONMS.

Supporting Sanctuary: A Grassroots Effort

The broad local support for the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary is the result of years of work by community volunteers and local non-profits. Outreach has consisted of articles, viewpoints and letters to the editor in local papers, tabling at local events, town hall meetings, postcard mailings and support forms printed in newsletters, interviews on local radio and cable news shows, websites, a business luncheon at a local coastal resort keynoted by Congresswoman Lois Capps, a benefit screening of a documentary on the historic



the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries will soon be evaluating nominations for new marine sanctuaries. We are pleased to support the northern Chumash Tribal Council in its initiative and are collecting names in support of this designation. This is your opportunity to have your business listed as an official supporter of national marine sanctuary designation of our coastal waters.



ing partnerships with Spanish-speaking residents and visitors, the largest multi-cultural population in the Central Coast region. **for our economy:** All the communities served by the sanctuaries will benefit from the promotion of kayaking, diving, camping and wildlife and whale watching, and so will the local businesses that are the basis of our coastal tourism economy.

I support the nomination of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary

Name Ruth Mlodoks

Business Brand Mill Cheese Farm Ruth Herbed Remedies

Address 2815 Brand Mill Rd Arroyo Grande 93426

e-mail rmlodoks@aol.com

mail to: santa lucia chapter of the sierra club - p.o. box 15755 - san luis obispo, CA 93408

I support the nomination of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary

Name Mrs. Mrs. E. Gulovson

Business Ventura, CA

Phone 805-645-4111

e-mail globalnet

mail to: santa lucia chapter of the sierra club - p.o. box 15755 - san luis obispo, CA 93408

efforts that saved San Francisco's Golden Gate from development, and community volunteers going door to door to local coastal businesses asking the owners to sign on in support of the sanctuary. The Sierra Club organized the submission of over 10,000 comments to NOAA in support of the revived Site Evaluation process. Community volunteers are continuing to spread the word on the benefits of sanctuary designation throughout San Luis Obispo and northern Santa Barbara Counties.



News > Local News > The Cambrian > Cambrian Letters to the Editor
Viewpoint

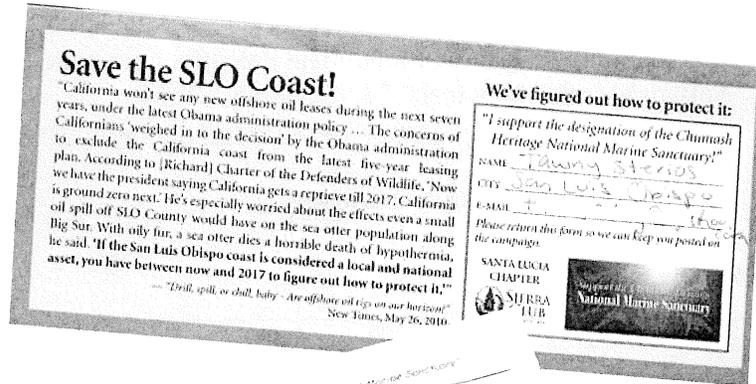
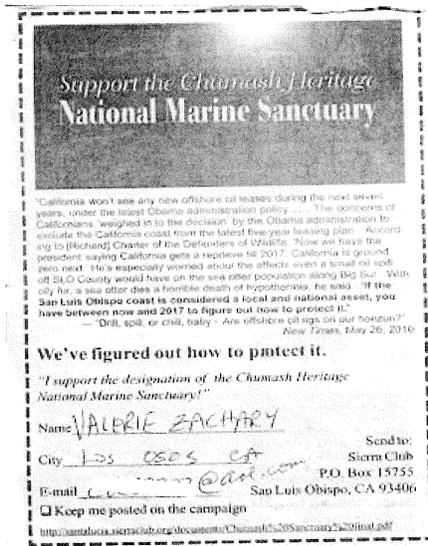
Timing is right for Chumash national marine sanctuary



BY DAN HARTLEY AND P.J. WEBB
Special to The Cambrian - March 25, 2015

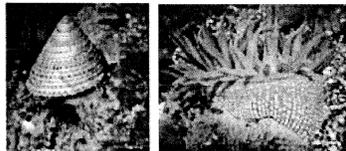
Designating the waters off the Central Coast as a national marine sanctuary "offers integrated management, a means of resolving issues, and promotion of education and research," and results in specific protection for habitat and resources.

That's what San Luis Obispo County said in a proposal submitted to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in 1990.



COME SEE WHY WE NEED A MARINE SANCTUARY ALONG THE CENTRAL COAST

Learn about our marine environment
How it changes due to rising sea levels
And how you can help protect and preserve our central coast



Short Documentaries of Marine life in SLO County Ocean
When: Friday, July 10th, 6-8 pm
Where: La Perla Del Mar, 205 Windward Ave., Pismo Beach
Admission: \$5

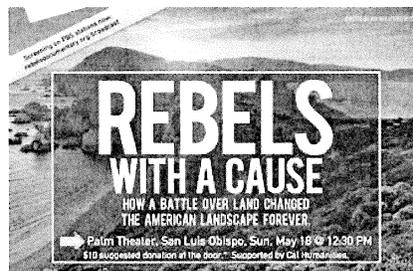
See Biologist Terry Lilley's amazing HD underwater footage used in television documentaries with Sylvia Earle of National Geographic



See hundreds of unusual creatures
- New species never before filmed

And read "Sanctuary" <http://sanluciacountycap.org/beckus2009225/func.pdf>

For more info contact:
Terry Lilley (805) 441-2206 or
Barrie Valencia (805) 543-8717



A benefit for the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary Campaign

Director/Producer Nancy Kelly, John Hart, author of *Storm Over Mono: The Mono Lake Battle and the California Water Future*, and Fred Collins of the Northern Chumash Tribal Council will speak after the film.

Project made possible by
in partnership with the
National Endowment for
the Humanities



Sunday, May 18
12:30 - 2 p.m.
Palm Theater
817 Palm Street, SLO

Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary – Appendix

References

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Masters, P.M. 1996. Paleocoastlines, ancient harbors, and marine archaeology. *Shore and Beach* 64: 8–17.

Scorse Ph.D., J. Kildow, Ph.D. “The Potential Economic Impacts of the Proposed Central Coast National Marine Sanctuary,” J. September 2014.

<https://chnms.files.wordpress.com/2014/10/chumash-sanctuary-ecomonic-report-100814.pdf>

<http://chumashsanctuary.com/home/>

Shipwrecks

SHIP	SUNK DATE	NOTES	COORDINATES
SS Montebello	23 December 1941	An oil tanker that was torpedoed by Japanese submarine I-21 off Cambria, California.	35 35 N 121 16 W
USS Chauncey (DD-296)	8 September 1923	One of seven United States Navy ships that ran aground off Lompoc, California in an incident known as the “Honda Point Disaster”.	34.602067 -120.644109 Honda Point Disaster
SS Cuba (1920)	7 September 1923	A German steamboat that was seized by the United States in 1917, and eventually ran aground off San Miguel Island, on the same day as the “Honda Point Disaster”	
USS Delphy (DD-261)	8 September 1923	One of seven United States Navy ships that ran aground off Lompoc, California in an incident known as the “Honda Point Disaster”.	34.602067 -120.644109 Honda Point Disaster
USS Fuller (DD-297)	8 September 1923	One of seven United States Navy ships that ran aground off Lompoc, California in an incident known as the “Honda Point Disaster”.	34.602067 -120.644109 Honda Point Disaster
USS McCulloch (1897)	13 June 1917	A cutter boat that collided with the "Governor" off Point Conception, California	
USS Nicholas (DD-311)	8 September 1923	One of seven United States Navy ships that ran aground off Lompoc, California in an incident known as the “Honda Point Disaster”.	34.602067 -120.644109 Honda Point Disaster
Sibyl Marston (ship)	12 January 1909	A schooner that ran aground off Lompoc, California	34.653474 -120.61747

USS S. P. Lee (DD-310)	8 September 1923	One of seven United States Navy ships that ran aground off Lompoc, California in an incident known as the " <i>Honda Point Disaster</i> ".	34.602067 -120.644109
USS Woodbury (DD-309)	8 September 1923	One of seven United States Navy ships that ran aground off Lompoc, California in an incident known as the " <i>Honda Point Disaster</i> ".	34.602067 -120.644109
Yankee Blade	1 October 1854	A steamboat that ran aground at Point Arguello Light. Point Arguello, California	34 34 37 N 120 38 50 W
USS Young (DD-312)	8 September 1923	One of seven United States Navy ships that ran aground off Lompoc, California.	34.602067 -120.644109

Sensitive species

- E Abalone, White North America (*Haliotis sorenseni*)
- E Albatross, short-tailed Entire (*Phoebastria (=Diomedea) albatrus*)
- T Gnatcatcher, coastal California Entire (*Poliopitila californica californica*)
- E Goby, tidewater Entire (*Eucyclogobius newberryi*)
- T Murrelet, marbled CA, OR, WA (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*)
- T Otter, southern sea (*Enhydra lutris nereis*)
- T Plover, western snowy Pacific coastal pop. (*Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*)
- E Rail, California clapper Entire (*Rallus longirostris obsoletus*)
- E Rail, light-footed clapper U.S.A. only (*Rallus longirostris levipes*)
- T Salmon, Chinook California Coastal ESU (*Oncorhynchus (=Salmo) tshawytscha*)
- E Salmon, coho Central California Coast ESU (*Oncorhynchus (=Salmo) kisutch*)
- T Seal, Guadalupe fur Entire (*Arctocephalus townsendi*)
- T Sea turtle, green Except where endangered (*Chelonia mydas*)
- E Sea turtle, leatherback Entire (*Dermochelys coriacea*)
- T Sea turtle, olive ridley Except where endangered (*Lepidochelys olivacea*)
- E Snail, Morro shoulderband (=Banded dune) (*Helminthoglypta walkeriana*)
- T Steelhead Central California Coast DPS (*Oncorhynchus (=Salmo) mykiss*)
- T Steelhead Northern California DPS (*Oncorhynchus (=Salmo) mykiss*)
- T Steelhead South-Central California Coast DPS (*Oncorhynchus (=Salmo) mykiss*)
- E Stickleback, unarmored threespine Entire (*Gasterosteus aculeatus williamsoni*)
- E Tern, California least (*Sterna antillarum browni*)
- E Whale, blue Entire (*Balaenoptera musculus*)
- E Whale, finback Entire (*Balaenoptera physalus*)
- E Whale, humpback Entire (*Megaptera novaeangliae*)
- E Whale, killer Southern Resident DPS (*Orcinus orca*)
- E Whale, Sei Entire (*Balaenoptera borealis*)
- E Whale, sperm Entire (*Physeter catodon (=macrocephalus)*)

Believed to or known to occur within the waters of the proposed sanctuary as of 02/13/2015. Source: USFWS

Supporters

Organizations and Entities

Cambria Fishing Club
Big Sur Advocates for a Green Environment
CA Central Coast Marine Sanctuary Alliance
Clean Oceans Competition
COAST (Citizens Opposed to Acoustic Seismic Testing)
Dolphinmotion – Netherlands
Earth Law Center
Friends of the Earth U.K.
Friends of the Elephant Seal
Bakersfield Chumash Tribal Council
Friends of the Sea Otter
Grandmothers for Peace, San Luis Obispo County Chapter
Greenspace-The Cambria Land Trust
Hands Across the Waters,
The Modoc Nation- People of Southern Oregon and Northern California
Environmental Defense Center, Santa Barbara
Healing Ourselves and Mother Earth, Bennington VT.
Inter-Nation Cultural Foundation (INCF)
KayakMorroBay
Nevada Nuclear Waste Task Force
No Ocean Outfall
Ocean Defenders Alliance
Sail Channel Islands, Oxnard
The Sierra Club
The California Regional Environmental Education Community Network
Safe Beach Now
Save Our Seas-Hawaii
Terra Foundation
Information Press
Center for Biological Diversity
Surfrider Foundation
Environment in the Public Interest
SLO Coast Keepers
Los Padres Forestwatch
Ocean Outfall Group
SLO Clean Water Action

Businesses

A Cut Above Beauty Salon
Ambiance
Archaeological Assessment and Management
Laurence W. Spanne, M.A.
Art Central
Best Western Trade Winds, Morro Bay
Boo Boo Records
Branch Mill Organic Farm/ Herbal Remedies
Central Coast Kayaks, Pacific Outfitters
Central Coast Pathology Consultants, SLO
Curry Fine Arts
Doctor's Hearing Aids
Dr. Cain's Comics
ENT Specialists
Gentle Giant Chainmaille
Gino's Pizza
Golden Donut
Grand Central Music
Harper Jo Clothing
Heating Hands of Happy Hill
Hidden Coast Outdoors
Honeymoon Café, Shell Beach
Introbalance Yoga
Law Offices of Tarren Collins
Lightning Joe's Guitar Heaven

Mission Kitchens
Nordic Mart Inc
Native Herb & Honey Co.
Ocean Friendly Gardens
Ocean Grill Avila Beach
One Rainforest Beacon
Pacific Naturopath Medical Center
Peoples Choice Services
Phoenix Books
PhotoMorroBay

Pismo Collection
Problem Solved, Cambria
Rootamental
Sale Channel Island, Oxnard
Seaside Café & Bakery
Shell Beach Liquor
Shell Beach Surf Shop
Steynberg Gallery
The Big Red House, Cambria
The Drum Circuit
The Fitting Image
The Golden Paw
The Moose Deli & Brew
The Photo Shop
The Sky's The Limit, Pismo Beach
Tigerlily Salon
Trophy Hunters
Verena's Go Gourmet
Young Digital Marketing, San Luis Obispo
New Frontiers Market, Lompoc
Baby Blue, Los Angeles
La Isla Fashion Group, LLC, SLO
Hoola Hut, Avila Beach
Starbelle Enterprises, San Jose
Willow Tree Wildlife, Cayucos
Healing Arts, Morro Bay
Sacred Earth Remedies, Morro Bay
Central Coast Kayak, Pismo Beach
SLO Upholstery, SLO

Individuals

Bill Denneen, Nipomo	Thom, Diane Danfield	Don & Joan Hertel
Dana Abbott, San Jose	Mandy Davis, Morro Bay	Sandra Hinder
Janette Acosta	Deb Roshacfor	Christine Hirsh
Rusty Adams, Arroyo Grande	Jill Denton, Los Osos	Russell Hodin
Nancy Albee, Cayucos	Frank dePasquale, Cambria	Laurence Houlgate, SLO
Evan Albright, Cambria	Neil Dilworth, Shell Beach	Heather Howell, Morro Bay
Ameralieta, SLO	Lindi Doud	Joseph Hudson
Bev Ano, SLO	Drew Unetic, SLO	Stacy Hunt, Los Osos
Elizabeth Apfelberg	Ray Duncan	Luhui Isha
Jesse Arnold, Cambria	Patti Duron	Elizabeth Johnson
John Ashbaugh, SLO	Gregory Ellis	Anna Johnson
Stefan Ayres	Maria V. Eyhles	Garry Johnson
Anthony Balin, SLO	Giselle Fauquet	Kenneth Johnson
Dennis Balsalmo	Wendy Forest	Marcia Johnson
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Jamie Budd	Douglas Tolchin, Santa Barbara	Richard J. Krejsa
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Carlow	Joseph Greever	Nell Langford
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Ignacio Chapola	Jamphel Gyatso	Carroll Leslie, Los Osos
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Nancy Craig, Morro Bay	Lila Henry	Katie Lores
Shoosh Crotzer		Lloyd Madansky
Sarah Damron		

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Lucia Mauro, SLO	Sister Rosemarie	Jill Zanek
Jennie McCarney	Ron Ross	David Zapf, SLO
Jack McCurdy	Richard Sadowski	Kenneth Melville, Idyllwild
Patrick McGibney	Gar & Elizabeth Salzgeber, Morr	Joan Carter, SLO
Chele McKee	Beedie Savage, Los Osos	Janee Mallett
Marie McRee, CC Village Ctr.	Kevin Patrick Sullivan, SLO	Chris Oferbig
Kenneth Melville, SLO	Ann Sawyer, Arroyo Grande	Anna Sirkka
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Janet Miggins, Morro Bay	Kelli Schonher, SLO	Jane Willheim
Edward Miggins, Morro Bay	Linda Seeley	Tyler Wilkerson
Edel Mitchell	Peggy Sharp, SLO	Jenna Smith
Rob Mohle, Avila	Linda Sheehan, Fremont	Daniel Neill, Oceano
Justin Montes, SLO	Leland Sidwell	Douglas Pillsbury, SLO
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Heather Neyes, SLO	Liz Stanislaw	Brenda May, Atascadero
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Michael O'Connell	Tawny Sterius, SLO	
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Laura Owens	Lisa Thompson	Debra Foster, SLO
Allessandro Pasounri	Mike Thornton	Nancy Manter, Los Osos
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Jamie May	Lola Vance	Jane Nizny, Pismo
Jeff Pienack, Shell Beach	Charles Varni, Oceano	Mary Wood, SLO
Joanie Piner, Los Osos	Maria Vidale-Elyes, Los Osos	Paul Keysaw, Fresno
Gil & Sandy Pitt, Arroyo Grande	Carmella Vignocchi, Grover Beach	Roger Safarik, San Miguel
Robert Platkin, San Mateo	Renne Watson	Pat Cowdery, Cambria
Paul Lobo Portuges, Los Osos	Jim, Mary Webb, Cambria	Marj Sewell, Cambria

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Koff, Cambria
Hilah C. Danell, Cambria
Constance M. Brauer, Cambria
Jan Harris, Cambria
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Laure Weaver, Lompoc Amanda
Rice, Cambria
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Philip Christie, Cambria
Victoria Krassensky, Cambria
Avril Allan, Cambria
Jo Ellen Butler, Cambria Sharon
Harvey, Cayucos Tobey
Crockett, Morro Bay Carol
Chubb, Cayucos
Gail Clark, Morro Bay
Forbio Madrid, Cambria
William B. Warren, Cambria
Linda Mayer, Cambria
Ronn Harsh, Cambria
Tom Georgii, Grover Beach
Stephen Beck, Cambria
Dee Riegelhuth, Morro Bay
Michelle Leicester-Cadaret, MB
Carol Kirkpatrick, Morro Bay
Noach Tengesas, Morro Bay
Ginny Garelick, Morro Bay
Reo Cordes, Morro Bay
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Shirley Bianchi, Cambria
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John Uebersax, Morro Bay
Patricia Lee, Cambria
Beverly Cohen, Grover Beach

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Cathy LeMoine, Atascadero
Sandra Marshal, San Luis Obispo
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Kren Van Spache
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Derek Schmidt
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Dr. Douglas Mccauley, Goleta
Cynthia Papermaster, Berkeley
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Susan Garman, Cambria
Kara Woodruff, SLO
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Jaime Diamond, Carpinteria
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Joyce Reed, Northridge
Shannon Klisch, SLO
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Charmaine Coimbra, Cambria
Steven Matachek, SLO
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Joey Racano, Los Osos
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Rebecca McRarland, Los Osos
Dani Nicholson, Cayucos

Connie Wilkinson, Pismo Beach	Heidi Petersen
Maureen O'Connor, Morro Bay	Chad & Chelsea Moore, Sta.
Bruce Basil Mathews, Apple Valley	Barbara Deborah Schlanser
MJ Allen, Cambria	Michele S. Jang
Maria Rowe, Cambria	Derek Schmidt
Craig Heyl, Cambria	Nancy Rucci, SLO
Logan Cooper, Templeton	Geof Land, SLO
David Guido, Huntington Beach	Monlyn Farmor
Elizabeth Haslam, Cambria	Jake Feldman
Tauria Linala, SLO	Jeanne Blackwell, SLO
Patricia Gomez, SLO	Allison Delute, Santa Maria
Ingrid Pires, Pismo Beach	Gina Mori, Arroyo Grande
Gina Mori, Arroyo Grande	Izabela Bhering, Santa Barbara
Jennifer York, Sebastopol	Robert Moore, Exeter
Kathleen Martin, Morro Bay	Alison Delute, Santa Maria
Sheila Mann, SLO	Christine Fincke, Oceano
Amy Anderson, Santa Maria	Dianne O'Quinn Burke, Los Osos
Donna Kube, Morro Bay	Laura Doty, Arroyo Grande
Amber Eckert, Arroyo Grande	Grisel Puig-Snider, Los Osos
Charles Tribbey, SLO	Joy Cary, Morro Bay
Abram S. Perlstein, Los Osos	Monique Grajeda, SLO
Kristin Charf, Morro Bay	Jason Chang, SLO
Diana Robertson, Pismo Beach	Jim Brock, SLO
Leslie Nelson, SLO	Justin Stanley, Arroyo Grande
Paula Schultz, SLO	Jeanne Blackwell, SLO
Ana Granskog, SLO	Silvia Suarez, Los Osos
Linda Mulvey, Atascadero	Cassie Blackwell, SLO
Jay Klaus, SLO	Leslie Krinsk
Brett Block, SLO	Josef Reithofer, Nipomo
Sharlene Lucina, SLO	Jill Knight, Cambria
Noach Tangeras, Morro Bay	Peter Steynberg, SLO
Amanda Alvarez, SLO	Sandra Rakestraw, Altos
Harold Wood, Visalia	Ron Garcia, SLO
Karl Blum, Grover Beach	Michael Baugh, Paso Robles
Kelly Macdonald, Shell Beach	Don Henderson, SLO
Chelsea Ray, SLO	Mary Hudson, SLO
Jessica Sanzek, Shell Beach	Suzanne Dannenbring, Los Osos
Rob Nieto, Shell Beach	Nichole Mercier, San Anselmo
Phillip Tociello, SLO	Thomas Reynolds, Los Osos
Jennifer Harbers, Cayucos	
Judy Young	
Kim Ramos	
Karen Van Spuche	

5/15

To the Cal Poly Administration: As students of the University, we call on you to endorse the nomination of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary along the central coast of California, and requests that the Cal Poly Administration take such actions as necessary to express such support to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. These waters contain a diverse marine ecosystem, many fish and marine mammal species, and submerged Chumash archeological sites over 9,000 years old that are deserving of protection.

Name	Major
Ariana Brandao	Anthropology and Geography
Andrew Krumwiede	Landscape Architecture
Lauren Lange	Comparative Ethnic Studies
Tess Millar	Animal Science
Mario Espinoza	Comparative Ethnic Studies
CHRISTINA TRISTE PR	SOCIOLOGY
Baylie Hanrahan	Environmental Management & Protection
Legn Cape	Comparative Ethnic Studies
Sheila Mann	Master of Public Policy
NESTOR VELAZ-PASSALACQUA	MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY
Adam Readding-Kaufman	Economics
JULIAMILLS	PHD RPTA
Kimberly Adams	HISTORY
Esperie Wilkinson	PSY
Megan Bradbury	Psychology
Sege Gamble-Rainey	Art + Design
Will Greene	Mechanical Engineering
Tom Goulet	Kinesiology
Kaleigh Nunez	Biology
Kristyn Halvorson	Child Development
Hayden Gardner	Plant Sci.
Angela Gunn	Psychology

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Name	Major
Hannah Hester	Graphic Communication
Leah Thomas	Psychology
Cam Bellini	environmental management
Mia Shepard	APCE
Jake Wagner	Business/Entrepreneurship
SOROUSH ABOUTALEBI	ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
Nick Ametertich	Mechanical Engineering
Madison Fleming	Industrial Technology
Andrea Fieber	Environmental Science
Alyssa Parr	Architecture
Dylan Robertson	Civil Engineering
Shane Bennett	ENVM
Jesse Gibson	ENVM
Alexis Montgomery	AEPs Sustainable Landscape Management + Design
Shayne Jarnett	Child development
Hannah Zaniban	Liberal Studies
Lydia Gregan	Business Admin.
Michaela Joerges	Business Administration
Gerardo Ramirez	Civil Eng.
Tiffany Parra	As. Business
Abby Ahlgren	RPTA
Natasha Proctor	PHYSICS

To the Cal Poly Administration: As students of the University, we call on you to endorse the nomination of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary along the central coast of California, and requests that the Cal Poly Administration take such actions as necessary to express such support to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. These waters contain a diverse marine ecosystem, many fish and marine mammal species, and submerged Chumash archeological sites over 9,000 years old that are deserving of protection.

Name	Major
Andrew Pedroni	ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING
Eric Norling	Aerospace Engineering
Kade Stabenow	Mathematics
Marquente Mlake	Sociology
Riley Quirk	Materials Engineering
Peter Heim	Biological Sciences
Alexandra Hoff	Environmental mgmt + Protection
Sam Patterson	BUSINESS Admin
Anna Seskind	BUSINESS
Kristen Corey	Communications
Regina Hurley	Philosophy
Alessandra Elliott	Environmental Management
Kaitlyn Johnke	Anthropology and Geography
Amy Parker	B-Med Eng.
Kylie Hensley	ENUE, alumni
Kylie Hensley	Liberal Studies
Heather Dand	Materials Engineering
Colin Empey	Environmental Management
Dagur Gudmundsson	Computer Science
Jordan Levy	Computer Science
LINDA VANASUDA Vinnavananya	MATERIALS ENGINEERING
Reid Fuhr	Liberal Studies
Emily Dames	Journalism
ANNABEL GREALISH	INDUSTRIAL TECH
Stephanie Chin	Business Admin
Ben van Hamersveld	Mechanical Engineer
Cystal Van	Environmental management

To the Cal Poly Administration: As students of the University, we call on you to endorse the nomination of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary along the central coast of California, and requests that the Cal Poly Administration take such actions as necessary to express such support to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. These waters contain a diverse marine ecosystem, many fish and marine mammal species, and submerged Chumash archeological sites over 9,000 years old that are deserving of protection.

Name	Major
Gabrielle Watson	g.watson@calpoly.edu
Kyle Jaldan	kwjaldan@calpoly.edu
Kevin White	Environmental Management
Eric Skinkis	Electrical Engineering
James Miller	ARCHITECTURE
Christian Bulger	Mathematics
Annelise Fenn	Earth Science
Blaise Skibicki	COMS/MLL
Kate Regan	RPTA
Laura Hoover	Journalism
Priya Vase	Business
Dylan Robertson	CE
Rachael Fisher	CEP
Jacob Burg	Anthro/Geography
Chase Hemmer	Construction Management
Abby Anderson	RPTA
Jeevan Vase	Computer Science

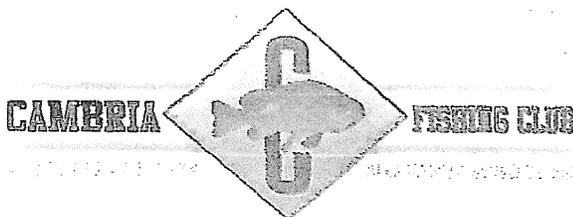
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Name	Major
Zachary Griffith	Liberal Arts & Engineering Studies
Christina Kirshoff	Biology
Emily Birtz	Animal Science
Amanda Drennan	Statistics
Jonathan Schaffer	Psychology
Holly Ryan	Biology
Aubree Boswell	Kinesiology
Dustin Ho	Marine Biology
John Spruce	Agricultural Business
Teghan Shore	Animal Science
Jamie Ko	Biology
John Thomas	Fruit Science
Jackson Hill	Industrial Technology
Julia Stohr	Kinesiology
Brennan Krasny	Biology
Georgia Reeves	Biology
Caitlin Scott	Animal Science
Jacob Smith	Industrial Technology
Katelynn Lee	Biology
Ryan Kadlec	History
Janae Samano	Anthropology & Geography
Grace Montgomery	Philosophy

To the Cal Poly Administration: As students of the University, we call on you to endorse the nomination of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary along the central coast of California, and requests that the Cal Poly Administration take such actions as necessary to express such support to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. These waters contain a diverse marine ecosystem, many fish and marine mammal species, and submerged Chumash archeological sites over 9,000 years old that are deserving of protection.

Name	Major
Eten Knapp	Anthropology / Geography
Alexis Arens	Theatre Arts
Joshua Elson	Environmental Management

Timestamp	To the Cal Poly Administration: As students of the University, we call on you to endorse the nomination of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary along the central coast of California, and requests that the Cal Poly Administration take such actions as necessary to express such support to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. These waters contain a diverse marine ecosystem, many fish and marine mammal species, and submerged Chumash archeological sites over 9,000 years old that are deserving of protection.	Please submit your Cal Poly major.
4/8/2015 8:40:02	Lindsey Bowles	Environmental management and protection
4/8/2015 8:40:44	Brandon Miller	civil engineering
4/8/2015 8:55:17	Madison Fleming	Industrial technology
4/8/2015 9:23:30	Michelle Marshall	Business Administration
4/8/2015 9:28:57	Hayley McIntyre	Wine and Viticulture
4/8/2015 9:30:54	Madeline Smit	Environmental Management and Protection
4/8/2015 17:27:00	Allan Isbell	Business Administration
4/9/2015 1:50:49	Bryce Parry	Physics
4/11/2015 13:31:18	William Osselburn	Anthropology & Geography
4/14/2015 14:56:37	Damicela Grace Calhoun	Kinesiology
4/14/2015 14:57:05	Madison Jacoby	Kinesiology
4/14/2015 16:55:51	Christian Antaloczy	Economics
4/14/2015 17:30:07	Luke Breazeale	Journalism
4/14/2015 18:18:18	Greg Lutgen	Biological Sciences
4/14/2015 22:48:29	Daniel Tatum	Microbiology
4/15/2015 11:03:58	Nicolas Higuera	Computer Science
4/15/2015 17:09:05	Danielle Skipper	history
4/15/2015 21:08:39	Nick Jaffe	
4/15/2015 21:23:12	Lucy Haworth	ENVM



Cambria Fishing Club, Joslyn Center
950 Main St, Cambria, CA 93428
805-927-3364
www.cambriafishingclub.com

December 3, 2014

William Douros, West Coast Regional Director
NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
99 Pacific Street, Suite 100F
Monterey, CA 93940

RE: Site Evaluation Proposal

The Cambria California Fishing Club is the oldest recreational fishing club on the central coast of California. We have a long history of support for measures that help further the goals of recreation and preservation of our abundant local marine resources. It is towards that end that we encourage the Director to consider the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary proposal, a rare opportunity to provide both ecological and cultural preservation along the California coast.

We live on the central coast and frequently fish in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. We know that a sanctuary designation has not and will not interfere with the pursuit of our sport. With the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary to the south, we need protections for the irreplaceable resources that lie between the two sanctuaries.

Filling this gap makes sense ecologically and administratively. It is also the ancestral and present day home of the Chumash people, who have occupied this section of the coast for thousands of years. Their deep connection with the land and water of the central coast has led to a history of stewardship. Their desire to preserve significant cultural sites, many of which are now submerged, should be supported.

Please consider carefully the site proposal for the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary. We hope, along with many in the region, that this hole in federal protections along the central coast of California can finally be filled. Ending the disturbance of ancient Chumash cultural sites will preserve the dignity such places deserve.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Jordan Pavacich'.

Jordan Pavacich, President

DONALD BREN SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT
STEVEN D. GAINES, DEAN

SANTA BARBARA, CA 93106
<http://www.bren.ucsb.edu/>

May 1, 2015

William Douros, West Coast Regional Director
NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
99 Pacific Street, Suite 100
Monterey, CA 93940

Dear Bill:

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary. The chance to expand the nation's National Marine Sanctuaries is a rare and important opportunity. The Sanctuary program has played an incredibly valuable role in preserving and promoting many natural and cultural treasures in the coastal waters of the US. The opportunity to expand this important network with new sites deserves careful evaluation of what any new proposed site would bring to the Sanctuary program.

I believe the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary would be an outstanding choice with rich cultural, ecological and economic benefits. On the cultural side, the proposed site includes a unique collection of Chumash historical sites that are now submerged. Celebrating and protecting this cultural history from the region's earliest residents is extremely important and would provide an educational and scientific platform for further learning. On the ecological side, this region has incredible biological assets that warrant protection – some of the highest diversity of marine mammals on the entire planet, one of the world's sharpest biogeographic transition zones at Pt. Conception, extremely productive and diverse ecosystems fueled by intense upwelling of nutrient rich waters, and an incredible richness of habitats that range from the shoreline to deep nearshore submarine canyons. Finally, on the economic side, the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary could greatly enhance the tourism draw of this coastal region by branding and highlighting these incredibly important cultural and ecological assets.

In my own career, I have worked closely with the National Marine Sanctuary program on a wide range of scientific and policy projects. These partnerships have led to important discoveries about how our coastal ecosystems work, how people can interact with them in sustainable and profitable ways, and how our public and private institutions can effectively manage these important assets for today and for future generations. Such partnerships with the academic community have been greatly facilitated by the Sanctuary program. Indeed, most would not have been possible without the opportunities that sanctuaries provide. I believe that the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary would drive enormous interest for similar partnerships with local institutions such as California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo and the University of California, Santa Barbara. As just one example of this draw, the

October 23, 2013

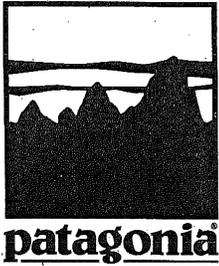
proposed Sanctuary region is the boundary between two very different regions of the California Current Large Marine Ecosystem. This boundary separates very different ecological communities and very different physical regions. Its dynamics, however, are incredibly sensitive to climatic variation. Changes in this boundary region foretell major changes that will occur elsewhere along the coast, albeit much more slowly. The dynamics of this ecological region provide a critical ocean laboratory for studies of our nation's and the world's coastal ocean. The Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary would facilitate important research efforts on this and other critical issues. By filling the gap between the Monterey and Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuaries it would also create a contiguous set of sanctuaries of a size that would be among the largest marine protected regions along an urban coastline.

I am a very strong proponent of this proposal and believe that will would be an outstanding addition to the nation's National Marine Sanctuaries.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven D. Gaines". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "S".

Steven D. Gaines
Dean
Bren School of Environmental Science and Management
University of California, Santa Barbara



July 8, 2015

NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
Attn: Mr. William Douros
99 Pacific Street, Suite 100
Monterey, CA 93940

Re: Support for Consideration of a Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary

Dear Mr. Douros,

I'm writing to convey Patagonia's support for consideration of a Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary, proposed off the coast of California, between Gaviota Creek in Santa Barbara and Santa Rosa Creek in Cambria.

The proposed new sanctuary, positioned between the current Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, would expand critical protection for key cultural and natural resources in our region. These include submerged Chumash villages and sacred sites, three major upwelling areas, and a 3,000 meter deep submarine canyon. As indicated in the proposal, there are "25 threatened and endangered species in the proposed sanctuary including white North America abalone, southern sea otter, Southern California steelhead, as well as killer and humpback whales."

Having recently experienced the May 19, 2015 oil spill off the Gaviota Coast, we are particularly attuned to the impact of industrialization, particularly off/ on-shore oil exploration, on our coast. The proposed new marine sanctuary would help protect our fragile coastline from future expanded development of this kind.

Many of our employees and customers recreate on this stretch of California coastline – and we support protection of these opportunities to enjoy our natural resources. In particular, we support the intent of this proposal to not impose additional restrictions on recreational fishing, given an already strong system of Marine Protected Areas and regulations in place.

Following this nomination and proposal process, we look forward to a full public-facing process that will include input from all key stakeholders and communities. And, we will continue to engage in that process, as it unfolds.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Hans Cole
Director of Environmental Campaigns and Advocacy
Patagonia, Inc.
(805)667-4652
Hans.cole@patagonia.com



CAPITOL OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 4035
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TEL (916) 651-4027
FAX (916) 651-4927

DISTRICT OFFICE
5016 N. PARKWAY CALABASAS
SUITE 222
CALABASAS, CA 91302
TEL (818) 876-3352
FAX (818) 876-0802

California State Senate

SENATOR
FRAN PAVLEY

TWENTY-SEVENTH SENATE DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
NATURAL RESOURCES & WATER
CHAIR
ELECTIONS
ENERGY, UTILITIES &
COMMUNICATIONS
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
TRANSPORTATION & HOUSING



July 28, 2014

NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
Attn: Mr. William Douros
99 Pacific St., Suite 100
Monterey, CA 93940

Dear Mr. Douros,

With the call for nominations for new National Marine Sanctuaries, I would like to convey my support for the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary off the Central Coast of California. The proposed marine sanctuary contains significant cultural, environmental, and ecological assets that are deserving of protection.

The proposed Chumash Heritage site is situated between two previously designated marine sanctuaries, Channel Islands and Monterey. Closing the gap between the protected and unprotected sites will create a continuous marine sanctuary. The proposed site contains vital cultural resources including submerged Chumash villages and sacred sites. The area also features the Santa Lucia Bank with benthic communities of world-wide significance where 13 species of whales and dolphins gather and feed; three major upwellings; a 3,000 meter deep five-fingered submarine canyon; and cetacean gathering areas and migration lanes. There is a vibrant marine ecosystem with kelp forests, sea otters, world-class fish diversity, and harbor seals. The wetland and on-shore ecosystems include coastal dunes, estuaries, and rookeries.

Active community support for the designation includes the following organizations: the Marine Sanctuary Alliance, Santa Lucia Chapter of Sierra Club, SLO Chapter of Surfrider Foundation, COAST, and Northern Chumash Tribal Council. The Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary would provide a legacy of prosperity in healthy local coastal waters, preserve unique and significant coastal ecosystems, and strengthen the tourism-based economy of the Central Coast.

I request that you strongly consider the nomination for the Chumash Heritage Marine Sanctuary. If you have any questions, please contact Kara Seward at (818) 876-3352 in my District Office.

Sincerely,

Fran Pavley

Fran Pavley
California State Senator
27th District

Cc: Marine Sanctuary Alliance
Mr. Frank DePasquale

California State Legislature

SENATOR
HANNAH-BETH JACKSON
NINETEENTH SENATE DISTRICT

February 2, 2015

NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
99 Pacific Street, Suite 100
Monterey, CA 93940
Attn: Mr. William Douros

Re: Support for Consideration of a Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary

Dear Mr. Douros:

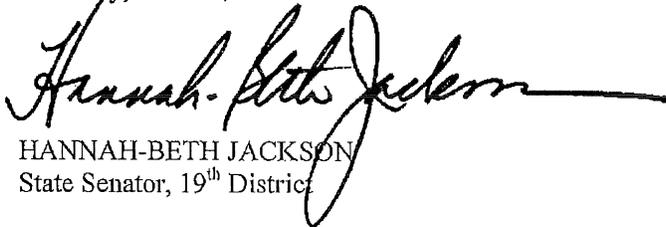
With the call for Sanctuary nominations underway, I would like to convey my support for consideration of a Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary proposed off the Central Coast of California. The proposed marine sanctuary contains significant cultural, environmental, and ecological assets that are deserving of protection.

The proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary is situated between two previously designated marine sanctuaries, Channel Islands and Monterey. This proposed site will effectively close the gap between these two existing marine sanctuaries. The proposed sanctuary contains vital cultural resources including submerged Chumash villages and sacred sites. The area is also well known for its rich biological resources including the Santa Lucia Bank, the presence of thirteen whale and dolphin species, three major upwelling areas, and a 3,000 meter deep submarine canyon. These resources are well documented in an existing biogeographic study that was conducted in response to the public's interest in the expansion of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary back in 2005. The proposed site is a rich marine ecosystem and includes on-shore wetland and other ecosystems that include coastal dunes, estuaries and rookeries, all of which are more than worthy of protection.

According to the NOAA nomination guidelines, acceptance requires "broad-based community support." Support for the proposed sanctuary includes the Marine Sanctuary Alliance, Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club, the Environmental Defense Center, COAST, the San Luis Obispo Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation, and the Northern Chumash Tribal Council, among others.

I strongly urge you to consider the nomination of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary. Such a sanctuary will preserve a truly unique and significant marine and on-shore ecosystem and strengthen the tourist economy along California's central coast. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



HANNAH-BETH JACKSON
State Senator, 19th District

COMMITTEES
CHAIR: HIGHER EDUCATION
EDUCATION
NATURAL RESOURCES
BANKING AND FINANCE

CHAIR: SELECT COMMITTEE ON
INNOVATIVE GREEN FINANCING
MECHANISMS

Assembly
California Legislature



DAS WILLIAMS
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, THIRTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0037
(916) 319-2037
FAX (916) 319-2137

DISTRICT OFFICES
101 WEST ANAPAMU STREET, SUITE A
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93101
(805) 564-1649
FAX (805) 564-1651

89 SOUTH CALIFORNIA STREET, SUITE F
VENTURA, CA 93001
(805) 641-3700
FAX (805) 641-3708

March 5, 2015

NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
99 Pacific Street, Suite 100
Monterey, CA 93940
Attn: Mr. William Douros

Re: Support for Consideration of a Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary

Dear Mr. Douros:

With the call for Sanctuary nominations underway, I would like to convey my support for consideration of a Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary proposed off the Central Coast of California. The proposed marine sanctuary contains significant cultural, environmental, and ecological assets that are deserving of protection.

The proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary is situated between two previously designated marine sanctuaries, Channel Islands and Monterey. This proposed site will effectively close the gap between these two existing marine sanctuaries. The proposed sanctuary contains vital cultural resources including submerged Chumash villages and sacred sites. The area is also well known for its rich biological resources, including the Santa Lucia Bank, the presence of thirteen whale and dolphin species, three major upwelling areas, and a 3,000 meter deep submarine canyon. These resources are well documented in an existing biogeographic study that was conducted in response to the public's interest in the expansion of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary back in 2005. The proposed site is a rich marine ecosystem and includes on-shore wetland and other ecosystems that include coastal dunes, estuaries and rookeries, all of which are more than worthy of protection.

According to the NOAA nomination guidelines, acceptance requires "broad-based community support." Support for the proposed sanctuary includes the Marine Sanctuary Alliance, Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club, the Environmental Defense Center, COAST, the San Luis Obispo Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation, and the Nmihern Chumash Tribal Council, among others.

I strongly urge you to consider the nomination of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary. Such a sanctuary will preserve a truly unique and significant marine and on-shore ecosystem and strengthen the tourist economy along California's central coast. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Das Williams in blue ink.
DAS WILLIAMS
Assembly Member, AD 37



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1055 MONTEREY, ROOM D430 • SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA 93408-1003 • 805.781.5450



December 15, 2014

BRUCE GIBSON
SUPERVISOR DISTRICT TWO

NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
Attn: Mr. William Douros
99 Pacific St., Suite 100
Monterey, CA 93940

Dear Mr. Douros,

RE: Support for the Nomination of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary

I write in support of the nomination of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary off the Central Coast of California. The proposed marine sanctuary contains significant cultural, environmental, and ecological assets that are deserving of protection.

The proposed Chumash Heritage site is situated between two previously designated marine sanctuaries, Channel Islands and Monterey Bay. Closing the gap between the protected and unprotected sites will create a continuous marine sanctuary. The proposed site contains vital cultural resources, including submerged Chumash villages and sacred sites.

The area also features the Santa Lucia Bank, with benthic communities of world-wide significance, where 13 species of whales and dolphins gather and feed; three major upwellings; a 3,000 meter deep five-fingered submarine canyon; and cetacean gathering areas and migration lanes. This extraordinary offshore environment is deeply connected to shore ecosystems that include wetlands, coastal dunes, estuaries, and rookeries.

The Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary would provide a legacy of prosperity, ensure healthy local coastal waters, preserve unique and significant coastal ecosystems, and strengthen the tourism-based economy of the Central Coast.

The nomination has gained the support of a wide variety of groups, including environmental, tribal and fishing organizations. I request that you support the nomination of the Chumash Heritage Marine Sanctuary. If you have any questions, please contact my office at 805-781-4338. Thank you.

Sincerely,

BRUCE GIBSON
Supervisor, District Two
San Luis Obispo County

0000000000

DOREEN FARR
Third District Supervisor



OFFICE OF THE
THIRD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR
County Administration Building
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, California 93101
Telephone: (805) 568-2192
Fax: (805) 568-2883
www.countyofsb.org

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

February 27, 2015

NOAA Office of Marine Sanctuaries
Attn: Mr. William Douros
99 Pacific Street, Suite 100
Monterey, CA 93940

Dear Mr. Douros:

With the call for Sanctuary nominations underway, I would like to convey my support for the Chumash Heritage Sanctuary off the Central Coast of California. The proposed Marine Sanctuary contains significant cultural, environmental, and ecological assets that are deserving of protection.

The proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary is situated between two previously designated marine sanctuaries, Channel Islands and Monterey. If nominated, this site would effectively close the gap between these two existing marine sanctuaries. The zone contains vital cultural assets, including submerged Chumash villages and sacred sites. The area is also well known for its rich biological resources, including the Santa Lucia Bank, the presence of thirteen whale and dolphin species, three major upwelling areas, and a 3,000 meter deep submarine canyon. These resources are well documented in an existing biogeographic study that was conducted in response to the public's interest in the expansion of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary back in 2005. Additionally, the proposed site is rich in marine ecosystems, including on-shore wetlands, coastal dunes, estuaries and rookeries, all of which are more than worthy of protection.

I strongly urge you to consider the nomination of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary. Such a sanctuary will preserve a truly unique and significant marine and on-shore ecosystem and strengthen the tourist economy along California's Central Coast. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

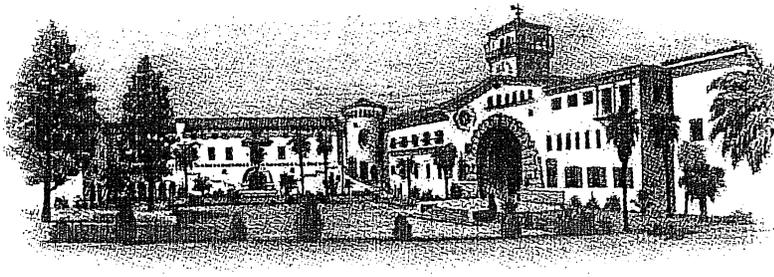
Doreen Farr
Third District Supervisor, Santa Barbara County

SALUD CARBAJAL
First District Supervisor

JEREMY TITTLE
Chief of Staff

ERIC FRIEDMAN
District Representative

**LISA VALENCIA
SHERRATT**
District Representative



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
105 East Anapamu Street, 4th Floor
Santa Barbara, California 93101

TELEPHONE: (805) 568-2186
FAX: (805) 568-2534
www.countyofsb.org/bos/carbajal
E-mail: Scarbajal@sbcbos1.org

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

July 2, 2015

NOAA Office National Marine Sanctuaries
99 Pacific Street, Suite 100
Monterey, CA 93490
Attn: Mr. William Douros

RE: Support for Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary

Dear Mr. Douros,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary along the Central Coast of California. This area contains significant cultural, ecological and environmental resources that are important to the region.

As First District Supervisor for Santa Barbara County, I have witnessed the important protections and resource management that the Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary has provided to the marine ecosystem of Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. The experience here as well as that of the Monterey National Marine Sanctuary to our north underscores the need for the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary which would be located between them. It would strengthen the network of marine protections along California's coast and extend benefits that include enhancing wildlife protections, improving safeguards for sensitive coastal ecosystems such as wetlands and estuaries and protecting sacred cultural sites of the Chumash.

The sanctuary will also benefit regional economic interests. This area is both a recreational and tourist destination and possesses an active fishery. National Marine Sanctuary status will include stronger regulations and enforcement of harmful ocean discharges, improved water quality and prohibiting offshore industrial development. In addition, there will be enhanced interactions and partnership opportunities with U.C. Santa Barbra and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo which are local world class research and academic institutions with strong environmental programs. These partnerships would facilitate in-depth analysis of the efficacy of the Sanctuary.

I strongly urge you support for the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary. This is a unique area with an historical legacy worthy of protection for the benefit of future generations.

Sincerely,

Salud Carbajal



Office of the City Council

990 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-3249
805 781 7114
slcity.org

January 28, 2015

San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors
1055 Monterey, Room D430
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408-1003

RE: Support for the Nomination of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary

On behalf of the City of San Luis Obispo and the community members we serve, I would like to acknowledge and thank the Northern Chumash Tribal Council for its nomination to create a Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary in the coastal waters off of San Luis Obispo and northern Santa Barbara Counties.

The City of San Luis Obispo is happy to join the vast number of supporters advocating for the Tribal Council's nomination to protect our pristine south Central California coastline and designate these local ocean waters to be protected by the highest levels of preservation for future generations. In addition, we are supportive of the recreational benefits as well as the economic benefit of increased permanent, local jobs in our region.

The City of San Luis Obispo strongly supports this conservation effort of an irreplaceable ecosystem which provides numerous environmental benefits to wildlife and people alike. We look forward to the approval of the designation of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary.

Sincerely,


Jan Howell Marx
Mayor

CC: Northern Chumash Tribal Council

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

45 FREMONT, SUITE 2000
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105-2219
VOICE (415) 904-5200
FAX (415) 904-5400
TDD (415) 597-5885



January 6, 2015

William Douros
West Coast Regional Director
NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
99 Pacific Street, Suite 100F
Monterey, CA 93940

RE: Support for Chumash National Marine Sanctuary Nomination

Dear Mr. Douros:

I write on behalf of the California Coastal Commission in support of the nomination of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary offshore San Luis Obispo and northern Santa Barbara Counties. These waters have nationally significant marine, geological, biological and cultural characteristics, including abundant populations of diverse marine mammals and fish species, sensitive benthic habitats and kelp forests, major oceanic upwellings, and areas of unique beauty and cultural significance for the region's indigenous peoples. There is also significant public support for the designation of coastal waters from Santa Rosa Creek to Gaviota Creek as a National Marine Sanctuary, reflecting a growing consensus that the marine waters off the Central Coast are worthy of additional study and protection.

National Marine Sanctuary status is complementary with the California Coastal Act policies including those protecting water quality, marine and coastal habitats, recreational access, and archeological and aesthetic resources. The Commission and NOAA have a long history of successful partnership with respect to coast and ocean stewardship in and around the four existing marine sanctuaries in California. Integrated coastal management also will be increasingly important as we move forward with climate change adaptation, including addressing sea level rise and ocean acidification, proposed desalination facilities, coastal erosion and a whole host of related challenges. Sanctuary status enhances coordination efforts, scientific research relating to marine ecosystems and conditions, and funding opportunities.

Should the current proposal move forward, the Commission is prepared to support the effort in a collaborative manner that furthers both state and federal goals. This review will include coordination and review between NOAA and the Commission under the Coastal Zone Management Act for the establishment and management of any new or expanded National Marine Sanctuary. We look forward to our on-going shared management and protection of California's marine waters, including potential designation of a new marine sanctuary. Please let me know how my staff or I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles F. Lester".

CHARLES F. LESTER
Executive Director



May 31, 2015

Dear Mr. Douros,

The Tribal Trust Foundation is a non-profit organization working to empower indigenous people and preserve the environment. The Tribal Trust Foundation Board endorses eco-cultural preservation and curriculum development. With the call for Sanctuary nominations underway, the Board supports the Chumash Heritage Sanctuary off the Central Coast of California as this proposed site contains significant cultural, environmental, and ecological assets that are imperative to protect.

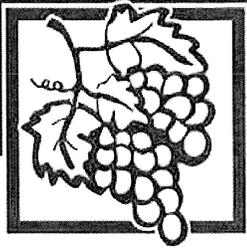
The proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary is situated between two previously designated marine sanctuaries, Channel Islands and Monterey. The marine environment between these two existing sanctuaries is in desperate need of conservation and management. A Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary would provide unique conservation and management value as there is much oil drilling in the area that can harm the coastline and resources, submerged Chumash villages, and numerous sacred Chumash sites. The area is also well known for its rich biological resources, including the Santa Lucia Bank, the presence of thirteen whale and dolphin species, three major upwelling areas, and a 3,000 meter deep submarine canyon. These resources are well documented in an existing biogeographic study that was conducted in response to the public's interest in the expansion of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary back in 2005. Additionally, the proposed site is rich in marine ecosystems, including rocky intertidal zones, sandy beaches, on-shore wetlands, coastal dunes, estuaries and rookeries, all of which are imperative to protect.

We strongly support this nomination and implore you to advocate for the nomination of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary. This sanctuary would preserve a truly unique and significant marine and near shore ecosystem and strengthen the economy along California's Central Coast.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Barbara Savage".

Tribal Trust Foundation Board
President, Barbara Savage
Vice President, Dawn A. Murray, Ph.D.
Bob Orenstein, Esq.
Sarah Fretwell
Anne-Marie Charest, Ph.D.



SMVCC

Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce and Visitor & Convention Bureau

March 23, 2015

NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
Mr. William Douros
99 Pacific Street, Suite 100
Monterey, CA 93940

Dear Mr. Douros,

The Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce and Visitor and Convention Bureau offer our wholehearted support for the creation of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary off the Central Coast of California in Santa Barbara County and San Luis Obispo County.

The protection and promotion of our beautiful, historically significant coastal area is hugely important in the promotion of rural tourism in both counties. In particular, the town of Guadalupe, home to the Rancho Guadalupe Dunes Preserve and Oso Flaco Lake, would benefit substantially from tourism should this sanctuary be dedicated.

Between 2005 and 2009, when overall US employment dropped by 2.3 percent, ***the coastal tourism economy grew by 2.7 percent and helped our nation survive the recession.*** This booming coastal tourism industry is founded on clean and healthy habitats, abundant fish and wildlife, and the visitor opportunities they support.

The creation of this sanctuary would fill the gap in the chain of national marine sanctuaries that protect most of California's extraordinary coastal waters, and would allow for advances and collaboration in the protection of our waters, marine wildlife and coastal economy.

The coast of California was first inhabited by one of the few ocean-going bands among the First People of the New World. Ancient submerged Chumash village sites extend offshore, and more than a dozen coastal sites have been continuously occupied for more than 9,000 years. The Central Coast is the site of the most significant wetlands on the West Coast, the highest coastal sand dunes in the state, kelp forests, coral reefs, and a major population center for sea otters, sea lion haul-outs, and whale and porpoise feeding areas.

We ask that you take action now to create a way for our communities to actively thrive while protecting and promoting the treasures that lie in our backyard.

We are aware that in June 2014, all National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Councils called for sanctuaries to forge innovative public-private partnerships with recreational industries, promote visitor centers, foster citizen science by engaging visitors in data collection, and develop ocean steward program.

The Chamber of Commerce and Visitor and Convention Bureau is eager to participate in such a partnership. We are in dire need of this on the Central Coast. Please help us move forward with the creation of a Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary for the Central Coast of California forward.

Sincerely,

Gina Keough
Director, Santa Maria Valley Visitor and Convention Bureau
Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce

ANTIOCH
UNIVERSITY
SANTA BARBARA

602 Anacapa Street | Santa Barbara, CA 93101 | 805.962.8179 | www.antiochsb.edu

May 15, 2015

Dear Mr. Douros,

I am a marine biology professor and started the Environmental Studies Program at Antioch University Santa Barbara. During my dissertation, Dr. John Pearse and I created an intertidal monitoring program (rocky shore and sandy beach) and students are still collecting long-term comparable data in the Sanctuary system today with the program - LiMPETS. With the call for Sanctuary nominations underway, I would like to convey my deep support for the Chumash Heritage Sanctuary off the Central Coast of California.

I am also the Vice-President of the Tribal Trust Foundation, supporting eco-cultural preservation, and this proposed site contains significant cultural, environmental, and ecological assets that are incredibly necessary to protect.

The proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary is situated between two previously designated marine sanctuaries, Channel Islands and Monterey. The marine environment between these two existing sanctuaries is in desperate need of conservation and management. A Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary would provide unique conservation and management value as there is much oil drilling in the area that can harm the coastline and resources, submerged Chumash villages, and numerous sacred Chumash sites. The area is also well known for its rich biological resources, including the Santa Lucia Bank, the presence of thirteen whale and dolphin species, three major upwelling areas, and a 3,000 meter deep submarine canyon. These resources are well documented in an existing biogeographic study that was conducted in response to the public's interest in the expansion of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary back in 2005. Additionally, the proposed site is rich in marine ecosystems, including rocky intertidal zones, sandy beaches, on-shore wetlands, coastal dunes, estuaries and rookeries, all of which are imperative to protect.

I strongly support this nomination and implore you to advocate for the nomination of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary. This sanctuary would preserve a truly unique and significant marine and near shore ecosystem and strengthen the economy along California's Central Coast.

Sincerely,



Dawn A. Murray, M.S., Ph.D.
dmurray2@antioch.edu



SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

William Douros

West Coast Regional Director

NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

99 Pacific Street, Suite 100F Monterey, CA 93940

Where Lifelong Learning Happens

April 23, 2015

RE: Support for Chumash National Marine Sanctuary Nomination

"In the end we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand; and we will understand only what we are taught." (Baba Dioum, 1968.)

Dear Mr. Douros:

I am writing in support of the nomination of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary offshore San Luis Obispo and northern Santa Barbara Counties. I write you to offer my insight to Chumash culture. First, let me qualify my assessment by highlighting my background. I am a professor of Anthropology at Cuesta College where I teach courses in California Indians, Cultural Anthropology, and Native North Americans. I also work as a bioarchaeologist for the Chumash. I excavate, identify, and repatriate disturbed burials in culturally appropriate decorum.

In this capacity, I see firsthand the tenuous balance between the need for development, cultural sensitivity and misaligned goals stemming from cultural misunderstandings. To this end, I will endeavor to articulate land's cultural significance to California Indians. While California's indigenous populations recognized nature's value, very few cultures had a concept of land ownership. Rather, they see themselves as stewards of nature, safe-keeping natural resources for future generations. The natural world is a place of religious significance, offers an abundance of food, provides shelter and raw materials, medicines to promote health, and is the point of origination for their culture. This is a philosophy of a culture who sees themselves as part of nature, and not superior to it.

The cultural significance of land is a commonality between cultures. Preservation of our coasts, marine life, and native cultural heritage presents a unique opportunity to work together, learn from one another and strive to achieve environmental protections which benefit us all. Please contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Lise M. Mifsud, M.A.

Anthropology Professor

Cuesta College



San Luis Obispo County
★ Democratic Party ★

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 15155
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

(805) 546-8499
slocdp.org

Office Headquarters:
3592 Broad Street, Suite 100
San Luis Obispo, CA

FPPC: 742552/FEC: C00276659

June 12, 2015

William Douros, West Coast Regional Director
NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
99 Pacific Street, Suite 100 F
Monterey, CA 93940

RE: Support for the Nomination of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary

Dear Mr. Douros:

The San Luis Obispo County Democratic Party supports the nomination of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary. Our communities have long supported protection of the beautiful natural resources of our coastline and ocean. Our local economies depend on protecting the habitat that provides food, clean water, jobs and a healthy environment for our families, our neighbors and our visitors.

The sanctuary can protect our business, recreation and tourism economies by prohibiting harmful ocean discharges, maintaining water quality and prohibiting offshore industrial development. The fisheries benefit through protection of the vital habitats that provide nurseries and nutrients for fish. The established and growing education and research institutions of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties will benefit from an even stronger partnership with NOAA ocean research projects that can improve adaptive management of the ocean. Existing stewardship outreach and education programs can collaborate and partner with the sanctuary to encourage conservation and protection of the land, the watersheds, the intertidal, the coast, the ocean and our planet.

Chumash heritage provides a special significance to this nomination. Protecting the vital habitat and sacred cultural sites will establish a distinctive opportunity to preserve, interpret and educate our communities and visitors about the heritage and history of the Chumash. The history and cultural stories of indigenous peoples have been underrepresented in our public dialogue. The connection between the historic seafaring Chumash, the beauty of this coast, Chumash cultural values to protect all of nature and NOAA sanctuary designation combine to make this a place of exceptional national significance.

We add our voices to the strong grassroots support for the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary.

Sincerely,

Pat Harris, Chair
San Luis Obispo County Democratic Party

May 24, 2015
Kristina W. Foss
2925 Valencia Drive
Santa Barbara, CA. 93105

Dear Staff of NOAA,

I urge you to consider adding the area designated for a Chumash Heritage Marine Sanctuary to the list of sites for NOAA to consider for such status. Further, I can enthusiastically endorse acceptance of this area as a fully recognized federally designated Marine Sanctuary. This section of California's Central Coast is often called by biologists "America's Galapagos" due to the incredible variety of species found in its' waters. It is a unique habitat where species from both northern and southern habitat zones meet and are found together.

The coastal area is very fragile and subject to increasing intrusions and environmental damage as populations and resulting human activities in the coastal region increase without added protections and regulation. A designation as a Marine Sanctuary would help mitigate these growing intrusions and damage. The current devastation of the Gaviota coastline is a prime example of the intrusions that can wreak havoc on the area unless NOAA takes action.

I have taught Native American Studies, including a course on Chumash culture and history, at Santa Barbara City College for over 40 years. As such I am well familiar with the history, habitat and cultural uses and preservation of the area by the Chumash. I have been involved in numerous preservation efforts and organizations as well as served 18 years on the Board of the Quabajai Chumash Association here in the Santa Barbara area. Although my Native heritage is not Chumash, I have been deeply involved in their preservation efforts over the years. I am also the Museum Director of Santa Barbara Mission and the Cultural Resource Manager of the Mission National Landmark. I am therefore, aware of the many problems extant in the field of preservation –whether it covers historic or whole environment preservation. I am currently engaged in preservation work under a Federal government NPS Save America's Treasures grant, so am familiar with the many conflicts and interests involved in preservation. I also know it is both important and feasible to protect these American resources for ourselves and future generations.

Designating the name of the sanctuary as the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary would be highly appropriate as the Chumash people have been the caretakers of this region for thousands of years. Down through the centuries they have both made a living and protected the habitat in successful ways, preserving it for future generations. The name will encourage us all to do likewise, following their wise example for the generations to come. Please designate the area mapped as the Chumash Heritage Marine Sanctuary as a fully recognized unit of the Marine Sanctuary program, with all the appropriate protections that designation will provide. I urge you to go forward immediately with the investigation and public review process that will make clear to all the importance of following through with this historic designation. I fully support the efforts of the Chumash people and the Sierra Club of California to gain approval for this sanctuary designation. It is truly needed for the preservation of ocean wildlife and coastal marine habitat in the area.

Sincerely Yours,
Kristina W. Foss,
Native American Studies, SBCC

Uta Passow, Ph.D.,
Biological Oceanographer, Researcher
264 Alost Dr., Camarillo, CA 93010

31 March 2015

NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

99 Pacific Street, Suite 100
Monterey CA 93940
Attn.: Mr. W. Douros

Re: Support for Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary

Dear Mr. Douros,

The proposed sanctuary would include important oceanic and coastal ecosystems and Chumash sites, all of which are worthy of protection. As a scientist studying the consequences of ocean acidification, my main concern is to mediate the effect of lowered pH to allow organisms and ecosystems along our coast to continue to thrive. Due to upwelling and local impacts changes in pH are exceptionally large off the CA coast and current conditions are already at levels expected in the future in other regions of the world oceans. Research of the past years has shown that many of the organisms living in this environment are impacted by the pH of the water. It is also beginning to become increasingly clear that the specific response of marine organisms and populations to ocean acidification depends on the presence of other environmental stressors. Organisms may be able to prosper even under low pH conditions, if the other environmental conditions exert little or no stress, but this takes additional energy for the organisms. The simultaneous onslaught of several environmental stressors, however, can't be mediated. Ecosystems that are threatened by several perturbations thus have a much smaller chance of surviving ocean acidification than their healthy counter parts. Protection will hopefully reduce the environmental perturbations and allow populations and ecosystems to survive the coming changes. The proposed sanctuary contains several different ecosystems, including upwelling systems, a deep canyon, wetlands, dunes, estuaries and rockeries all of which are in urgent need of protection, before it is too late. I would like to express my strong support for establishing the proposed sanctuary in this area of the Californian coast.

Uta Passow

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Uta Passow', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.



For Wildlife in Distress, call our Hotline
805-543-WILD (9453)

Pacific Wildlife Care
PO Box 1134
Morro Bay CA

February 13, 2015

Director
NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East West Highway N/NMS 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910
sanctuary.nominations@noaa.gov

Dear Sir or Madam:

Pacific Wildlife Care has been rescuing and rehabilitating the wildlife of San Luis Obispo County since 1986 and the Board of Directors would like to add our voices to the chorus of local citizens asking that our coastal waters be designated as a National Marine Sanctuary. As has been noted, this would link together the Channel Islands and Monterey Bay sanctuaries thus protecting this rich coastal region that is important to marine life and is a critical part of the Pacific Flyway. Pacific Wildlife Care is only too familiar with the damage and destruction caused by the abuse of our natural resources and we strongly support the Northern Chumash Tribal Council's efforts to ensure the oversight and management that would come with this designation. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margaret R. Crockett".

Margaret R. Crockett, President
meg@pacificwildlifecare.com



January 27, 2015

NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
Attn: Mr. William Douros
99 Pacific Street, Suite 100
Monterey, CA 93940

Sent via e-mail: william.douros@noaa.gov

Re: Support for Consideration of a Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary

Dear Mr. Douros,

With the call for Sanctuary nominations underway, the Environmental Defense Center (“EDC”) would like to convey its support for consideration of a Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary proposed off the Central Coast of California. The proposed marine sanctuary contains significant cultural, environmental, and ecological assets that are deserving of protection.

The EDC protects and enhances the local environment through education, advocacy, and legal action. EDC’s marine work has a long history of supporting expanding protection in our region, and we were among the first to advocate for creating both a National Park and National Marine Sanctuary at the Channel Islands.

The proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary is situated between two previously designated marine sanctuaries, Channel Islands and Monterey. The proposed site contains vital cultural resources including submerged Chumash villages and sacred sites. The area is also well known for its rich biological resources including the Santa Lucia Bank, the presence of thirteen whale and dolphin species, three major upwelling areas, and a 3,000 meter deep submarine canyon. These resources are well documented in an existing biogeographic study that was conducted in response to the public’s interest in the expansion of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, back in 2005. EDC has closely tracked sanctuary proposals in our region and supports a new or expanded marine sanctuary off the Central Coast.

Following nomination, it is our understanding that NOAA will conduct an initial review. If the proposal meets designated standards, it will undergo further consideration. During this process, we expect NOAA will examine the ecological, historical, archaeological and cultural importance of the proposed region. We look forward to a NOAA process that will engage communities, native groups, and other entities before any nomination is accept or rejected. According to the NOAA nomination guidelines, acceptance requires “broad-based community support.”

We look forward to continuing the conversation about on-going management and protection of California’s marine waters, including potential designation of a new or expanded marine sanctuary. Thank you for your consideration of these comments. If you have any questions regarding this recommendation, please contact Kristi Birney at (805) 963-1622 or kbirney@EnvironmentalDefenseCenter.org.

Sincerely,



Linda Krop
Chief Counsel



Kristi Birney
Marine Conservation Analyst



January 27th, 2015

Surfrider Foundation
PO Box 6010
San Clemente, CA
92674-6010

Mr. William Douros
Regional Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
99 Pacific St., Suite 100
Monterey, CA 93940

Mr. Douros,

The Surfrider Foundation is a grassroots environmental organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of oceans, waves, and beaches. We write to express our strong support for the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary off the central California coast on behalf of our 250,000 members and supporters in the United States.

The Surfrider Foundation has been actively working with a myriad of stakeholders to establish marine protected areas (MPAs) in California waters and we believe the establishment of the Chumash Sanctuary will complement the hard work of many residents to protect special, biologically rich places and ecosystems. The proposed sanctuary will provide crucial protection from offshore oil and gas development for the marine ecosystem and adjacent coastal communities. The area of expansion is one of the most ecologically significant in the world and contains a diverse assemblage of marine life and habitats. These outstanding natural resources must be protected from the risky and environmentally damaging practice of offshore drilling.

The establishment of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary will also enhance marine science and education opportunities, and help protect vital socioeconomic benefits that result from a healthy and productive marine ecosystem. The coastline of interest is used by thousands of Surfrider members and supporters for a variety of activities including surfing, diving, kayaking, beachcombing, fishing, and aesthetic enjoyment. Moreover, these recreation and tourism opportunities support many local businesses such as motels, restaurants, and shops that depend directly on the health and beauty of coastal environment. Establishing the Chumash Sanctuary will help ensure these uses and values are protected for generations to come.

Finally, the Surfrider Foundation would like to acknowledge the efforts of our local San Luis Obispo Chapter, which has actively participated in the development of the proposal with the Chumash Tribe, the Sierra Club, and other partners. As a grassroots organization, we encourage

the robust engagement of our members and chapters in the planning of marine protected areas. We believe that MPAs, including national marine sanctuaries, should be developed thoughtfully and in close consultation with affected communities and stakeholders. This has certainly been the case with the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary proposal, as evidenced by the number and diversity of its supporters.

Sincerely,

Pete Stauffer
Senior Ocean Program Manager

Stefanie Sekich-Quinn
California Policy Manager

Jennifer Jozwiak
Co-Chair, San Luis Obispo Chapter

Niel Dilworth
Co-Chair, San Luis Obispo Chapter

Mark Morey
Chair, Santa Barbara Chapter

January 12, 2015

William Douros
Western Regional Director
NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
99 Pacific Street, Suite 100F
Monterey, CA 93940



Re: Support for Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary Nomination

Dear Mr. Douros:

With the call for nominations for new National Marine Sanctuaries, we would like to convey our strong support for the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary off the Central Coast of California. The proposed marine sanctuary contains significant cultural, environmental, and ecological assets that deserve protection.

The proposed Chumash Heritage site is situated between two previously designated marine sanctuaries: Channel Islands and Monterey. Closing the gap between the protected sites will create a continuous marine sanctuary with environmental, economic, and cultural benefits.

The mission of ECOSLO is to promote resilient ecosystems and healthy lifestyles so San Luis Obispo County can thrive. The proposed site contains vital cultural resources and is known for three major upwellings offshore that feed multiple species of whales, dolphins and world-class fish diversity. A sanctuary designation will protect these coastal resources for future generations and promote a resilient and thriving community in San Luis Obispo. The Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary would provide a legacy of prosperity in healthy local coastal waters, preserve unique and significant coastal ecosystems, and strengthen the tourism-based economy of the Central Coast as outlined in the significant economic study submitted as part of the nomination documents.

We request that you strongly consider the nomination for the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary. If you have any questions, please contact ECOSLO at 544-1777

Sincerely,

Melody DeMeritt

Interim Executive Director representing the ECOSLO Board of Trustees

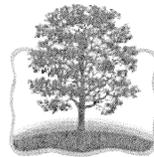
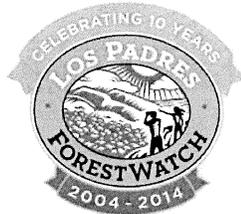
cc: Marine Sanctuary Alliance

75 Higuera Suite 100, PO Box 1014, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

www.ecoslo.org



San Luis Obispo COASTKEEPER®



North County Watch

Looking Out Today For Tomorrow



SIERRA
CLUB
SANTA LUCIA
CHAPTER

February 2, 2015

Daniel J. Basta, Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Mr. Basta,

We are writing to support the nomination and designation of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary for the Central Coast of California.

This region was first inhabited by one of the few ocean-going bands among the First People of the New World. Ancient submerged Chumash village sites extend 13 miles offshore, and more than a dozen coastal sites have been continuously occupied for more than 9,000 years. The Central Coast is the site of significant wetlands, kelp forests, coral reef, and the highest sand dunes in the state. The existence of one of the only non-seasonal upwellings of nutrients off the west coast makes it a major population center for sea otters, sea lion haul-outs, and a cetacean feeding area.

The history of efforts to utilize these waters for oil exploration and the dumping of toxic agricultural runoff are a consequence of the lack of National Marine Sanctuary protection and emphasize the need to secure that protection. National Marine Sanctuaries serve to enhance public awareness and understanding of marine resources, support and help fund scientific research, allow local stakeholders to present a united position on matters of mutual concern (including oil and gas exploration and development, ocean dumping and marine mammal issues); and facilitate a proactive approach to ocean protection.

We believe the waters of the Central Coast meet the standards of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act for the recognition and protection of nationally significant oceanographic, geological, biological and archaeological characteristics. We urge NOAA to pursue the proactive approach to ocean protection, support for scientific research and the enhancement of public understanding of the Central Coast's unique marine habitat which the creation of a Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary would facilitate.

Sincerely,

Gordon Hensley,
SLO CoastKeeper

Jeff Kuyper,
Los Padres ForestWatch

Sue Harvey, President
North County Watch

Michael Jencks
Chair, Santa Lucia Chapter

La Isla Fashion Group, LLC

2150 King Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
805-455-5389
esr@laislabrand.com

May 20, 2015

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
99 Pacific Street, Suite 100
Monterey, CA 93940

Mr. W. Douros,

Since I founded my company in 2001, I have always been passionate about the protection of our oceans. Moving to San Luis Obispo county four years ago made this passion grow even stronger. I have had the privilege of having a first hand experience with the immense diversity and beauty of the local marine environment during this time. I fully support the nomination of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary.

If the sanctuary were to be nominated, I would personally look into the different ways in which my business could partner with it. I would be interested in incorporating the sanctuary into our advertising materials, public relations efforts and our social media amongst others.

Respectfully yours,



Enrique Sánchez-Rivera
Chief/Executive Officer
Managing Partner

La Isla Fashion Group, LLC

Attachment 2



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

March 6, 2015

Fred Collins
Northern Chumash Tribal Council
67 South Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Dear Mr. Collins:

Thank you for submitting the nomination for the proposed "Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary." We appreciate your interest in how a national marine sanctuary could assist in meeting conservation objectives for waters adjacent to San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties in California.

This letter is to inform you that the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries has completed its sufficiency review of the nomination. The sufficiency review is the first of three phases of review, and determines if the nomination provides enough of the information required for us to proceed with a more in-depth review. It is followed by phase two, which reviews a nomination against the four national significance criteria and phase three, which evaluates a nomination against the seven management considerations. We have concluded the nomination, as submitted, is not sufficient to move forward with a more detailed review. As you give consideration to potentially resubmitting your nomination there are few clarifying points that may be helpful.

For management consideration #3 it is important that a nomination describe how the current or future uses and activities threaten the area's significance, values, qualities and resources. Providing only a list of uses and activities that threaten the area is not sufficient. With management consideration #4, it is important a nomination describe the ways in which a national marine sanctuary would provide unique conservation and management value for a proposed area or adjacent areas. Nominations should be strengthened with detail on the non-regulatory options a proposed national marine sanctuary could implement to best manage the resources in or adjacent to the proposed area. Management consideration #5 should describe the ways in which a national marine sanctuary could supplement or complement existing regulatory or management authorities in the area. A list of existing regulatory and management authorities for the area is not sufficient.

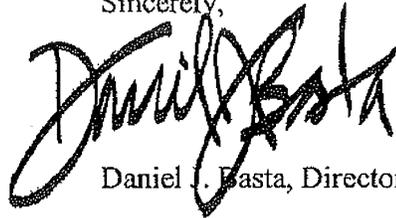
With regard to management consideration #6, a nomination should make as clear as possible the extent to which any partners have made commitments to the nomination concept, including how those partnerships would aid conservation or management programs for the area. When considering all of these recommendations, note that we encourage any resubmittal of a nomination be provided as a complete package as outlined at <http://www.nominate.noaa.gov/>. Note as well that any letters of support may be submitted as an appendix beyond the 25 page



limit. Moving support letters to an appendix allows a nomination package to more thoroughly address criteria and management considerations.

As you reconsider your nomination, staff from our West Coast Regional Office (Bill Douros, West Coast Regional Director, william.douros@noaa.gov), as well as our headquarters, stand by to address any questions you have. We encourage you to review other nomination packages we have received and our correspondence with the nominators, which are available on our website.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel J. Basta". The signature is stylized and cursive, with the first name "Daniel" being the most prominent part.

Daniel J. Basta, Director

Attachment 3

SANCTUARY NOMINATION PROCESS GUIDE

This guide is intended to help in preparing a nomination.

[Introduction](#)

[Document Guidelines](#)

[NOAA Review](#)

[Nomination Submission](#)

[Nomination Preparation Checklist](#)

[Section I - Basics](#)

[Section II - Introduction](#)

[Section III - Criteria Information](#)

[Section IV - Consideration Information](#)

[Questions](#)

[Download the Guide \(pdfs/sanctuary-nomination-process-guide.pdf\)](pdfs/sanctuary-nomination-process-guide.pdf)

Introduction

Thank you for your interest in nominating an area of the marine or Great Lakes waters to become a national marine sanctuary. More detailed information can be found in the [final rule establishing this process \(rule.html\)](#). NOAA staff are also available to answer questions throughout the nomination development and review process.

Please be aware while preparing your nomination that all nominating materials submitted to NOAA will be posted publically on the website. Nominations should not include confidential business information or information that is sensitive or protected. NOAA will attempt to remove personal identifying information before a nomination is posted online, but please minimize including this type of information.

Document Guidelines

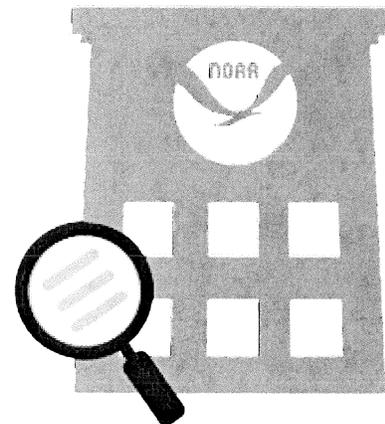
NOAA does not have a form for nominations, however the following guidelines apply:

- 1 The nomination maximum length is 25 pages. Letters of support may be submitted as an appendix beyond the 25 page limit. No additional appendices will be accepted
- 2 Nominations should use a Times New Roman font, 12 point font size, and one inch margins. Nominations that do not follow these formatting reasons will be returned.
- 3 The nomination must not include any copyrighted information without the nominator first acquiring for or granting to the Government a copyright license for the information.

NOAA Review

NOAA will review each nomination based on the information submitted in the nomination package. The nomination package must consist of one submission containing all the information the nominating community wants NOAA to consider. NOAA will not include any additional information once the nomination package is submitted. This will be a qualitative analysis so NOAA will not be applying a numerical score to any nomination. Nominations will not be judged against each other.

The strongest nominations will provide a clear connection and focus on the criteria and considerations that are relevant to the goals and intent for the nominated area and provide as much information as possible for those. While NOAA is not establishing a minimum number of national significance criteria, nor giving greater significance to any particular criterion, the strongest nominations will provide a clear connection and focus on the criteria most relevant to the goal and intent for the nominated area, and provide as much information as

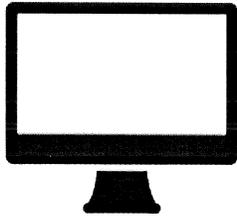


possible for those criteria. Nominations should provide information addressing all seven management considerations, with special emphasis on consideration #7, describing community-based support.

There are no deadlines for submissions. Nominations will be reviewed on a rolling basis as they are received by NOAA. Please note that a high volume of submission arriving at the same time may increase review timelines.

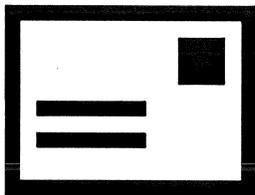
Nomination Submission

Nominations should be addressed to the Director of NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries and submitted by either:



Electronic

Submit nomination packages to: sanctuary.nominations@noaa.gov
(<mailto:sanctuary.nominations@noaa.gov>)



Mail

Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway
11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Nomination Preparation Checklist

Please make sure you have included the following four sections in your nomination package:

Section I - Basics

Nomination Title

Nominator Name(s) and Affiliation(s)

Nomination Point of Contact - Name, Phone, Email, Address

Section II - Introduction

Narrative Description – a brief overview of the nomination

Goals Description – a brief description of why you are nominating this area

Location Description – a brief overview of the area being nominated, please be as specific and descriptive as possible

Section III – Criteria Information

Provide detailed information on each of the criteria below that are relevant to your nomination.

Criteria 1

The area's natural resources and ecological qualities are of special significance and contribute to: biological productivity or diversity; maintenance or enhancement of ecosystem structure and function; maintenance of ecologically or commercially important species or species assemblages; maintenance or enhancement of critical habitat, representative biogeographic assemblages, or both; or maintenance or enhancement of connectivity to other ecologically significant resources.

Criteria 2

The area contains submerged maritime heritage resources of special historical, cultural, or archaeological significance, that: individually or collectively are consistent with the criteria of eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places; have met or which would meet the criteria for designation as a National Historic Landmark; or have special or sacred meaning to the indigenous people of the region or nation.

Criteria 3

The area supports present and potential economic uses, such as: tourism; commercial and recreational fishing; subsistence and traditional uses; diving; and other recreational uses that depend on conservation and management of the area's resources.

Criteria 4

The publically-derived benefits of the area, such as aesthetic value, public recreation, and access to places depend on conservation and management of the area's resources.

Section IV – Consideration Information

Provide as much detailed information as you are able on each of the seven consideration, with an emphasis on describing the community support (Consideration #7).

Consideration 1

The area provides or enhances opportunities for research in marine science, including marine archaeology.

Consideration 2

The area provides or enhances opportunities for education, including the understanding and appreciation of the marine and Great Lakes environments.

Consideration 3

Adverse impacts from current or future uses and activities threaten the area's significance, values, qualities, and resources.

Consideration 4

A national marine sanctuary would provide unique conservation and management value for this area or adjacent areas.

Consideration 5

The existing regulatory and management authorities for the area could be supplemented or complemented to meet the conservation and management goals for the area.

Consideration 6

There are commitments or possible commitments for partnerships opportunities such as cost sharing, office space, exhibit space, vessel time, or other collaborations to aid conservation or management programs for the area.

Consideration 7

There is community-based support for the nomination expressed by a broad range of interests, such as: individuals or locally-based groups (e.g., friends of group, chamber of commerce); local, tribal, state, or national elected officials; or topic-based stakeholder groups, at the local, regional or national level (e.g., a local chapter of an environmental organization, a regionally-based fishing group, a national-level recreation or tourism organization, academia or science-based group, or an industry association).

Questions

For general questions regarding the sanctuary nomination process, please contact:

Matt Brookhart

Chief, Policy & Planning Division

NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

1305 East-West Highway

11th floor

Silver Spring, MD 20910

sanctuary.nominations@noaa.gov (<mailto:sanctuary.nominations@noaa.gov>)

For specific interest in nominating areas:

Maine to North Carolina, or the Great Lakes

Reed Bohne

Northeast and Great Lakes Regional Director

NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

10 Ocean Science Circle

Savannah, GA 31411

reed.bohne@noaa.gov (<mailto:reed.bohne@noaa.gov>)

South Carolina to Florida, the Gulf of Mexico, or the Caribbean

Billy Causey, Ph.D.

Southeast Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Regional Director

NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries,

33 East Quay Rd,

Key West, FL 33040

billy.causey@noaa.gov (<mailto:billy.causey@noaa.gov>)

California to Alaska

William Douros

West Coast Regional Director

NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries,
99 Pacific Street
Suite 100F
Monterey, CA 93940
william.douros@noaa.gov (<mailto:william.douros@noaa.gov>)

Pacific Islands

Allen Tom

Pacific Islands Regional Director
NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
726 South Kihei Road
Kihei (Maui), HI 96753
allen.tom@noaa.gov (<mailto:allen.tom@noaa.gov>)

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement

Submittal of the information requested in these procedures is required for NOAA to consider a site for possible designation as a national marine sanctuary. This information is essential to evaluate the national significance of the area, management considerations of the area as a sanctuary, potential benefits of designation, and evaluate any environmental and socioeconomic impacts.

Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

[Home \(/\)](#) [Contact Us \(/guide.html#questions\)](#) [Site Map \(/sitemap.html\)](#)

[Disclaimer \(/disclaimer.html\)](#)

[Information Quality \(http://www.cio.noaa.gov/services_programs/info_quality.html\)](http://www.cio.noaa.gov/services_programs/info_quality.html)

[Freedom of Information Act \(http://www.rdc.noaa.gov/~foia/\)](http://www.rdc.noaa.gov/~foia/) [Privacy Policy \(/privacy.html\)](#)

[User Survey \(/survey.html\)](#)

Website owner: [National Ocean Service \(http://oceanservice.noaa.gov\)](http://oceanservice.noaa.gov) | [NOAA \(http://www.noaa.gov\)](http://www.noaa.gov) |
[Department of Commerce \(http://www.commerce.gov\)](http://www.commerce.gov)

Revised: September 18, 2014 | You are here: <http://www.nominate.noaa.gov/guide.html>

Attachment 4

RESOLUTION NO. 18-12

**STATEMENT OF CONTINUED OPPOSITION TO CREATION OF A
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY IN THE SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY
COASTAL AREA, AND CONTINUED OPPOSITION TO EXPANSION
OF THE MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
INTO THE SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY COASTAL AREA**

**THE CITY COUNCIL
City of Morro Bay, California**

WHEREAS, the City of Morro Bay opposes development of offshore oil and supports protection of the abundant natural resources of the San Luis Obispo coast; and

WHEREAS, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) has been created on the California Coast from Half Moon Bay to Cambria to stop any potential offshore oil development and to support natural resource protection through education, public participation and research; and

WHEREAS, the MBNMS management plan update process identified expansion of the MBNMS boundary to the San Luis Obispo coast as a mid level priority for future consideration; and

WHEREAS, the MBNMS Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) requested MBNMS staff to support formation of a committee in San Luis Obispo County to study MBNMS expansion to this area; and

WHEREAS, the City of Morro Bay supports the Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries and its recommendation for improving sanctuary program management through the management plan update process, which recommendations the City feels have not been adequately addressed in the sanctuary program overall; and

WHEREAS, the City supports commercial fishing, commercial fishing facilities and the infrastructure needed for our traditional working harbor community; and

WHEREAS, the National Marine Sanctuary program recently circulated a new fishing regulation coordination policy that clearly states the power of the sanctuary to regulate fishing; and

WHEREAS, despite what promises are made not to regulate fishing, when sanctuaries are created or expanded, this policy will result in sanctuary's becoming another regulatory agent in the already well regulated area of fishing; and

WHEREAS, National Marine Sanctuary programs and the commercial fishing industry have many common goals in education, pollution protection, opposition to offshore oil and creation of sustainable fishery, so that there is no reason why if managed with proper balance and sensitivity to traditional working harbor uses the sanctuary programs should not have positive working relationships with the commercial fishing industry and working harbor communities; and

WHEREAS, the National Marine Sanctuary program has not developed a positive working relationship or the support of commercial fishing and the working harbor communities in its California sanctuaries at this time; and

WHEREAS, the National Marine Sanctuary program does not permit the SAC to have anything other than an advisory role and controls the ability of the SAC to communicate with the public at large and with outside agencies; and

WHEREAS, the National Marine Sanctuary Program, as currently authorized, does not provide for a mechanism for local control of sanctuary programs and the current organization of the SAC does not adequately meet the needs of local community direction to the program; and

(3) **WHEREAS**, the City of Morro Bay approved Resolution 27-03 on April 28, 2003 which opposed the creation of a National Marine Sanctuary in the San Luis Obispo County Coastal Area and opposed the expansion off the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary in the San Luis Obispo County Coastal Area.

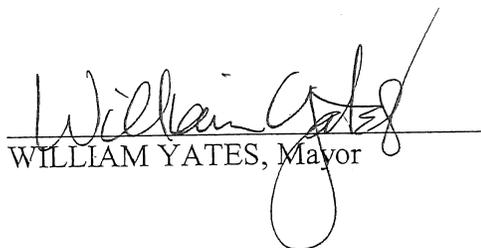
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Morro Bay that because the National Marine Sanctuary Program has not adequately resolved conflicts and concerns of the commercial fishing industry and traditional working harbor uses and because the National Sanctuary Act does not currently allow for a sanctuary designation with true local control, the City of Morro Bay continues to oppose the formation of a National Marine Sanctuary and expansion of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary in the waters of the San Luis Obispo County coast.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Morro Bay at a regular meeting held thereof on the 10th day of April 2012, by the following vote:

AYES: Borchard, Johnson, Leage, Smukler, Yates

NOES: None

ABSENT: None


WILLIAM YATES, Mayor

ATTEST:


JAMIE BOUCHER, City Clerk

Attachment 5

**NOAA'S REGULATION OF FISHING IN NATIONAL MARINE
SANCTUARIES**

JULY, 2008

This document describes how NOAA will administer the regulation of fishing in National Marine Sanctuaries as mandated by the National Marine Sanctuaries Act and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The regulatory processes under each authority are described in flowcharts followed by detailed text with emphasis on new efforts at integration indicated by italics.

Executive Summary

This document details how NOAA will administer the regulation of fishing in National Marine Sanctuaries as mandated by the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA) and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA). The regulatory processes under each act are described in flowcharts followed by detailed text with emphasis on new efforts at integration, collaboration and communication.

Parties involved in the processes:

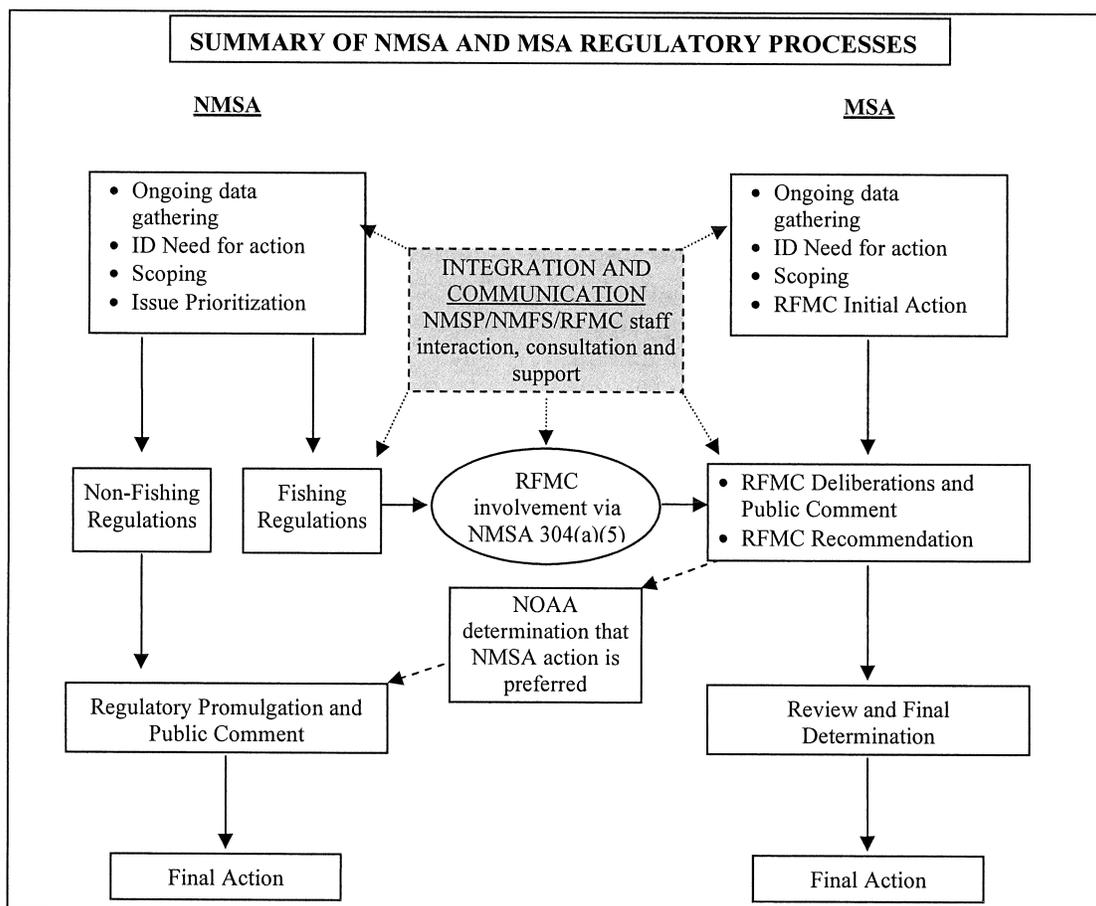
Primary Statutory Participants: NOAA National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP)
Sanctuary Advisory Councils
NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
Regional Fishery Management Councils (RFMC)

Government to

Government consultations: Federally recognized Indian Tribes

Public input/consultations:

States
Other Federal Agencies
Interested parties



Major Sections:

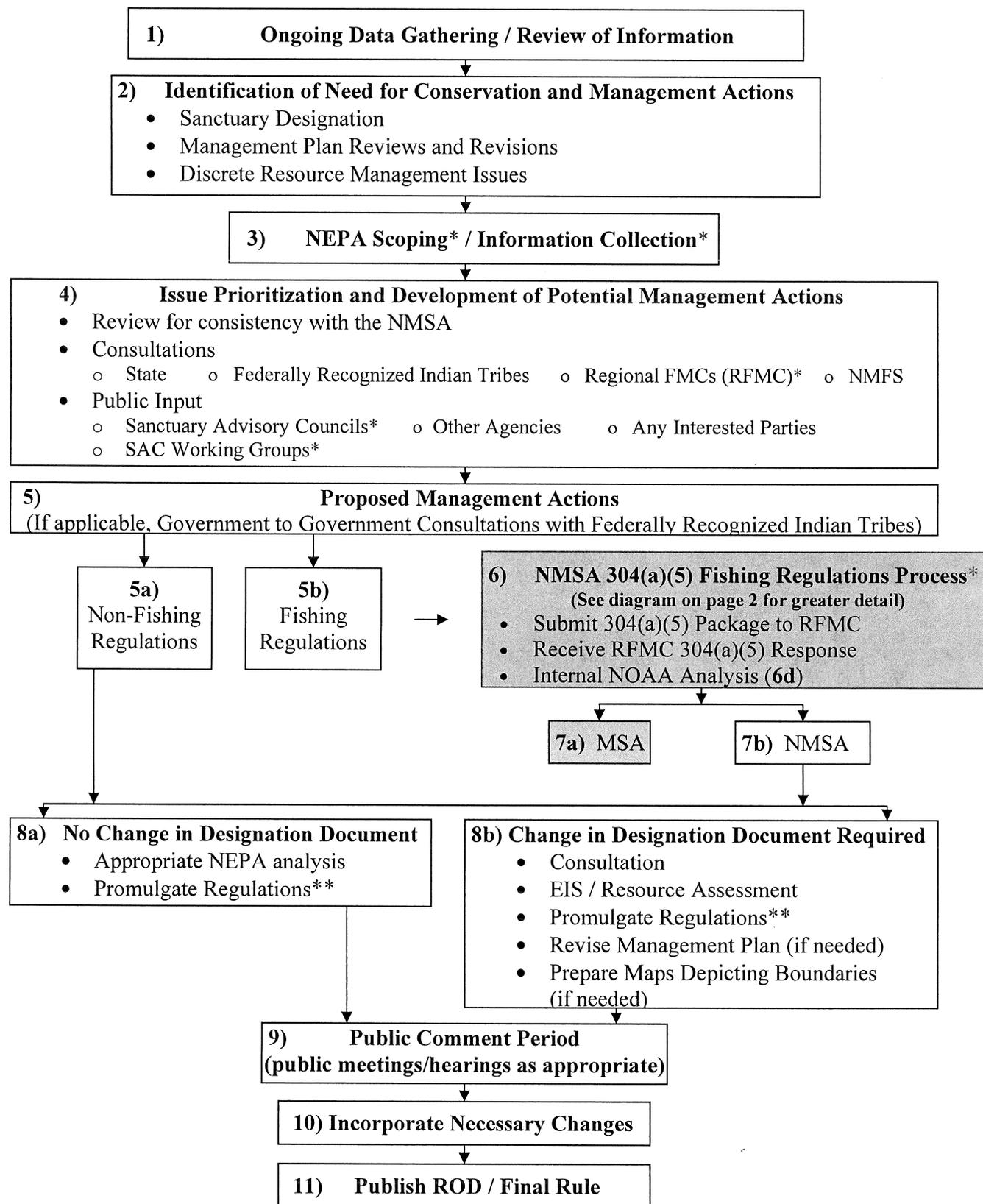
1. pp. 1-8. Flowchart and text describing the National Marine Sanctuaries Act regulatory process for addressing issues in National Marine Sanctuaries, with emphasis on the process for addressing fishing issues from initial concept through implementation.
2. pp. 9-13. Flowchart and text describing the Magnuson-Stevens Act Regulatory process. The flowchart and text traces a fishery management action under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) from initial concept through implementation.

Integration and Communication:

Overall, this document describes the efforts to improve coordination and communication among NMFS, NMSP and RFMCs. The document highlights opportunities for increased coordination, most of which are described below.

1. Frontloading - The first step in each flowchart is entitled, "Ongoing Data Gathering / Review of Information." This describes the concept of communicating in an ongoing fashion between NMFS, NMSP and RFMCs with respect to issues that may arise in a National Marine Sanctuary regarding fishing or issues that may arise before a Regional Fishery Management Council that may affect NMSP resources or sites.
2. Scoping - The third step in each flowchart includes this phase. NMSP will expressly notify and include personnel from NMFS and RFMCs in developing Goals and Objectives for NMSP action where fishing issues exist. RFMCs will expressly notify and include personnel from NMSP in Fishery Management Action Teams, which develop Action plans for fishing issues.
3. Action Development - NMFS/RFMC staff will invite NMSP staff to attend and participate at standing or specially appointed committee meetings regarding potential fishery management considerations that may affect sanctuary resources. Sanctuary Advisory Councils, which are established under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, often include NMFS or RFMC members.
4. RFMC actions regarding NMSP fishing issues - NMSP staff will ensure that adequate information is provided to the RFMC and will work to coordinate and clarify issues during the RFMC process as needed. Subsequently, NMFS staff will ensure that NMSP staff have received draft analyses for potential management actions that may affect sanctuary resources. The NMSP will also be given an opportunity to review any such documents for those RFMC actions developed to fulfill sanctuary goals and objectives.

National Marine Sanctuaries Act Regulatory Process

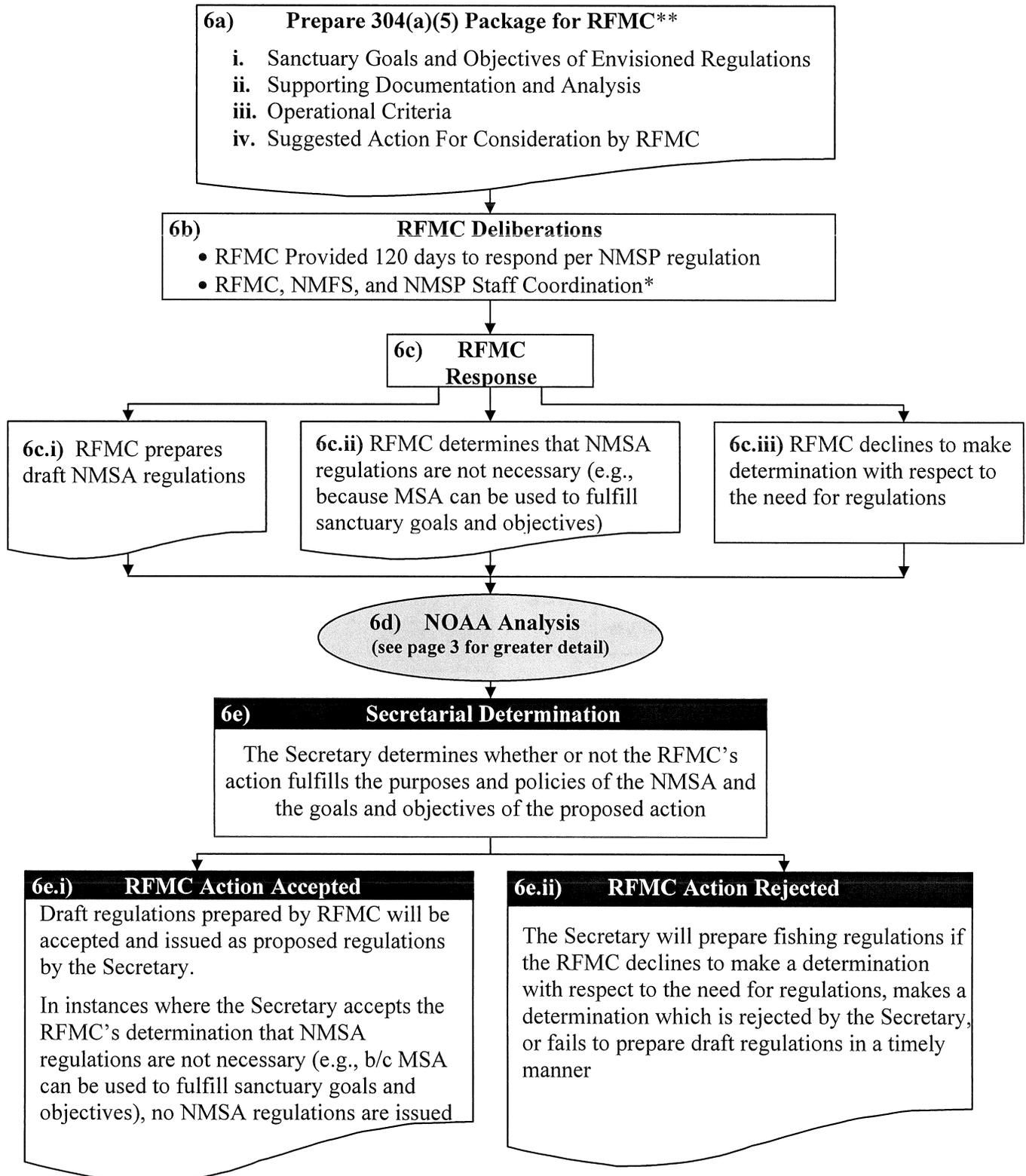


*These highlighted items represent specific steps in the process by which NOAA will actively engage the appropriate RFMC. Please see accompanying text for more detail.

**During final development of draft fishing regulations, staff of the NMSP, NMFS and RFMCs coordinate as appropriate to ensure that any resulting regulation fulfills sanctuary goals and objectives.

6) NMSA §304(a)(5) Fishing Regulations Process

(Expansion of Box 6 on page 1. When this process is complete return to 7a, 7b, or both – p.1)

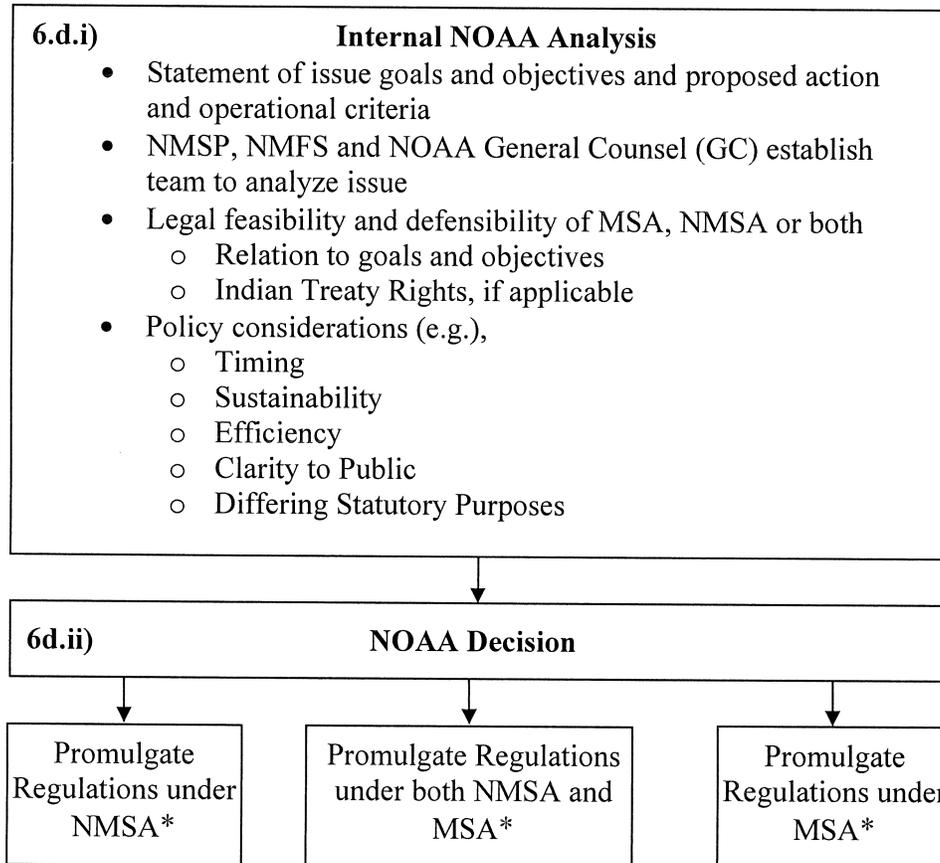


* This highlighted item is a step in the process by which NOAA will actively engage the RFMC. Please see accompanying text for more detail.

** These materials are developed from the Scoping and Issue Prioritization steps in the process.

6d) NOAA Analysis

(Expansion of Box 6d on page 2. When complete, return to 6e – p.2)



* During promulgation of regulations resulting from the NMSA 304(a)(5) process, staff of the NMSP, NMFS and RFMCs will coordinate as appropriate to ensure the resulting regulation fulfills its intended goals and objectives, regardless of the statute(s) under which it is promulgated. NOAA will ensure that any proposed regulations are consistent with Indian treaty fishing rights.

The flowchart graphically traces a National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA) as well as Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) action from initial concept through implementation. The following text bullets correspond to the numbered boxes on the flowchart and are intended to more fully explain the contents of the boxes and identify the points of consultation for three players (NOAA National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP), NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Regional Fishery Management Councils (RFMCs)) at the different stages in the generic process of developing fishing regulations, and decision criteria used in moving from one step to the next in the decision making process.

National Marine Sanctuaries Act Regulatory Process

- 1) **Ongoing Data Gathering / Review of Information.** *The NMSP collects information on an ongoing basis with regard to resource protection, resource use, issues of concern, etc. In an effort to increase “frontloading” with regard to issues involving fishing, the NMSP will seek out opportunities to engage the appropriate RFMC(s), NMFS Science Centers, NMFS Regional Offices, and other experts in ongoing data gathering and review of information in order to efficiently and effectively further adaptive management approaches through the application of state of the art science and policy.*
- 2) **Identification of Need for Conservation and Management Actions.** This represents the initial concept or idea stage of what may eventually develop into a proposed federal action. Three typical categories of actions are most often taken by NMSP: a proposed sanctuary designation, a sanctuary management plan review and revision, or a regulatory proposal that is developed in response to a discrete Sanctuary resource issue. An Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is required when a major federal action significantly affecting the human environment is taken under the NMSA, or when a change in a term of designation for the sanctuary is proposed.
- 3) **NEPA Scoping / Information Collection.** A scoping process is undertaken which includes community outreach, public meetings, and literature review. Scoping provides a framework for identifying environmental issues and coordinating with interested parties. *NMFS, the appropriate RFMC(s) established under the MSA and Federally Recognized Indian Tribes are identified among the interested parties and will be expressly notified at this step because of their role under the NMSA and fisheries expertise. Obtaining best available information, that is both high quality and composed of transparent data and methodology, is a primary goal in this stage of the process. It is here that early goal and objective consideration begins. NMFS and RFMC input in this process are critical to the successful development of final Goals and Objectives in the following step.*
- 4) **Issue Prioritization and Development of Potential Management Actions.** A Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) is charged by NOAA under the NMSA to advise throughout the process. Representatives from NMFS and the appropriate RFMCs are invited to be members of SACs or SAC Working Groups. *SACs are appointed to represent multiple stakeholders and provide advice and recommendations to NMSP management. NOAA in turn makes final determinations. The SAC prioritizes issues that may be addressed by the NMSP. The SAC may also form issue specific working groups to assist the SAC. For instance, if there are fishing issues associated with designation or management of a Sanctuary, a fisheries working group could be formed. Such working group could consist of representatives from NMFS (e.g., regional office and/or science center staff), the RFMCs, other agencies, Federally Recognized Indian Tribes, State marine resource management*

departments, the fishing industry, non-governmental environmental groups, and subject-matter experts and other interested parties. SAC working groups may be charged to develop potential management actions and recommendations to the SAC. The SAC in turn provides NMSP with recommendations. As a result of activities related to NMSP or SAC issue prioritization, an RFMC may pursue actions under the MSA. Refer to the Magnuson-Stevens Act Regulatory Process diagram for further description of the ensuing process. *NMSP draft goals and objectives are developed at this step for internal NOAA review, which includes another opportunity for NMFS comment.*

- 5) **NMSP Proposed Management Actions.** The recommendations provided by the SAC and interested Indian tribes are considered by the NMSP in its development of draft goals and objectives. The draft goals and objectives are ultimately reviewed within NOAA and become an agency statement of proposed goals and objectives for that sanctuary (“goals and objectives”). Because the draft goals and objectives become a statement of NOAA goals and objectives for that sanctuary, NOAA will conduct government to government consultation with any potentially affected federally recognized Indian tribe(s). These goals and objectives are the benchmark by which a RFMC recommendation under NMSA §304(a)(5) is assessed. Management recommendations normally come about through a SAC deliberative process as described in 4) above. The potential regulatory actions for a given sanctuary are divided into non-fishing and fishing actions (5a and 5b) by the NMSP prior to proceeding to the next step

6) **NMSA §304(a)(5) Regulatory Process**

6) Section 304(a)(5) of the NMSA requires that the appropriate RFMC(s) be given the opportunity to prepare draft regulations for fishing within the Exclusive Economic Zone of a sanctuary’s boundaries. When such regulations appear desirable, NOAA develops and presents a 304(a)(5) package to the appropriate RFMC(s). All of the materials provided to the RFMC(s) as part of the §304(a)(5) package are intended to help the RFMC make a determination of what would best fulfill the sanctuary goals and objectives. The entire package is reviewed and approved by NOAA and provided to the RFMC.

- a. **Prepare 304(a)(5) Package for RFMCs.** NOAA develops a §304(a)(5) package (package) and provides it to the appropriate RFMC(s). These materials are developed from the Scoping and Issue Prioritization steps in the process. Copies are made publicly available and given concurrently to the appropriate NMFS regional office(s). The package usually consists of, but is not limited to:
- i. **Sanctuary specific goals and objectives.** (Refer to boxes 3,4 and 5 for the process a sanctuary goes through to develop goals and objectives.)
 - ii. **Supporting documentation and analyses** come from a variety of sources including: literature and reports authored by the NOAA Science Centers or interagency and university scientists, notes and reports of the working group and SAC, data and/or analyses obtained via contract from consultants, NMSP assembled socio-economic and biological information, along with NMSP prepared GIS maps and relevant supporting information. *NOAA will ensure that adequate environmental and socioeconomic information is provided to the RFMC to inform them of the consequences of the “requested action”.*
 - iii. **Site-specific operational criteria** are developed and approved by NOAA (NMSP and NMFS staff) to better define the goals and objectives.

- iv. **Suggested action(s) for consideration by RFMC** is the recommended actions developed throughout the process of **NEPA Scoping / Information Collection (3)** and Issue Prioritization and Development of Potential Management Actions **(4)**.
- b. **RFMC Deliberations.** The RFMC is provided 120 days to respond to the 304(a)(5) package (15 CFR 922.22(b)). Extensions to this 120-day time limit may be, and often are, requested and granted to accommodate RFMC agendas and workloads. *During the 120-day period staff of RFMC, NMFS (e.g., regional office and/or science center staff) and NMSP may coordinate as necessary to clarify issues, address questions and provide preliminary feedback.*
- c. **RFMC Response.** The RFMC may take any of three actions at this point. The RFMCs will make their determination by following their standard operating procedures and certain MSA procedural requirements. The RFMC could:
- i) Prepare draft NMSA regulations. If the RFMC determines that regulations should be promulgated under the NMSA, the RFMC may prepare draft NMSA regulations and submit them to the NMSP. If the RFMC determines that regulations should be promulgated under the NMSA and the RFMC chooses not to provide draft regulations, then NOAA will draft the regulations. In either case, the RFMC may conduct such analyses as it considers helpful to making its determination. While the RFMC is not required to comply with all the MSA requirements for developing or amending an FMP (e.g., public notice and comment), it must rely on the MSA national standards as guidance to the extent that the standards are consistent and compatible with the goals and objectives of the proposed sanctuary designation or action. NOAA will develop the required NEPA and other analyses for the NMSA action.
 - ii) Determine that NMSA regulations are not necessary (e.g., the RFMC could recommend that sanctuary goals and objectives be fulfilled by the MSA or could recommend that no action be taken). *If the RFMC determines that sanctuary goals and objectives could be fulfilled under MSA, an explanation of the specific regulatory mechanisms, FMP changes, legal basis, and projected timeline should accompany its recommendation.*
 - iii) Decline to make a determination with respect to the need for regulations
- d. **NOAA Internal Analysis.** NOAA determines, through the following internal process, whether or not the RFMC's proposed action would fulfill sanctuary goals and objectives.
- i. **Analysis.** The internal NOAA analysis consists of NOAA NMSP, NMFS and GC staff examining the RFMC submission and determining whether the submission fulfills the sanctuary goals and objectives. As necessary, this team will analyze the feasibility and legal defensibility of the RFMC's proposed action. The team will also identify any relevant policy considerations (e.g., timeliness, sustainability, efficiency, clarity to the public, monitoring and research needs, and ease of enforcement) of the RFMC's proposed regulation(s).
 - ii. **NOAA Decision.** After the team considers all aspects of the analysis, it makes a recommendation regarding acceptance / rejection of the RFMC proposal. If unable to reach consensus, or if the recommendation is to reject a RFMC

proposal, the team would elevate the issue to the Assistant Administrators (AAs) of the National Ocean Service and NMFS for a decision, and to the Administrator of NOAA as appropriate.

- e. **Secretarial Determination**¹. Once the NOAA decision has been made regarding a RFMC submission, the §304(a)(5) process is concluded.
 - i. **RFMC Action Accepted.** If NOAA determines that draft NMSA regulations prepared by the RFMC fulfill the sanctuary goals and objectives and the purposes and policies of the NMSA, the regulations will be issued as proposed regulations for public comment. If the RFMC determines that NMSA fishing regulations are not necessary because sanctuary goals and objectives can be fulfilled by the MSA, and the Secretary accepts that recommendation, no NMSA regulations are proposed and regulations are pursued through the MSA regulatory process, if appropriate (see accompanying diagram and text).
 - ii. **RFMC Action Rejected.** If NOAA determines that a RFMC submission fails to fulfill the goals and objectives of the sanctuary and the purposes and policies of the NMSA, then NOAA will prepare proposed fishing regulations for the sanctuary. NOAA will communicate the decision to the RFMC and coordinate as appropriate with the RFMC on the development of the fishing regulations.

7a) Magnuson-Stevens Act Regulatory Process. If the NOAA analysis of fishing actions (6d) determines the appropriate course of action is to pursue the proposed action fully or partially under the MSA, then the appropriate regulations are pursued under the MSA process.

7b) NMSA Regulatory Process. If the NOAA analysis of fishing actions (6d) determines the appropriate course of action is to pursue the proposed action fully or partially under the NMSA, then the appropriate regulations and supporting documentation (e.g., NEPA, APA, Reg. Flex) are prepared by the NMSP, including any change to a sanctuary designation document (per NMSA paragraph 8).

8) Sanctuary Designation Document. A designation document is prepared as part of a sanctuary's designation process. The terms of designation are defined by the NMSA as: 1) the geographic area of a sanctuary; 2) the characteristics of the area that give it conservation, recreational, ecological, historical, research, educational or esthetic value; and 3) the types of activities that will be subject to regulation to protect those characteristics. A sanctuary can only prohibit or restrict an activity listed in its designation document. A sanctuary designation document can, however, be amended if a discrete resource management issue arises or during the routine sanctuary management plan review processes outlined in the NMSA.

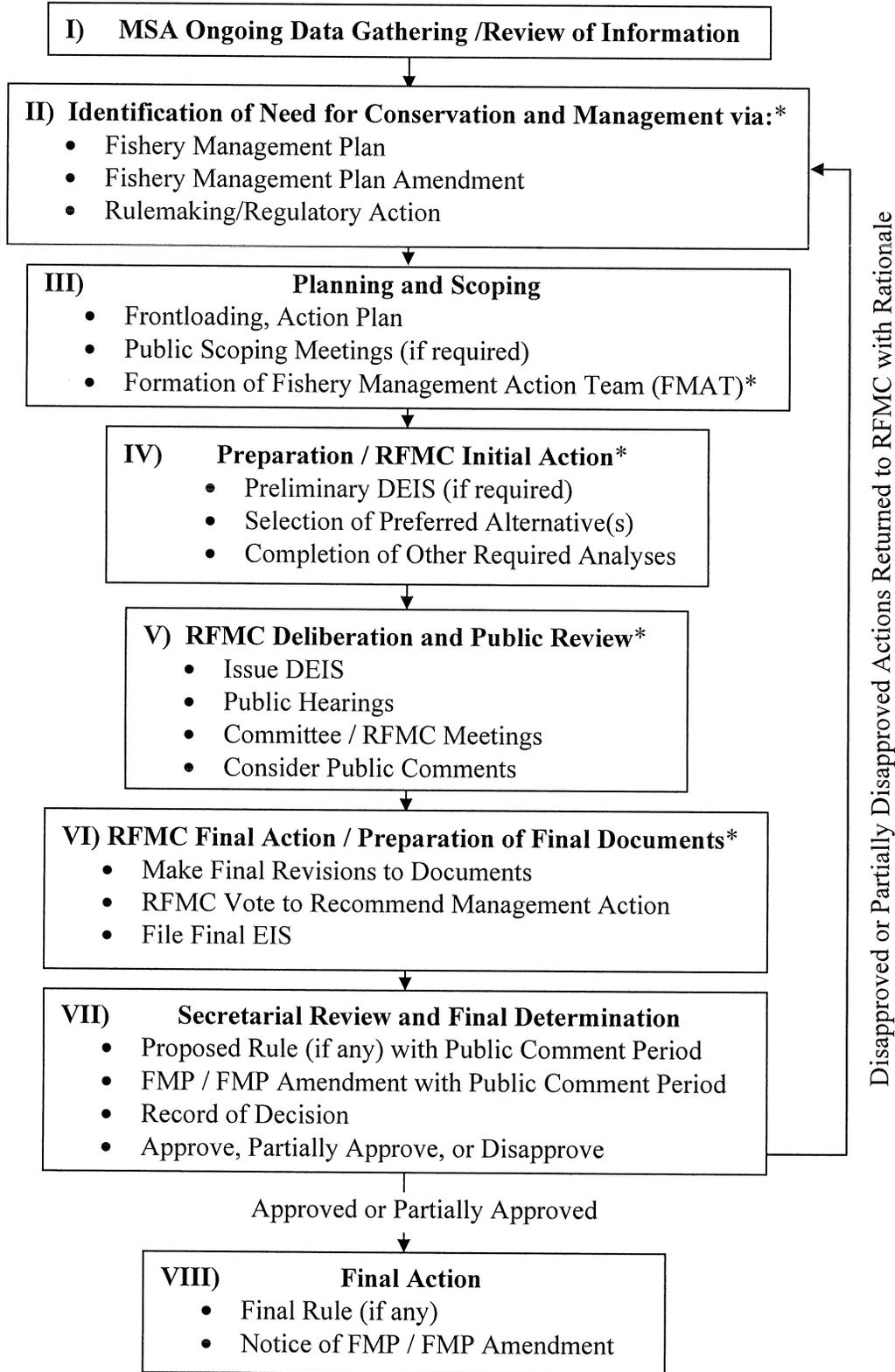
- a. **No Change Required in Designation Document.** If proposed regulations do not necessitate a change to the sanctuary's designation document, then the NMSP proceeds to promulgate regulations accompanied by the appropriate level NEPA analysis. *During final development of draft fishing regulations, staff of the NMSP, NMFS and RFMCs coordinate as appropriate to ensure that any resulting regulation fulfills sanctuary goals and objectives.*
- b. **Change Required in Designation Document.** Designation documents are changed following the applicable procedures for designation of a sanctuary (sections 303 and 304 of the NMSA). Some steps (e.g., consultation, draft EIS preparation) can be

¹ The Secretary's authority under the MSA and NMSA has been delegated to NOAA.

initiated as part of earlier actions under 4) Issue Prioritization and Development of Potential Management Actions. To issue a regulation prohibiting or restricting a fishing activity in a sanctuary for which a designation document does not have fishing as one of the activities subject to regulation, the sanctuary's designation document must be amended to include fishing as an activity subject to regulation. *During final development of draft fishing regulations, staff of the NMSP, NMFS and RFMCs coordinate as appropriate to ensure that any resulting regulation fulfills sanctuary goals and objectives.*

- 9) **Public Comment Period.** Publish the proposed rule, Notice of Availability of a draft environmental impact statement or environmental analysis, and amended sanctuary designation document (if one is being amended) in the *Federal Register* to start the public comment periods (minimum 45 days DEIS; proposed rules generally have a 60-day review period). Hold public meetings or hearings as appropriate and collect public comments.
- 10) **Incorporate Necessary Changes.** Consider the public comments and revise regulations and analyses as appropriate.
- 11) **Publish Final Rule.** Issue the Record of Decision (ROD) and the final rule. If a final EIS was prepared, the ROD and final rule are issued after the required 30-day wait period from publication of the Notice of Availability of a final EIS. If there is a change to the designation document, the change becomes effective after a period of 45 days of continuous session of Congress (NMSA §304(a)(6)). During this final 45-day review period the Governor (when state waters are included) has the opportunity to certify to NOAA that the change to the terms of designation is unacceptable, in which case the unacceptable change to the term of designation shall not take effect in that part of the sanctuary that is within the boundary of that State.

Magnuson Stevens Act Regulatory Process



*These highlighted items are steps in the process by which RFMC and NMFS will actively engage NOS. Please see accompanying text for more detail.

Magnuson Stevens Act Regulatory Process

MSA Process for the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. This flowchart traces a fishery management action under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) from initial concept through implementation. The following descriptions correspond to the numbered boxes on the flowchart and are intended to more fully explain the contents of the boxes and identify the points of consultation for three players (NOAA National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP), NMFS, and RFMCs) at the different stages in the generic process of developing fishery-related regulations.

As part of internal NMFS efforts to manage expectations and outcomes, the agency has developed draft Operational Guidelines^{2,3} that emphasize the importance of early involvement of interested parties and identification of issues (“frontloading”). The draft Operational Guidelines identify key phases and steps that apply to all MSA fishery management actions whether the action is a rule, an FMP or an FMP Amendment, and whether it will be supported by an Environmental Assessment (EA), Categorical Exclusion (CE), or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The flowchart depicts a summary of these key steps.

The time it takes a proposed fishery management action to be developed varies depending on the complexity of the proposal, resources available to conduct the analyses and draft the documents, and a multitude of other contingencies. Staff resources to prepare FMP/rulemaking activities are pooled between RFMC and NMFS to variable degrees across the six NMFS regions and eight RFMCs.

We note that an RFMC recommendation proceeding from the NMSA 304(a)(5) process would not necessarily follow the steps outlined for full-blown MSA-based rulemaking.

D) Ongoing Data Gathering / Review of Information: The MSA requires that RFMCs conduct regular public meetings, and submit periodic reports, and submit recommended management action⁴ for any fishery under their jurisdiction that requires conservation and management.

Typical routes of initiating FMP/rulemaking by a RFMC include:

- a) NMFS submits information pertinent to Federal fisheries to the appropriate RFMCs.
- b) Constituents, fishing industry representatives, agency staff, RFMC members, and/or non-governmental organization representatives write or testify to the RFMC of their concern and may request a particular action.
- c) Some actions get on a RFMC agenda due to acts of Congress, which may require specific actions within statutory time frames. NMFS has an intermediate role between the Executive

² Draft Operational Guidelines: For Development and Implementation of Fishery Management Actions. August 23, 2005. http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/domes_fish/OperationalGuidelines/DraftOGs_082405.pdf

³ NMFS has requested the Councils implement the Guidelines on a test basis. NOAA will review and consider revising this document as appropriate based on further decisions about implementation of the Guidelines and on other applicable procedures.

⁴ The term “fishery management actions” should be interpreted broadly to include a wide range of activities taken pursuant to the MSA, including proposed and final rulemakings, FMPs with no implementing regulations, and other substantive actions by the agency that promulgate or are expected to lead to the promulgation of a final rule or regulation, including notices of inquiry, and advance notices of proposed rulemaking.

Branch and the RFMC, and is ultimately responsible for deadlines and actions required by the Secretary of Commerce as a result of legislation.

In an effort to increase “frontloading” with regard to issues involving sanctuary resources NMFS will seek out opportunities to engage the appropriate NMSP staff. The NMSP may provide information about potential relevant fishery management considerations that may affect sanctuary resources. Early identification of such issues will permit RFMCs to begin assessing potential management actions for fisheries.

II) Identification of Need for Conservation and Management. This is the point at which a RFMC determines that there may be a need to recommend action and may begin assessing the need for fishery management measures. *NMFS staff and NMSP staff will coordinate on a continuing basis regarding potential management actions that may affect sanctuary resources or the need to regulate fishing within Sanctuaries.*

At this stage ideas are developed for a response to an identified fisheries conservation or management need. The types of major Federal actions typically undertaken by RFMCs include: A new fishery management plan (FMP); an Amendment to an already approved FMP; and regulatory actions developed in response to a discrete marine conservation or management issue. FMPs and FMP Amendments must be consistent with the MSA national standards and other applicable laws, several of which require analysis of alternatives. Although it infrequently begins sooner, in most cases the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process starts here.

III) Planning and Scoping.

The draft Operational Guidelines recommend the development of an “Action Plan” which describes objectives, resources, alternatives and applicable laws, prior to commencement of drafting the initial NEPA document. These Guidelines rely heavily on the concept of frontloading, which means the early involvement of all interested parties to address and resolve issues. The draft Operational Guidelines also recommend formation of a fishery management action team (FMAT) as a project management activity intended to identify and task those necessary to work on a particular action from the beginning. The FMAT will generally include representatives of the RFMC and NMFS, as well as other NOAA components and federal agencies, as necessary. *Draft Operational Guidelines will include “flags” to remind RFMCs that personnel from the NMSP will be invited to participate on FMATs regarding potential fishery management considerations that may affect sanctuary resources. Those regions not using FMATs should also involve the NMSP in early issue identification.*

Through deliberations of the FMAT, NOAA General Counsel, and agency NEPA advisors, determinations are made as to the appropriate MSA type of action (FMP or regulatory) and level of NEPA analysis (CE, EA, or EIS), or whether supplements or amendments to existing NEPA analyses are appropriate for compliance and any action necessary to comply with section 304(d) of the NMSA. *Section 304(d) of the NMSA requires federal agencies to consult on any federal action that is likely to destroy, cause the loss of, or injure any sanctuary resources. (Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary has a special standard, and consultation is required when a federal action “may affect” a sanctuary resource.)*

IV) Preparation / RFMC Initial Action. This step includes actions taken by preparers and the RFMC to complete preparation of the Draft NEPA analysis and all other required analyses.

Regulatory language, analyses and information collection requirements may be examined and preliminary estimates made of the costs and benefits of regulations depending on the nature of the proposed action and associated Federal permits, licenses, or other entitlements, and their respective accompanying analyses that will be required prior to implementation. RFMC standing committees or specially appointed committees may be asked by the RFMC to prepare components of actions for RFMC consideration. All meetings are advertised and open to the public, and public comments are taken each time an aspect of the proposed action appears on the agenda of the respective RFMC or one of its committees. *NMFS/RFMC staff will invite NMSP staff to attend and participate at standing or specially appointed committee meetings regarding potential fishery management considerations that may affect sanctuary resources.*

Preliminary Draft EIS: If schedules permit and the RFMC chooses, it may include a summary action, such as “Approve DEIS for Public Review” on the agenda. That would necessitate preparation and presentation of a preliminary DEIS to the RFMC (and public, because every action is open to the public).

Selection of Preferred Alternative: Because early identification of a preferred alternative facilitates compliance with the substantive requirements and procedural timelines of the MSA, ESA, and APA and other applicable law, the Draft Operational Guidelines encourage identification of the preferred alternative at the DEIS stage, though this is not always possible. *If consultation on a potential management action is required under §304(d) of the NMSA, it will be initiated at this stage, if it has not already been initiated.*

V) RFMC Deliberation and Public Review. Completed draft analyses are circulated for public review. *NMFS staff will ensure that NMSP staff have received draft analyses for potential management actions that may affect sanctuary resources. The NMSP would also be given an opportunity to review any such documents for those MSA actions developed from the NMSA 304(a)(5) regulatory process to fulfill sanctuary goals and objectives.* RFMC meetings or hearings are held to facilitate understanding of the documents, collect public comment and have RFMC deliberations. If deemed necessary, the NMSP shall provide NMFS with reasonable alternatives that will protect sanctuary resources. After public review and comment, the analysis documents are revised as necessary and provided to the RFMC.

VI) RFMC Final Action / Preparation of Final Documents. The RFMC holds a vote on the proposed action at a public meeting. After the RFMC votes to submit an action to the Secretary, RFMC and NMFS staff prepare the action document and any accompanying draft regulation and analyses for submission to the Secretary. It is anticipated that some work on the necessary supporting documentation will continue after the RFMC’s vote. However, if NOAA or the Council determines that the supporting analyses have been substantively changed at this point, the model in the Draft Operational Guidelines would call for reconsideration by the RFMC. All parts of a final EIS (FEIS) analysis must be completed and assembled prior to NMFS filing the FEIS with the EPA, who in turn publishes a Notice of Availability (NOA) of the FEIS in the *Federal Register*.

The MSA also requires that NMFS initiate formal public review of the RFMC’s proposed measures by publishing in the *Federal Register* the NOA of an FMP or FMP Amendment and/or the proposed rule to implement the RFMC’s recommendation. The NOA of an FEIS is different from a NOA of an FMP or FMP Amendment and is published in a different part of the *Federal Register*.

VII) Secretarial Review and Final Determination. The MSA limits the time for Secretarial review and decision on new FMPs and FMP Amendments to ninety days. NMFS must publish the NOA of the FMP or FMP Amendment immediately (within 5 days) of the transmittal date for a 60-day public comment period. The transmittal date is established by the NMFS Regional Administrator when all of the necessary documentation is determined to be complete.

The NMSP would be given an opportunity to review any such documents for those MSA actions developed from the NMSA 304(a)(5) regulatory process to fulfill sanctuary goals and objectives

Within 30 days of the close of the comment period, the agency must approve, partially approve, or disapprove the RFMC's recommendation. A Record of Decision is issued at this time. The determination to approve, partially approve, or disapprove is made by reference to the MSA's National Standards, other provisions of the MSA and other applicable law.

Approved: If a FMP or FMP Amendment is found to comply with the ten National Standards, contain all the required FMP components, and otherwise comply with all applicable laws and E.O.s, it is approved and the process is complete but for final publication of the regulations.

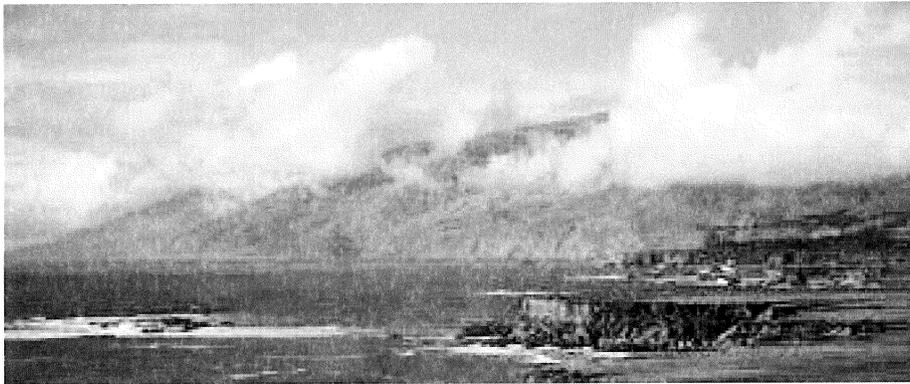
Disapproved or Partially Approved: If an FMP or FMP Amendment does not comply with the ten National Standards, contain all the required FMP components, and otherwise comply with all applicable law, it is disapproved. The NMFS Regional Administrator must specify in writing to the RFMC the inconsistencies of the FMP or FMP Amendment with the MSA and/or other applicable laws, the nature of inconsistencies, and recommendations for actions to make the FMP or FMP Amendment conform to applicable laws. If the RFMC is not notified within 30 days of the end of the comment period on the FMP or FMP Amendment of the approval, disapproval, or partial approval, such FMP or FMP Amendment shall take effect as if approved. If an FMP or FMP Amendment is disapproved or partially approved, the RFMC may resubmit a revised FMP or FMP Amendment and revised proposed rule, where applicable.

VIII) Final Action. For approved actions or partially approved actions a notice of availability of the final FMP or FMP amendment is issued and final regulation (if any) is published.

Attachment 6

**The Potential Economic Impacts of the
Proposed Central Coast National Marine Sanctuary**

**Prepared for the Sierra Club of California
By Jason Scorse, Ph.D. and Judith Kildow, Ph.D.
September 2014**



i. Acknowledgments

The authors want to thank William Douros, Western Regional Director of National Marine Sanctuaries, for providing important financial information about sanctuary budgets; student assistant Maren Gardiner Farnum, for her research and analytical work; Professor Gary Griggs for providing information about marine institutional budgets in the Monterey Crescent; Deirdre Whalen and other Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary staff members for providing a range of information on tourism and other sanctuary activities that we could never have gotten without their assistance. We also want to thank Sarah Carr of EBM Tools Listserve and everyone who contributed citations per her request, for helping to compile our extensive bibliography on the economics of MPAs.

ii. Executive Summary

The U.S. National Marine Sanctuary designation process is being reopened after 20 years, and coastal communities across the country are being encouraged to submit nominations. In response, there is a proposal for a new California Central Coast Marine Sanctuary, stretching from the Channel Islands to the northern tip of San Luis Obispo County. This report provides our best estimates from available and extrapolated information, of the potential economic impact on San Luis Obispo County, if this proposed National Marine Sanctuary becomes a reality.

Communities seek Sanctuary designation for many reasons, including the preservation of unique cultural and natural resources, permanent prevention of offshore oil and gas development, or improving their local economies. This report focuses on the economic impacts possible from such a designation. Our results show that overall, the proposed Central Coast National Marine Sanctuary could add, at minimum 23 million dollars per year to the local economy and create almost 600 new jobs.

Our estimates draw from four channels of revenue and job generation we investigated:

1. Government expenditures on Sanctuary offices, staff, and infrastructure, as well as additional research money raised by Sanctuary staff
2. Money raised by local NGOs and academics to conduct Sanctuary-related research
3. Increased coastal tourism and the increases in relevant business revenues from it (due to both market signaling and improved ocean and coastal resource stewardship)
4. Increased property values, property taxes, and business, local, state and federal tax revenues due to Sanctuary proximity

It is important to note that these totals are conservative estimates and depend on the extent to which a) the Sanctuary staff aggressively market the unique natural, cultural, and historic resources as a focal point for preservation and education, b) the local tourist industry markets the Sanctuary, c) academics and NGOs seek to leverage the Sanctuary for research funding, d) the amounts of funding forthcoming from the Federal Government, and e) the extent to which Sanctuary policies lead to tangible improvements in coastal ecosystems.

A byproduct of this work is an appendix with an extensive bibliography of relevant literature, which we compiled to ensure we used all available information for this report.

We hope our report will serve to better inform the local community and help to determine whether the major effort required to submit a nomination for a new Sanctuary designation is in the region's best interests.

The Potential Economic Impacts of the Proposed Central Coast National Marine Sanctuary

By Jason Scorse, Ph.D. and Judith Kildow, Ph.D.¹

September 2014

1. Introduction

The U.S. National Marine Sanctuary designation process is being reopened after 20 years, and coastal communities across the country are being encouraged to submit nominations. When an area is ultimately chosen as a National Marine Sanctuary, a federal regulatory apparatus is immediately conferred on the areas within the new jurisdiction, along with the establishment of a local Sanctuary office and accompanying staff; and site-specific rules are put in place. The regulations that accompany a new Sanctuary both restrict specific ocean and coastal activity (i.e. oil and gas development), and provide opportunities for increased monitoring and research, education, partnerships, and incentives for more sustainable ocean and coastal management. There are myriad reasons why communities might seek a Sanctuary designation, including the preservation of unique cultural and natural resources, or to permanently prevent offshore oil and gas development.

It is beyond the scope of this paper to conduct a comprehensive economic assessment of the benefits of National Marine Sanctuary designations, or outline what such a study would entail. From our literature review, it is clear that no such analyses currently exist that could be extrapolated to the proposed Central Coast National Marine Sanctuary. Fortunately, there are means by which to provide some hard figures that are reasonable and defensible as to the likely economic impacts of a new Sanctuary for the economy of San Luis Obispo, County.² We

¹ Dr. Scorse is the Director of the Center for the Blue Economy at the Monterey Institute of International Studies (a Graduate School of Middlebury College) and Dr. Kildow is the Director of the National Ocean Economics Program at the Center for the Blue Economy.

² According to the sanctuary proposal, the Central Coast National Marine Sanctuary will directly border the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary to the south and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary to the north. It will span California's central coast from approximately 11 miles south of Point Conception to one mile north of Point Estero. This area encompasses all but seven miles of the northern coast of San Luis Obispo County and, while

estimate that overall the proposed Central Coast National Marine Sanctuary will add at minimum many millions of dollars per year to the local economy and the creation of hundreds of jobs.

In Section II, we discuss the various channels through which a new Sanctuary designation could help the regional economy within the Central Coast National Marine Sanctuary jurisdiction; in Section III we use available data and existing research to make some conservative projections as to the potential amount of new revenue and jobs that Sanctuary designation would likely bring to San Luis Obispo, County; in Section IV we provide a summary of the potential economic benefits; and in Section V we offer some concluding remarks.

II. Potential Benefits of Sanctuary Designation to Local Economies

There are both direct and indirect ways Sanctuary Designation can impact local economies. The primary direct economic impact is through the establishment of a new local Sanctuary office with an annual budget and staff, and often, new infrastructure. Some examples include: 1) The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Visitor Center and Education Facility, which opened in Santa Cruz in 2012, and contributed \$10.9 million to the local economy,³ and 2) in 2005 the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary began building new offices and research facilities on the UC-Santa Barbara campus—adding \$8.2 million to that community—and the Sanctuary continues to receive funding to complete a public education and outreach center, which is currently under construction.⁴

it does include roughly 30 miles of northern Santa Barbara County, the majority of that distance is within the Vandenberg Air Force Base, and not accessible by the public for recreational purposes and has a relatively insignificant residential population. Therefore, the Central Coast National Marine Sanctuary will mostly comprise San Luis Obispo County, which is the main unit of analysis for this study.

³ These values are in \$US 2010. These are the following citations for this information: U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Sanctuary Program, 2008; Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Management Plan, Silver Spring, MD. pp. 231-235; Staff, Office of Sam Farr, United States Congress. June 25, 2008. “Funding for local ocean projects advances”.

<http://farr.house.gov/index.php/newsroom/press-releases-archive/2008-press-releases/396-june-25-2008-funding-for-local-ocean-projects-advances>; Douros, Bill. 2014. Personal Communication.

⁴These values are in \$US 2010. These are the following citations for this information: Staff, Public Affairs and Communications Office for UC Santa Barbara, March 1, 2005, “New Marine Science Building Receives Federal Funds to House Marine Sanctuary Offices”. <http://www.ia.ucsb.edu/pa/display.aspx?pkey=1256>.; U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Sanctuary Program, 2008. Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Management Plan / Final Environmental Impact Statement. Silver

Apart from the direct federal expenditures given to maintain Sanctuary offices, programs, and staff, those staff often bring in additional outside money from foundations and other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) interested in ocean and coastal research and management. In addition, local NGOs and academics benefit in their grant fundraising by being able to solicit money for Sanctuary-related projects.

In most of the 14 current National Marine Sanctuaries, tourism is one of the largest sectors of the local economy. Millions of visitors are drawn to these areas for their beaches, recreational fishing, diving, snorkeling, surfing, fishing, wildlife viewing, and museums and aquariums.⁵ Much of this tourism would exist even without Sanctuary designation, but there are two ways in which it can increase it. The first is by simply signaling to the wider community that the resources in the particular area governed by the Sanctuary are special and worthy of a trip. The designation also provides an opportunity for promotion and marketing, a signal that something special is in the region that is worth visiting. Over the longer term, the extent to which Sanctuary regulations and management policies protect and improve the conservation of the region's ocean and coastal resources can help maintain and increase tourist visitation rates, along with the economic benefits they bring (Osso 2014). Finally, since National Marine Sanctuaries permanently prohibit oil and gas drilling and development, they remove the risks—and associated economic costs—of any potential environmental damages these activities might cause.

The extent to which Sanctuary designation preserves coastal resources can also translate into higher home values, and correspondingly higher local property tax revenue. It is well established

Spring, MD. p. 87.; Tim Schmidt, August 14, 2014, Office Manager, Marine Science Institute at UC Santa Barbara, Personal Communication; Bill Douros, 2014, Personal Communication.

⁵ In 2013 there were 69.8 million international visitors to the United States and the top four states visited were all coastal (New York, Florida, California, and Hawaii). Klein, et al. (2004) demonstrated that tourism-related earnings as a percentage of total earnings are highest in coastal counties (i.e. the location quotient for tourism in these counties is much higher - 1.82 and above - than it is in non-coastal counties). These figures are evidence that coastal areas of the United States and their associated recreational activities are a major draw for tourists. U.S. Department of Commerce, Office of Travel and Tourism Industries, "International Visitation to the United States: 2013 U.S. Travel and Tourism Statistics (Inbound)" Revised May 2014. Accessed September 03, 2014. http://travel.trade.gov/outreachpages/inbound_general_information.inbound_overview.html; Klein, Y.L., J.P. Osleeb, and M.R. Viola. 2004. Tourism-Generated Earnings in the Coastal Zone: A Regional Analysis. *Journal of Coastal Research*: 20(4):1080–1088.

by econometricians that proximity to beaches and ocean views contributes tremendous value to home prices. One only need look at the prices of homes with ocean views and direct beach access and compare them to the prices of almost identical homes a few blocks away to see how much people are willing to pay for these attributes. In fact, in many areas of California an unobstructed ocean view can add a premium as much as a million dollars to the price of a home (Kildow 2009). It is reasonable to expect that the cleanliness of the beaches, more abundant coastal wildlife, and the lack of view obstruction by oil rigs and mining vessels, (which are prohibited in Sanctuaries) also lead to higher home values. The extent to which Sanctuaries provide these services determines how much incremental value they add to regional real estate, along with the additional tax revenues.

To summarize, the economic benefits to local communities from Sanctuary designation can be generated through the following four channels:

1. Government expenditures on Sanctuary offices, staff, and infrastructure, as well as additional research money raised by Sanctuary staff
2. Money raised by local NGOs and academics to conduct Sanctuary-related research
3. Increased coastal tourism and the increases in relevant business revenues from it (due to both market signaling and improved ocean and coastal resource stewardship)
4. Increased property values, property taxes, and business, local, state and federal tax revenues due to Sanctuary proximity

In the next section we will examine the extent to which economic projections for the impacts of the proposed Central Coast National Marine Sanctuary in San Luis Obispo, County can be estimated for these four categories, using data on existing Sanctuaries and other research as a guide. We will also apply the appropriate employment multipliers to determine the overall job impacts.

III. Estimating the Economic Impacts of the proposed Central Coast National Marine Sanctuary Designation

III.1. Government expenditures

The most immediate and direct economic impact of any National Marine Sanctuary designation is the new government revenue brought to the region to establish a local Sanctuary office. William Douros, the West Coast Regional Director of the NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, provided us with data on the budgets for the four California National Marine Sanctuaries—Monterey Bay, Channel Islands, Cordell Bank, and Gulf of the Farallones—from the most recent decade, 2005-2014. The data includes the total operating budget, the construction budget, the number of staff, as well as the number of volunteer hours per year. Table 1 includes the averages for all four California Sanctuaries over the past decade, with all values in \$2010. These figures can help us estimate the expected direct economic benefits of a new Sanctuary Office in San Luis Obispo, County if the proposed Central Coast Sanctuary were established.

Table 1: National Marine Sanctuaries of California – Average Annual Budgets Per Sanctuary, 2005-2014.

Total Operating Budget	\$1,852,000
Construction Funds	\$1,022,000
No. of Paid Staff (Federal & Contracted)	18
Staff Wages	\$1,647,000
Volunteers: Hours/No.	11,769
External Funds (e.g. research grants)	\$491,000
Total Average Annual Spending	\$3,365,000

The four California Sanctuaries are very different. The Channel Islands Sanctuary is far from the mainland, the Monterey Bay Sanctuary is adjacent to a large population with a robust tourist economy, while Cordell Bank and the Gulf of the Farallones Sanctuaries are directly adjacent to each other and border much less dense populations. Therefore, it is difficult to extrapolate any of these figures directly to the proposed Central Coast Sanctuary. We believe that taking the average of all four is a reasonable first approximation of any new government spending that would come to San Luis Obispo, County to establish and operate a new Sanctuary office. We also believe that taking the average of the last three years’ budgets is a reasonable predictor of the future fiscal situation.

Using averages from 2012-2014, we project that a new Central Coast Sanctuary would have a total annual budget of approximately \$1,767,000,⁶ a staff of 16, and attract outside grants of about \$410,000 per year. Based on revenue and employment multipliers derived from IMPLAN, this direct spending would lead to an additional \$1,088,500²⁸ economic activity and 28 additional jobs in San Luis Obispo, County for a total of economic impact of \$3,265,500 and 44 new jobs. These total economic impacts are expected to be sustained indefinitely. However, given the unpredictability of the federal budget, it is difficult to know how this budget will change with any precision over time.

⁶ It is important to note that this represents a large drop when compared to the 10-year average because most of the construction spending for the big infrastructure projects was budgeted in many years ago. Again, this means that our estimates should be viewed as a lower bound.

In addition, we estimate that the proposed Central Coast Sanctuary would be able to attract 14,083 hours annually of volunteer time. Volunteers provide tangible services to a community; for example, as wildlife docents, or even cleaning beaches, which would otherwise cost money and can boost tourism revenue. Individuals get satisfaction from volunteering, as people are eager to invest in their local community, which can lead to real economic value that is measurable in the form of consumer surplus.⁷

III.2 Money Raised by Local NGOs and Academics to Conduct Sanctuary-Related Research

The presence of a Sanctuary in a community provides local NGOs and academics an opportunity to attract outside funding to do Sanctuary-related research. Much of this money is likely spent in the local community. However, there is almost no data collected on this outside funding, and even if there were, it would be difficult to determine how much of this money was awarded solely due to Sanctuary designation.

We were able to obtain data from Gary Griggs, Distinguished Professor of Earth Sciences at UC-Santa Cruz, who has collected information for many years on the research institutions within the Monterey Bay Crescent (representing a large share of the area covered by the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary). His work includes data on total budgets and staff, and in addition, for the years 2010 and 2014 he compiled data on total outside funding raised by the majority of these institutions.

It is important to note that the bulk of the outside funding in the Monterey Bay Region comes from two institutions: The Monterey Bay Aquarium (MBA) and the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI).⁸ It is best to examine the total funding with and without these two institutions, as they are unique to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and unlikely to

⁷ Consumer surplus is the amount of economic value that consumers derive from resources above and beyond what they paid for that good. For example, if beach visitation is a free activity, consumers can still receive economic value from this activity that can be measured based on the maximum that they are willing to pay for beach access. The same goes with volunteering; the sense of community participation has an economic value that can be estimated. A contingent valuation study could be undertaken to determine this value.

⁸ This excludes the large budget of Fleet Numeric that is unpublished.

be reproduced adjacent to a new Central Coast Sanctuary. In 2010 and 2014 the total outside funding in \$2010 raised by Monterey Bay Crescent Research Institutions, both with and without MBA and MBARI was \$150,700,000 in 2010 with MBA and MBARI, and \$60,700,000 without. In 2014, external funding including MBA and MBARI was \$168,064,000 and \$53,246,000 without it.

Without detailed interviews of staff at the participating institutions and a thorough review of their research proposals, it is impossible to determine what percentage of these grants was awarded because this research was conducted within a National Marine Sanctuary. Nonetheless, one can use these figures as a guide to a likely upper bound of what could be raised by local research organizations that could conduct Sanctuary-related research in any new California Sanctuary. The proposed area for the new Central Coast National Marine Sanctuary includes research institutions, such as California Polytechnic State University, and Morro Bay National Marine Estuary (one of only 28 EPA-supported Estuaries in the nation), which could become anchors for the research and monitoring that accompany Sanctuary designations and attract significant outside funding. If even as little as 10% of the funds raised in Monterey were due to Sanctuary designation and if the local Central Coast research institutions could only raise half as much money annually as in Monterey Bay, this would represent \$2-3 million in new money spent for research in San Luis Obispo, County.

III.3. Increased Coastal Tourism

There are many variables that impact tourism (i.e. infrastructure, range of activities and services, weather, alternative and substitute sites, along with larger macroeconomic trends). Complicating matters even further, it is complicated to draw a clear causal link between Sanctuary policies and any improved quality of the natural environment—which could potentially be linked to increased tourism—and no current research makes this connection.⁹

⁹ It is possible that for the new Central Coastal Sanctuary researchers could establish a benchmark set of tourism data before the sanctuary is designated, track the tourism estimates once the designation occurs, track predetermined environmental indicators before and after designation, and after some years attempt to make a connection between environmental changes and tourist numbers that account for other variables that could have affected both.

However, the Sanctuary designation does confer a signal to the broader public that the region in question has unique and valuable resources that are attractive to large segments of the tourism market. In many ways, Sanctuary designation is similar to UNESCO World Heritage site designation in that both are relatively rare (there are only 1007 UNESCO sites in the entire world), provide opportunities for more sustainable management and preservation of both cultural and natural resources, and provide a market signal that may be attractive to tourists.

Fortunately, some excellent work on the tourism impacts associated with UNESCO Heritage Site designation has been carried out by Rebanks Consulting Ltd. and Trends Business Research Ltd. (2009) that is applicable to our understanding of the Sanctuary designation. In their report entitled, “World Heritage Status: Is there an opportunity for economic gain?”, the authors find that UNESCO Heritage Site status does not automatically confer significant tourism benefits on surrounding local communities, but that it does if the communities make a point of using the new status as part of a broader marketing effort. This latter point is key to understanding what the economic impacts of the Central Coast Sanctuary might be on the local tourism industry.

If the new designation is used as an opportunity to increase the visibility of the San Luis Obispo, County coastal region and extol its unique and attractive features — thereby creating a new “brand identity” — there is the potential to have a significant tourism impact. For example, research at a coastal UNESCO site in Nova Scotia suggests that designation led to a 6.2% increase in tourism in the immediate years following designation (Kayahan and Blarcom 2012). The Rebanks Consulting and Trends Business Research study also presents case studies where tourism revenues increased from approximately 5% to as much as 45% in communities that took the opportunity to increase and improve marketing and branding.

Currently, there is no uniform national marketing strategy for National Marine Sanctuaries, and each Sanctuary is left to determine its own outreach efforts to the local community. For this paper, we conducted our own survey of local businesses along the Monterey Bay and discovered that many Monterey Bay Area tourist operators believe that the Sanctuary is a tourist draw; 63% of outdoor recreational businesses on the coast directly advertise the Sanctuary in their materials (of the 27 tour operators, 18 (67%) cited the Sanctuary on their web page), and 14% of coastal

hotels cite the Sanctuary as a reason to come visit.¹⁰ If efforts such as these were made, the Central Coast Sanctuary could reap even greater tourism benefits because of its unique cultural and historic significance.

The most comprehensive study to date on changes over time in tourism activities within a National Marine Sanctuary, conducted by Leeworthy (2010) in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, showed that while almost all coastal tourism in the Sanctuary decreased between 1995 and 2007, visitation to museums and historic areas increased dramatically by 48%, from 837,181 visitors in 1995 to 1,242,717 visitors in 2007. This increase is incredibly large and stands out from the data, representing by far the greatest absolute change in visitation patterns in the Florida Keys Sanctuary.

We estimate that with a significant investment in marketing and education to potential tourists, the establishment of the proposed Central Coast Sanctuary could increase tourism in San Luis Obispo, County by at least 5%, with a much greater increase if special marketing was done to promote new museums and sites of historic and cultural significance. Given that average tourism revenues over the past three years for which data are available (2009-2011), were \$235,419,549 (in \$2010) and employment 6,685, a 5% increase would provide an annual economic impact of \$11,770,977 in new tourism revenue for the local community, and 334 new jobs.¹¹ Using the multipliers derived from IMPLAN, this would lead to an additional \$6,474,037 in revenue generated and 213 additional jobs for a total economic impact of \$18,245,014 and 547 new jobs.

¹⁰ Our survey focused on accommodations within two miles of the shore, and all marine recreation tour operators and retail stores in Monterey County. The Monterey County Convention & Visitors Bureau website, <http://www.seemonterey.com/>, provided a current master list of all relevant businesses. Of 165 coastal accommodations surveyed, 24 (14%) directly advertised the presence of the MBNMS, 98 (59%) advertised Monterey Bay's unique marine wildlife, and 94 (57%) advertised recreational activities associated the MBNMS, such as whale watching, ocean kayaking, and SCUBA diving. There were a total of 35 tour operators and retail stores in Monterey County linked to marine recreation activities within the Sanctuary; 22 (63%) of these businesses advertised the MBNMS. Of the 27 tour operators, 18 (67%) cited the Sanctuary on their web page.

¹¹ National Ocean Economics Program. "Market Data: Coastal Economy Data." <http://oceanomics.org/Market/coastal/coastalEcon.asp>. Revised July 2014. Accessed July 29, 2014.

III.4. Increased Property Values and Property Taxes Due to Sanctuary Proximity

Ocean views are tremendously valuable, and anything that degrades them is often met with fierce opposition, as evidenced by the huge battles over the siting of offshore wind farms on the East Coast.¹² If it could be demonstrated that the proposed Central Coast Sanctuary designation would prevent the degradation of ocean views by prohibiting the siting of offshore oil and gas rigs that would likely get built without the Sanctuary designation, these “avoided costs” could be calculated and would likely be large. Property values would likely decrease in the event of the presence of these large offshore structures and/or appreciate at a slower rate into the future and the cumulative impact, plus the lower property taxes that would result, could be large. In addition, the extent to which Sanctuaries improve the environmental quality of the coastal environment could translate into higher home values as well.

As there are currently no proposed permits for offshore drilling, the impact of prohibition on this activity is beyond the scope of this paper to quantify at this time. In addition, without more ecological data on the impact of Sanctuary policies it is not possible to fully value the environmental amenities they augment.

It is important to emphasize that just because we are not able to estimate economic values for these two potential benefits of Sanctuary designation, does not mean that they do not exist; it just means that the research and data don't exist to provide hard numbers.

¹² McDonnell, Tim, Top 4 Reasons the US Still Doesn't Have a Single Offshore Wind Turbine, Mother Jones, February 27, 2013, <http://www.motherjones.com/blue-marble/2013/02/us-rough-seas-offshore-wind>.

IV. Summary of Potential Economic Impacts of a New Central Coast National Marine Sanctuary

Table II summarizes the potential economic impacts for San Luis Obispo, County of a new Central Coast Sanctuary (\$2010):

Type of Economic Impact	Magnitude	Confidence Level
1. Government Expenditures		
Direct local revenue	\$1,767,000	High
- Indirect revenue	\$883,500	Medium-High
Outside grants	\$410,000	Medium
- Indirect revenue	\$205,000	Low - Medium
Direct local jobs	18	High
- Indirect jobs	26	Medium-High
Volunteer hours	14,083	Medium
2. Money Raised by Outside NGOs and Academics	Lower bound \$2-3 million	Medium
3. Increased Coastal Tourism		
Direct local revenue	\$11,770,977	Medium
- Indirect revenue	\$6,474,037	Low - Medium
Local jobs	337	Medium
- Indirect jobs	213	Low - Medium
4. Increased Property Values	N/A	N/A
Totals	Revenue: \$23,305,514+ (direct and indirect) Jobs: 594+ Volunteer hours: 14,083+	Medium Medium Medium

It is important to note that all of these are conservative estimates and much of the overall economic impact from a new Central Coast Sanctuary will be dependent on the extent to which a) the Sanctuary staff aggressively market the unique natural, cultural, and historic resources as a focal point for preservation and education, b) the local tourist industry markets the Sanctuary, c) academics and NGOs seek to leverage the Sanctuary for research funding, d) the amounts of funding forthcoming from the Federal Government, and e) the extent to which Sanctuary policies lead to tangible improvements in coastal ecosystems.

V. Conclusion

Estimating the economic impact of a new National Marine Sanctuary Designation to the local economy is difficult, both because of the paucity of available data and the inability to differentiate between correlation and causation for many important variables. However, reasonable approximations of some of the likely economic effects can be estimated. In this report, we have taken a conservative approach to provide some numbers of how much new revenue and how many new jobs could be generated for San Luis Obispo, County if a new Central Coast National Marine Sanctuary were designated, along with approximate values for outside research grants and the new volunteer service for the region. We hope that this work can serve to better inform the local community and help to determine whether submitting a nomination for a new Sanctuary designation is in the region's best interests.

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Attachment 7

Commentary on report: *The potential economic impacts of the proposed Central Coast National Marine Sanctuary*¹

Commentary author: Monica Galligan, M.Sc., Coastal and Watershed Science and Policy

The Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club is promoting a September 2014 report asserting that a proposed National Marine Sanctuary would bring over \$23 million and nearly 600 jobs to San Luis Obispo County (SLO County), California. The Sierra Club press release does not mention the authors' repeated cautions that a precise estimate is not possible, and that any gains would be the result of "aggressive marketing." The words "could," "estimate" and "potential" appear over 30 times in the 17 page report.

This commentary was prompted by concerns that the figures being bandied about were not well understood, so the Sierra Club report, intended to encourage discussion, may instead confuse people. Neither funding nor payment was proposed or accepted for this commentary.

Natural resources *have* value, and we need to consider their value in public policy decisions. Credit is due to the research team who attempted to estimate economic effects of a Sanctuary; as the authors noted, some effects simply cannot be evaluated in economic or financial terms, and others are quite difficult to quantify², though the report does provide ideas about how some of the values might be estimated³. There is no dispute that National Marine Sanctuaries encompass important marine resources; indeed, they are typically formed by identifying national treasures and drawing lines around them. It is precisely *because* these resources are so valuable that we need to be careful with our assessments and how we apply them.

The Sierra Club study did not take any costs into account, so the theoretical \$23 million figure would not be a net benefit. Keeping in mind that "value" is not limited to the monetary realm, but may be cultural, environmental or social, there is certainly value in caring for natural resources; some of the associated benefits were cited in the Sierra Club paper. Among the more obvious costs to include in a thorough analysis would be reduced supply of inputs and increased cost of production for some local industries, the associated impact on jobs and infrastructure, and foregone economic opportunities^{4,5}.

Naturally, there are costs associated with increased regulation of resource use; these costs typically accrue initially to extractive users (for example, fishing businesses)⁶. Benefits from ecosystem services (for example, recreational opportunities), which a Sanctuary might support, are typically said to improve the wellbeing of the population as a whole, when in fact a person's socioeconomic standing affects his or her ability to access the benefits⁷. This means that protecting a resource may result in a net cost to one (less advantaged) sector of the population and a net benefit to another (more advantaged), so the benefits of those protected ecosystem services are not necessarily distributed equitably.

The \$23 million and "almost 600" jobs in the report were inflated in the press release headline: "Economic impact of designation projected to *exceed* \$23M annually, create *at least* 600 permanent new local jobs."⁸ According to the release, "the region could expect increased economic activity of more than \$23 million annually as well as the creation of at least 600 permanent local jobs." Neither of these claims is supported by the report itself. The report includes a "confidence level" in a table of expected revenue and jobs. Of 13 potential sources of revenue, the authors assign a *high* confidence level to exactly two of these sources: government spending of \$1.8 million and 18 associated jobs, a far cry from the lofty figures touted by the headlines.

As the report states, the potential effect of a Sanctuary on employment is highly dependent on employers' actions. A broader literature review about the economic *effects* (encompassing both benefits and costs) of a National Marine Sanctuary would have found a 2013 study of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary in Lake Huron. In that study, Lawrence Molnar and his University of Michigan research team surveyed local businesses about employment and found "more than 90% citing no impact from the Sanctuary on business

operation decisions, and more than 95% citing no impact on decisions to increase or decrease their workforces."⁹

Of the \$23 million promoted in the Sierra Club report, about half (\$11.8 million) would purportedly come from "increased coastal tourism." It would be interesting to establish the origin of that number. The base of this figure is due to work that the people of San Luis Obispo County have *already done* in promoting tourism. The paper takes the tourism revenue from the years 2009 through 2011, averaging \$235 million annually, and presumes a 5% increase to declare new revenue of \$11.8 million. Per the paper, "Much of this tourism would exist even without Sanctuary designation." If the analysis were to account for (i.e., subtract) tourism spending that *would* occur without Sanctuary designation, the \$11.8 million figure would be much lower. Much of the robust annual tourism revenue is logically credited to the area's natural beauty and the ongoing hard work of local Chambers of Commerce and groups such as the Central Coast Tourism Council and Visit San Luis Obispo County, rather than to proposed Sanctuary designation.

The paper maintains an additional \$6.5 million would arise from indirect revenue associated with the potential increase in tourism, attributing this to "multipliers derived from IMPLAN." Evidently, a multiplier of 1.55 was used; in the world of economic multipliers, this is a reasonable value (albeit applied to an uncertain number). While the explanation provided is sufficient for those few who are familiar with multipliers and the IMPLAN software, and can assess the validity of the multiplier for themselves, it is not sufficient for the vast majority of readers, who are left to accept this \$6.5 million dollar component – more than a quarter of the entire estimate – with no further explanation.

The third largest component provided in the report, \$3.3 million dollars in government expenditure, is based on expenditures for the four National Marine Sanctuaries that exist off the coast of California. As noted in the report, these four sanctuaries vary greatly in size, accessibility, staff and budget. In an apparent shortcut, the figure used is the average of recent annual expenditures for the four existing sanctuaries. It might be more appropriate to base estimates on a Sanctuary with similar area, demographics and transportation infrastructure (which may result in an estimate higher or lower than \$3.3 million). For a couple reasons, past years' budgets may not constitute a reliable guideline for future spending. As the National Marine Sanctuary Program works to leverage existing resources and capabilities, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) budget requests for Sanctuaries have been decreasing year on year¹⁰. Further, as the proposed Sanctuary would link the Channel Islands and Monterey Bay Sanctuaries, it may be logical to oversee the whole as a single entity to reduce costs, consolidating rather than expanding administrative costs and management functions¹¹.

Lastly, \$2 million dollars is attributed to "money raised by outside NGOs [Non-Governmental Organizations] and academics." As the authors observe, "there is almost no data collected on this outside funding." Regarding external research grants that have been received in the Monterey Bay region, they fittingly state, "it is impossible to determine what percentage of these grants was awarded because [i.e., due to the fact that] this research was conducted within a National Marine Sanctuary." Given these unknowns, they press on to estimate that SLO County can expect 5% of the \$53 million raised in 2014 for Monterey Bay. Evidently, they recognize the vast differences between the Monterey Bay region and the proposed central coast Sanctuary, taking half of 10% of the Monterey Bay figure; the paper provides no other reason for using a figure of 5%. Given the uncertainty about the 2016 election, we might expect that federal allocations for scientific research and marine conservation are more likely to decrease than to increase in the coming years.

As a back of the envelope attempt, the Sierra Club report is a useful starting point for discussion. It is unreasonable to make decisions, much less any involving taxpayer money and people's livelihoods, without substantial additional research and analysis.

Monica Galligan lectures in Environmental Economics, Policy and Management at California State University Monterey Bay. She is an Adjunct Faculty member at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey. Email her at mgalligan@csumb.edu.

Endnotes

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Attachment 8

San Luis Obispo Tribune, 2015

Tribune News Article

David Sneed, Tribune reporter, March 16, 2015

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has rejected a proposal to create a new National Marine Sanctuary on the Central Coast.

The proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary would have stretched from Cambria to near Gaviota in Santa Barbara County. The agency said the nomination by the Northern Chumash Tribal Council was insufficient.

“It really just boiled down to the fact that some of the management considerations needed more detail,” said Lisa Wooninck, policy coordinator with the NOAA Sanctuaries regional office in Monterey. Andrew Christie, director of the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club, said the Chumash can resubmit the nomination with additional details. The club supports the formation of the sanctuary.

“We always knew this was one of the potential outcomes,” he said. “The Chumash will submit an amended nomination in response.”

The proposed sanctuary would be sandwiched between two existing marine sanctuaries: the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary to the north and the Channel Islands Sanctuary to the south.

The proposal drew the support of the California Coastal Commission, San Luis Obispo County Supervisor Bruce Gibson and State Sen. Fran Pavley, D-Calabasas.

National Marine Sanctuary guidelines include restrictions on dumping, altering the seabed and disturbance of historic and archaeological sites. Oil and gas drilling and exploration are also restricted.

“Designation of the proposed California Central Coast Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary will ensure the continued protection of one of the most important, culturally and biologically diverse, unique and ecologically rich coastlines in the world,” wrote Fred Collins on the Northern Chumash Tribal Council in the nomination letter.

Successful marine sanctuary nominations typically take two to four years to complete. NOAA recently opened the marine sanctuary nomination process for the first time in two decades.

Tribune Viewpoints

Janice Peters, February 24, 2015

The idea of a Central Coast National Marine Sanctuary began in 1990; it was controversial even then because of potential fishing impacts.

The 1992 Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) formation documents promised no regulation of fishing and strong local stakeholder participation in the sanctuary's management. Unfortunately, the National Marine Sanctuaries Program did not keep those promises.

In 2001, when expansion of the MBNMS to include the Central Coast was suggested, I contacted Monterey Councilwoman Ruth Vreeland (now deceased), an ardent environmentalist instrumental in creation of the MBNMS. Vreeland said she deeply regretted establishing the sanctuary because of its negative impacts on fishing, dredging and visitor-serving business.

She was particularly offended by sanctuary management's authority over its citizens' Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC), specifically controlling the agenda, selecting the council members and making decisions in Washington, D.C., without consideration for local community concerns. The SAC was even prohibited from communicating directly with elected officials without permission from federal management staff!

As a result of this and other information, the Morro Bay City Council opposed expansion of the MBNMS but supported the concept of a separate sanctuary with binding local control.

In 2003, with increased concerns over the MBNMS' continued unresponsiveness to the local community, the Morro Bay City Council passed Resolution 27-03 to oppose expansion of the MBNMS and oppose creation of a Central Coast Marine Sanctuary.

As a direct result of the 2003 sanctuary expansion controversy, the Marine Interest Group (MIG) was created. This group of local fishermen, scientists, environmentalists, elected officials and concerned citizens provided a forum for discussing sanctuary issues, fishing impacts and protection of coastal resources. After several years of proactive, informative research and discussion, the MIG lost funding in 2011 and disbanded without having reached a final position on the sanctuary issue. However, the MIG presents an example of how we can work together to protect our coast without adding federal controls.

In 2012, concerned with renewed efforts by the local Sierra Club and others to establish

a Central Coast sanctuary, and aware of the continued problems faced by Monterey's fishing industry and Santa Cruz's harbor dredging, the Morro Bay City Council passed Resolution 18-12, reiterating the city's opposition to a sanctuary without guaranteed local control.

Morro Bay's economic survival is dependent on our fishing industry and tourism. Our fishermen are still recovering from the Marine Protected Area closures, and if our harbor is not dredged regularly, it becomes impassable.

The current Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary proposal makes the same promises made by the MBNMS to not regulate fishing or dredging, but if established under federal control, Morro Bay and Port San Luis will have no authority to enforce those promises.

The Chumash Heritage presentation makes grand promises of new jobs and increased tourism, with no objective peer review or data to document its claims. A University of Michigan economic study of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary found that the sanctuary created very few jobs and had little positive effect on business.

A report is pending in the next few months (with peer review) that provides actual facts and figures about the effect of the sanctuary on the Monterey Bay area and the difficulties encountered there.

The Chumash designation application process will take many months of public review, so I urge both citizens and elected officials to gather sufficient information to make an informed decision on this issue of vital importance to Morro Bay, Port San Luis and our local fishing industry.

A Central Coast sanctuary, locally managed by stakeholders who will be directly impacted by its provisions, without overriding federal decisionmaking authority, could be an asset. Whether this is achievable, however, is far from certain at this point.

John Peschong, March 9, 2015

I'm all for preservation. The Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary (CHNMS), which was first discussed in 1990 under a different name, sounds like a good program on the surface, but it has always been a bad idea. Supporters claim it will add millions of dollars to our local economy and provide jobs from a boost to our tourism industry. There's no real evidence this will happen.

Supporters also claim the importance of cultural and marine habitat preservation, but a string of local, state and federal regulations already protect our coastline and cultural heritage.

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) to the north of us is an example of what we might expect.

Janice Peters, the former mayor of Morro Bay, has published articles and letters to the editor referencing discussions she had with the late Monterey Bay Councilwoman Ruth Vreeland and her regret for having supported the establishment of the MBNMS in 1992.

Vreeland was particularly dismayed with the loss of local control Monterey suffered. She noted that most of the Sanctuary Advisory Council's members were chosen by Washington bureaucrats who set their own agenda, rarely took advice from community and industry leaders, and were prohibited from talking to local elected officials unless given permission from federal staff.

Based on the experience of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary program, the Morro Bay City Council passed resolutions in 2003 and again in 2012 against a National Marine Sanctuary. Further, based on the Monterey Bay program, the California Marine Affairs and Navigation Conference has recommended the National Marine Sanctuary program not be expanded on California shores until improvements are made.

With loss of local input comes damage to small San Luis Obispo County industries and the hardworking fishermen and women who have lived here for generations. Inviting federal funding and control will inevitably diminish our local voice.

Just like Monterey, our local leaders and local industries will have very little, if any, input in new regulations.

As for regulations, we have plenty of those without adding more. The Central Coast is one of the most responsibly fished waters in the world.

We already have dozens of state and federal departments and regulations to protect our shores, including the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Clean Water Act, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, CalEPA and the EPA to name a few — all of which our fishermen and women operate within.

We're not talking about the regulation of Goliath, a major fishing industry giant. We're talking about David, a local fishing industry full of generations of Morro Bay and San Luis Obispo County fishermen and women, whose livelihood would be suffocated by the costly, redundant and overreaching regulations of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary.

The hundreds of local fishermen and women supply our community with locally sourced and responsibly harvested seafood. Because of this, San Luis Obispo County families can buy fish caught directly off of our coast instead of fish farmed or caught thousands of miles away.

The loss of these local fishing jobs would be devastating to these working families and harm our local economy.

And, Morro Bay may have more to lose than just fishing jobs and their voices.

The City Council's recent adoption of a five-year implementation plan for a new water reclamation facility will surely come at a much higher cost if the marine sanctuary is approved.

Although Supervisor Bruce Gibson gave his support for the sanctuary in December by citing the ecological benefits, he fails to mention the loss of local control, our diminished voice, the exhaustive regulations and the local jobs and families that would be hurt by its creation.

I hope our supervisors can see the bigger picture when the issue comes before them later this month.

Preservation of our beautiful coastline and rich culture is in everyone's best interest, especially those fishermen and women whose families depend on a healthy catch each year. For 25 years, we've questioned the necessity of this program. It's still a bad idea.

Only without the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary can we can continue to maintain local control, save jobs and protect our coastal way of life.

Dan Haifley And Margaret (P.J.) Webb , April 2, 2015

Designating the waters off the Central Coast as a national marine sanctuary “offers integrated management, a means of resolving issues, and promotion of education and research,” and “results in specific protection for habitat and resources.”

So said San Luis Obispo County in a proposal submitted to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in 1990.

That proposal included more than 500 pages of supplementary materials — and letters of support from virtually every city in the county — demonstrating that the area met the standards set forth in the National Marine Sanctuaries Act for protection of nationally significant oceanographic, geological, biological and archaeological resources.

The county's 1990 nomination was introduced at the same time the waters in and around Monterey Bay were being considered for sanctuary status, which they received two years later. Today, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary sits adjacent to 25 marine science facilities, employing 2,000 people, with a combined budget of more than \$200 million. There is no longer pressure on those waters for oil and gas exploration or ocean dumping of toxic runoff from distant agricultural operations, because these activities are prohibited in the sanctuary.

Of course, there is still pressure on areas that don't have this protection, including the Central Coast. SLO County had to rise up en masse — twice — to fend off efforts by the Bureau of Reclamation to dump selenium-tainted agriculture waste water from the San Joaquin Valley into Estero Bay.

The best method available today to secure permanent protection from offshore drilling in our region is designation of a national marine sanctuary by the NOAA. It would also provide protection from harmful seismic surveys, which have been proposed, and sewage discharge from ships. This is perhaps why the 2010 update of the county's general plan included a provision to make use of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act to "secure permanent protection and management of the county's ecologically and economically significant marine resources."

And now the timing is right. NOAA has reopened the evaluation process for new national marine sanctuaries for the first time in 20 years, and the Northern Chumash Tribal Council has submitted a nomination for the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary, proposed to extend from Cambria to Gaviota. On March 6, NOAA declined the initial nomination, requesting additional information for several sanctuary criteria. The Chumash have expressed their intention to resubmit the nomination with the required additional detail.

Opponents of marine sanctuary designation have long expressed concerns like the ones in the opinion pieces printed in The Tribune on Feb. 24 ("A cautious look at latest sanctuary plan") and March 8 ("Sanctuary plan is a bad idea in the name of preservation"), which warned of the potential imposition of new regulations on fishing and a resulting loss of jobs, or restrictions on dredging in harbors.

Since its designation in 1992, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary has placed no regulations on fishing or barred dredging of harbors. Commercial and recreational fishing is under the separate jurisdiction of the Pacific Fishery Management Council and the California Fish and Game Commission, and would not be restricted by sanctuary designation. To affirm and underscore this point, the nomination document for the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary proposes that the sanctuary shall impose no regulations on fishing.

A national marine sanctuary does not replicate existing regulations and resource protections. It provides for comprehensive ecosystem-based management. Each sanctuary crafts protections for their region's marine environment and resources, cultural sites and areas of significance.

From American Samoa to Thunder Bay, communities adjacent to existing sanctuaries have seen the benefits of sanctuary designation and lobbied for expansion of those benefits. On March 12, the residents of Marin, Sonoma and Mendocino counties succeeded in expanding the boundaries and protections of the Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones national marine sanctuaries.

The Central Coast should have had these protections long ago. It deserves to have them now. To become a supporter, go to <http://www.chumashsanctuary.com>.

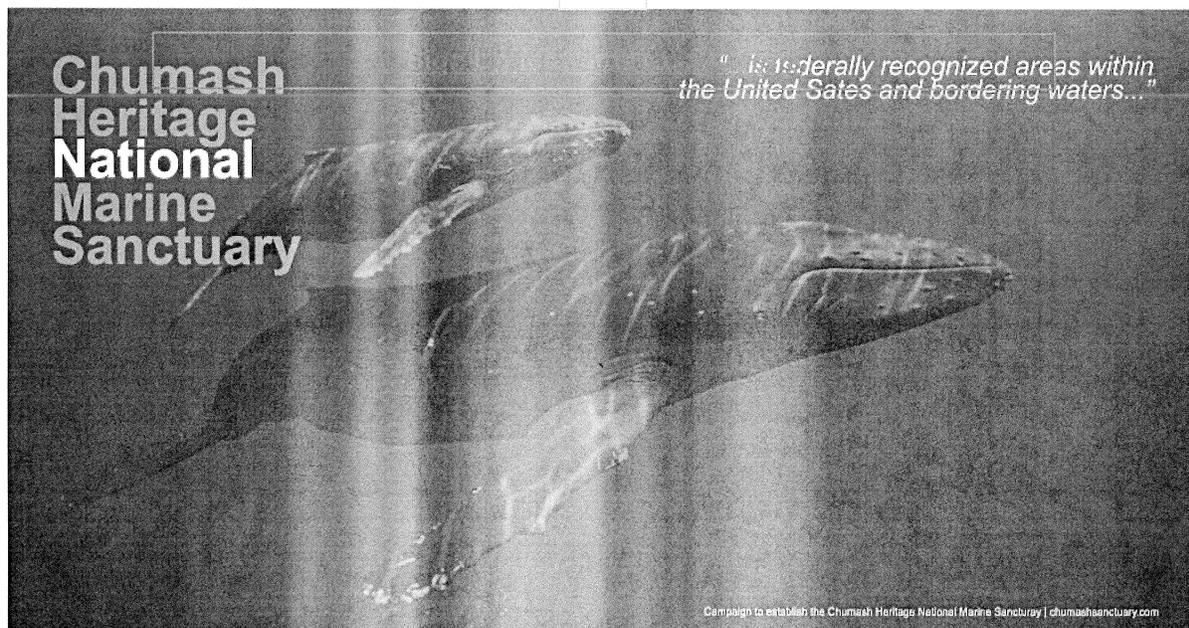
Attachment 9

EXPLORE, ENJOY, AND PROTECT THE PLANET



Santa Lucia Chapter

Chumash Heritage



On February 2, the Northern Chumash Tribal Council, with the support of local ocean advocates, formally submitted to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) a nomination for the designation of a Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary.

The proposed marine sanctuary would extend from the mouth of Santa Rosa Creek in Cambria to Gaviota Creek in Santa Barbara, protecting the area between the existing Channel Islands and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries.

"The First Peoples of this land have teamed with local communities and organizations to express our deepest passions for these magnificent coastal waters," said Fred Collins, tribal administrator for the Northern Chumash Tribal Council. "Designation of the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary for the Central Coast would ensure the continuation of one of the most biologically rich coastlines in the world, and the protection of cultural sites that were once the villages of this region's first inhabitants, now located up to six miles west of the current shoreline."

The proposed sanctuary area is the transition zone between the northern temperate and southern subtropical waters that meet off the west coast, with a mix of threatened and endangered plants and animals found nowhere else in the Pacific Basin. It is home to kelp forests, the southern sea otter, gray whale migration routes and one of the most sustainable fisheries in the country, including rock fish, crab, squid and hundreds of non-commercial species.

It provides an important stop-over along the Pacific Flyway for migratory birds. Fresh water estuaries make it an important nursery for a wide range of species.

Our stretch of coast faces potential threats from offshore oil drilling and seismic testing, and ongoing burdens from water pollution and climate disruption. National marine sanctuary designation would ensure ecosystem-based management and safeguard coastal waters from offshore drilling.

"This area has long been recognized as a place worthy of protection," said Michael Thornton of Sierra Club California. "Including this area within the national marine sanctuary system will be a 'Triple Bottom Line' win for the environment, the local economy and the community."

National marine sanctuary protections are unique. A review of the NMS system in the November 2014 issue of Environmental Law Reporter noted that "Congress designed the National Marine Sanctuary Act to provide for comprehensive management of marine ecosystems, allowing for multiple uses that are compatible with the statute's primary goal of preservation."

The proposal has the support of many local residents, businesses, and nonprofit groups. The Cambria Fishing Club, the oldest recreational fishing group on the Central Coast, calls designation of the CHNMS "a rare opportunity to provide both ecological and cultural preservation along the California coast."

The California Coastal Commission, in a letter sent to NOAA in support of the nomination, noted that "sanctuary status enhances coordination efforts, scientific research relating to marine ecosystems and conditions, and funding opportunities."

California State Senator Fran Pavley wrote "The Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary would provide a legacy of prosperity in healthy coastal waters, preserve unique and significant coastal ecosystems, and strengthen the tourism-based economy of the Central Coast."

SLO County Supervisor Bruce Gibson noted that the proposed sanctuary area, between the Monterey Bay and Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuaries, would "[close] the gap between protected and unprotected areas" and help preserve "this extraordinary offshore environment."

NOAA will evaluate the nomination to determine if it provides information sufficient for the agency to proceed with a review based on criteria for significance and management .

Attachment 10

Opinion

BY ENRIQUE SANCHEZ-RIVERA AND KARA WOODRUFF

Hold onto this ocean of a chance

A new marine sanctuary would boost the Central Coast economy

It's the conservation opportunity of a lifetime for the Central Coast—a proposal to create a new National Marine Sanctuary to safeguard San Luis Obispo County's wild and wonderful ocean ecosystem. A new National Marine Sanctuary would also provide long-term support for commercial fishing and recreational tourism, as well as an opportunity for our community to work together to shape the future of our region.

A Central Coast sanctuary, which would include part of Northern Santa Barbara County, would be home to help forests, the southern sea otter, and gray whale migration routes. It also provides an important stopping point for migratory birds. But while the environmental benefits of a new marine sanctuary are obvious, there's another factor to consider: the big infusion of cold, hard cash it could deliver to our local economy.

Our neighbors to the north know what we're talking about. The Monterey Bay Sanctuary has brought a sustained financial boost, capped by the recent construction of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Visitor

Center and Education Facility, which now contributes \$10.9 million annually to the local economy.

This chance comes our way because the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announced this summer that it would start considering new areas for National Marine Sanctuary designation for the first time since 1995.

San Luis Obispo County should seize this opportunity with both hands.

A Central Coast National Marine Sanctuary could create 600 or more permanent, local jobs and bring more than \$23 million a year into our region, according to a new report from experts with the Center for the Blue Economy at the Monterey Institute of International Studies.

Sanctuary designation could increase economic activity through grant funding for research in the region, government spending, and tourism-related revenue likely to be generated by a better-protected coastline, according to the report.

A new Central Coast Sanctuary would bring new government offices, staff, and infrastructure. Research institutions such as California Polytechnic State University and Morro Bay National Marine Estuary would likely become anchors for research. Looking at the

track record of the four existing National Marine Sanctuaries in California, the institutions are likely to attract significant outside funding to support the kind of research that is only possible in a protected natural area.

Tourism would also get a boost. Most obviously, a marine sanctuary would protect the natural wonders that keep sightseers, scuba divers, surfers, and other recreationalists visiting our coast.

A sanctuary designation could also help to attract whole new populations of recreational and environmental tourists to enjoy our coast and boost our economy. It would signal that there is something special about our coastline—something worth protecting. A Central Coast

sanctuary could increase tourism in San Luis Obispo County by 5 percent or more, providing an annual economic impact of \$11.8 million in new tourism revenue alone and 334 new jobs.

Our fishing industry would also benefit. The proposed sanctuary area is home to one of the most sustainable fisheries in the country. Commercial fishing, like other economic activity that works in concert with natural ecosystems, would be unaffected by this designation—and would benefit from being protected from pollution and the risks associated with offshore oil and gas development.

- Letters [19]
- Street talk [20]
- Shredder [22]

Commentary

A sanctuary designation could also help to attract whole new populations of recreational and environmental tourists to enjoy our coast and boost our economy. It would signal that there is something special about our coastline—something worth protecting.

The federal government is placing particular emphasis on community support as it considers new applications for sanctuary designation. With broad support from across our community, the San Luis Obispo coastline could become one of only a handful of truly protected coastal regions in the United States.

Sanctuary designation would preserve cultural and natural resources on one of America's most beautiful stretches of coastline. And we will have secured a vision for San Luis Obispo's future that makes both economic and environmental sense. ▴

Kara Woodruff is a financial planner and attorney, and former chair of American Land Conservancy. Enrique Sanchez-Rivera owns La Isla Fashions, a San Luis Obispo-based clothing company. Send comments to the executive editor at rmiller@newtimeslo.com.

Attachment 11



Northern Chumash Tribal Council

A Native American Corporation - NorthernChumash.org
67 South Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 805-801-0347

June 12, 2015

Port San Luis Harbor Commission
3950 Avila Beach Drive
P.O. Box 249
Avila Beach, CA 93424

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to convey to you information on our proposal for a Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary pursuant to your consideration of this issue at your June 23 meeting.

A document was circulated at your April meeting that made claims regarding the economic impacts of the proposed sanctuary, its alleged duplication of existing regulations and environmental protections, and an alleged loss of "local control" and potential disruption of dredging efforts. It was apparent that you had previously received misinformation on the nature and operation of national marine sanctuaries.

These concerns have been raised many times in relation to our proposal. I am happy to address them here.

Would a national marine sanctuary provide economic benefits?

Yes. This is not, as has been alleged, the opinion of an environmental group; it is the conclusion of the 2014 report "The Potential Economic Impacts of the Proposed Central Coast National Marine Sanctuary" (attached), prepared by the director of the Center for the Blue Economy at the Monterey Institute of International Studies and the director of the center's National Ocean Economics Program. NOEP methodologies are the international standard used by countries seeking to estimate the socioeconomic impacts of their ocean and coastal resources. The report concludes that acquiring a marine sanctuary on the Central Coast would likely result in the local economy growing by at least \$23 million annually and nearly 600 new jobs. Throughout the report, the authors note that they will not make projections or estimates where they don't feel the available data is sufficiently robust to support projections of potential impacts, hence their conclusions and figures are conservative.

Commercial and recreational fishing thrive in national marine sanctuaries. In 2013, the California Fish Harvester Model was used to estimate the economic impact of commercial fishing operations in the regions of the Channel Islands and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries. According to the three-year average (measured in 2013 dollars, for years 2010-2012), 248 commercial fishing operations in CINMS earned more than \$27 million in harvest revenue from catch in the sanctuary. This revenue generated almost \$45 million in total output/sales, nearly \$31 million in value-added, almost \$28 million in total income, and 659 full-time and part-time jobs. In MBNMS counties, 491 commercial fishing operations earned almost \$26 million in harvest revenue from catch in the sanctuary. This revenue generated more than \$42 million in total output/sales, nearly \$29 million in value-added, almost \$26 million in total income, and 843 full-time and part-time jobs. If wholesaling, processing, retail and restaurant sector impacts were included, studies suggest that in both the CINMS and MBNMS regions, the total impacts could be two to three times higher than these figures.

Per NOAA, across all national marine sanctuaries socioeconomic impacts equate to about \$4 billion annually generated in local coastal and ocean-dependent economies from commercial fishing, research and recreation-tourist activities.

Would national marine sanctuary protections duplicate existing regulations?

No. According to a comprehensive review published last year in the *Environmental Law Reporter*:

“Unique among federal statutes that govern the marine environment, the [National Marine Sanctuaries Act] provides for comprehensive, ecosystem-based management.... The NMSA’s systematic approach to sanctuary designation is also preferable to state-based management plans, or costal-focused authorities such as the CBRA, the CZMA, and the CWA The NMSA is the most effective and comprehensive approach currently available to protect specific areas within the coastal and ocean zones, including entire marine ecosystems, and the statute is the only existing federal law structured with this end squarely in mind. In contrast to other management regimes, Congress designed the NMSA to provide for comprehensive management of marine ecosystems, allowing for multiple uses that are compatible with the statute’s primary goal of preservation..... External reviews have concluded that sanctuaries are fundamentally well-conceived, cover gaps in other federal laws, and are making progress toward long-term protection of marine ecosystems.... In 2008, the Inspector General of the Department of Commerce found that...‘The program effectively complements other federal, state, and local resource protection efforts by offering benefits other laws or regulations do not.’”

The National Academy of Public Administration called the national marine sanctuary system “unique” in its ability to address the full array of ocean governance issues, and it “is building a strong performance-based management system.”

See the attached report of the U.S. General Accounting Office, "Marine Sanctuaries Program Offers Environmental Protections And Benefits Other Laws Do Not."

Would a national marine sanctuary mean a loss of "local control?"

Within three miles of shore, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife has jurisdiction, along with the State Lands Commission and the California Coastal Commission -- not the Port of San Luis, the City of Morro Bay, the County, or any other local entity. In state and federal waters, fishing regulations are set by the Pacific Fishery Management Council, National Marine Fisheries Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife. All agencies would continue to perform their current functions regardless of national marine sanctuary designation.

Harbors would continue to oversee their operations, as national marine sanctuaries do not extend into harbors. In harbor dredging operations, the sanctuary would work with harbors to identify optimal locations where dredge spoils will be discharged offshore, or nearshore if viable for beach nourishment. Previously approved dredge disposal sites would be exempt from sanctuary regulations. If a harbor desires new offshore sites in the future, this would be included as an action plan in sanctuary management plan updates to establish location, volumes, etc. The provisions would improve dredging operations and protect the health of the fishery. Sanctuary regulation on seabed disturbance would include an exemption for any harbor maintenance or repair activities.

If anything, national marine sanctuary designation assures more local control, with more local voices of stakeholders securing direct input on the management of the resource via the establishment of a Sanctuary Advisory Council. Historically, at least 90 percent of the recommendations of sanctuary advisory councils have been accepted and put into place as policy for national marine sanctuaries. Gulf of the Farallones Sanctuary Superintendent Maria Brown reports that 99 percent of her advisory council's recommendations are accepted as sanctuary policy.

The Environmental Law Reporter's review found that:

"Sanctuaries can allow for commercial activity like fishing, for recreational activities that depend on an intact natural environment, and for long-term preservation. This comprehensive, balanced approach couples with the single most powerful and important aspect of the NMSA: its provisions for strong stakeholder and community engagement. The statute includes extensive opportunities for public participation, from the time a site is first proposed for designation as a sanctuary through a sanctuary's ongoing management as a protected area. The NMSA's commitment to participation is evidenced by its provision for advisory committees of stakeholders to make recommendations on sanctuary designation and management. More generally, the sanctuary program is set up to engage citizens in the NMSA's mission. States and communities can take a sense of ownership in their local marine

environment through the programs. Sanctuaries become living laboratories, classrooms, and playgrounds, and the NMSA makes marine areas accessible for research centers, educational institutions, and other entities.”

On March 12 of this year, the residents of Marin and Sonoma Counties, after a lengthy and inclusive public process, expanded the boundaries and protections of the Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuaries. They pressed for this expansion because they wanted to expand the benefits that national marine sanctuaries have brought to their communities, not because they believed national marine sanctuaries had robbed their communities of local control.

Would a national marine sanctuary effectively curb offshore oil drilling?

Yes. In 2006, Dow Chemical, DuPont, Chevron, Shell, and other corporations bankrolled efforts to overturn the federal offshore drilling moratorium, declared by Congress in 1982 with a requirement that it be renewed every year. That year, oil companies pushed to expand offshore drilling off the entire US East Coast, the West Coast, the Gulf Coast, and the Florida Panhandle. The House of Representatives voted the repeal measure down, by a vote of 217-203, and the coast was saved, for the moment.

In 2008, Congress allowed the moratorium to expire. Just before leaving office the following year, President Bush removed the temporary protection of Leasing Deferrals established by his father. These two actions left the entire California coast -- outside the boundaries of our designated national marine sanctuaries -- open to offshore drilling, and the impacts of routine toxic pollution and oil spills that go along with it, at the discretion of whoever happens to control Congress or the White House at any point in time. On June 26, 2014, the House of Representatives approved a bill that, had it passed the Senate, would have opened vast areas of the West Coast to oil drilling. Only areas within designated national marine sanctuaries would have been spared, as was the case in 2006 and 2008.

There is no other practical means by which we can secure permanent protection from offshore drilling except through designation of a national marine sanctuary by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. It would also provide protection from harmful seismic surveys and sewage discharge from ships.

Thank you for your consideration,

Fred Collins
Tribal Administrator

Attachments:

“The Potential Economic Impacts of the Proposed Central Coast National Marine Sanctuary”
USGAO Report: Marine Sanctuaries Program
New Times commentary, 12/18/14

Attachment 12

HARBOR COMMISSION BOARD MEETING
Draft - Minutes June 23, 2015

Commissioners present: Bill Barrow, Mary Matakovich and Drew Brandy

Commissioners absent: Jim Blecha and Dave Kirk

Staff present [for Closed Session]: Steve McGrath, Harbor Manager, and Julie van Hoff, Business Manager

Staff present [for Open Session]: Steve McGrath, Harbor Manager; Julie van Hoff, Business Manager; Heather Zacker, Accountant; and Phil Sexton, Treasurer

Staff absent: Loch Dreizler, Facilities Manager

Legal Counsel present: Clayton Hall [for Closed Session only]

CALL TO ORDER / PUBLIC COMMENT

President Barrow called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m., and he invited comments from the public.

Butch Powers, President of the Port San Luis Commercial Fishermen's Association, commented on parking and signage, and use of the work dock by the Harbor Patrol Department.

There was no further public comment.

CLOSED SESSION

President Barrow adjourned to closed session at 4:32 p.m., pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(a): Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing litigation: *Vanness vs. Port San Luis Harbor District*.

Pursuant to Government Code §54957.6: Conference with Labor Negotiators. Agency designated representatives: Steve McGrath, Harbor Manager and Julie van Hoff, Business Manager. Employee organization: Port San Luis Harbor Patrol Officers Association.

ADJOURN TO OPEN SESSION / ROLL CALL / FLAG SALUTE

President Barrow adjourned to open session at 6:00 p.m. and advised that the Board provided direction to staff, but took no reportable action in closed session.

President Barrow led the flag salute.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

DISCUSSION ITEM A) CHUMASH HERITAGE NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY (PROPOSED): RECEIVE REPORT AND PRESENTATIONS; ADOPT RESOLUTION 15-08 – DISTRICT POSITION ON CREATION OF NEW SANCTUARY:

Harbor Manager Steve McGrath introduced the item and provided a summary of the actions to date, and he advised that Andrew Christie, Director of the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club, will be presenting in place of Fred Collins of the Northern Chumash Tribal Council, who was unable to attend the meeting.

Harbor Manager McGrath reviewed the staff report and attachments, and addressed questions from the Board.

The following presentations were made:

Andrew Christie addressed the Board and presented the Sierra Club's position in support of the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary and he addressed staff report attachments pointing to inaccuracies and misinformation in some of the documents. Mr. Christie said discussions regarding concerns can take place with NOAA once the nomination is deemed to be sufficient, and he doesn't believe the designation will equate to loss of local control.

Carol Georgi, Ocean Ecosystem Program Coordinator for the SLO Surfrider Foundation, read a letter expressing the Surfrider's support of the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary as she feels the designation will enhance ocean education, among other benefits.

Travis Evans, a local fisherman, said he would like to see the local representatives and local citizens have stewardship over the central coast waters, and he urged the Commission to vote against a new marine sanctuary.

Butch Powers, President of the Port San Luis Commercial Fishermen's Association, commented on the Refugio oil spill being on land rather than offshore, and he said a national marine sanctuary designation will not stop offshore drilling or seismic testing if the federal government deems emergency situations exists.

President Barrow invited comments from the public.

Marty Brown, Atascadero resident and Pacific Wildlife Care volunteer, read a statement in support of the proposed sanctuary designation to protect the ocean and promote marine science and education, tourism and the fishing industry by ensuring the health of sea life.

Carolyn Moffatt, Arroyo Grande resident and former Harbor Commissioner, said the proposed marine sanctuary would not address the issue of existing oil leases, and, therefore, she does not support the proposal at this time. Ms. Moffatt suggested a higher priority would be to buy back the existing leases.

Mark Garman, Cambria resident and Pacific Wildlife Care volunteer, asked the Commission to support the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary as he believes the sanctuary will protect the ocean environment without adversely affecting the local economy.

County residents and stakeholder group representatives Ariana Brandau, Susan Garman, David Georgi, Emily Miggins and Brad Snook all addressed the Board and urged their support of the proposed marine sanctuary.

Barbara Powers, Nipomo, addressed some of the previous comments and did not favor support for the proposed sanctuary.

There was no further public comment.

The Board discussed the matter and a consensus formed in favor of opposing the new sanctuary designation, and the following action was taken:

Action:

President Barrow moved to waive the reading and adopt Resolution 15-08, Draft A-Opposed, *Revised*. Commissioner Brandy seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 3-0. [Commissioner Blecha and Commissioner Kirk absent]

President Barrow announced a break, and the meeting reconvened at 7:18 p.m.

DISCUSSION ITEM B) TRAILER BOAT LAUNCH BUILDING REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) FOR DELI, RETAIL & BAR CONCESSION AND NON-MOTORIZED VESSEL RENTAL OR OTHER BUSINESSES AS PROPOSED: REVIEW SITE MAP 'ALTERNATIVE A'; RECOMMEND APPROVAL:

Business Manager Julie van Hoff introduced the item and advised that The Alcove Unique Gifts dba Port Harford Chandlery gave notice they were terminating their lease effective June 27, and the two subletting businesses have expressed a desire to continue leasing space on a month-to-month basis through the Request for Proposals (RFP) process.

Manager van Hoff reviewed the updated site plan Alternatives A & B, ADA parking options, and proposed RFP timeline, and she advised that the Property Committee recommends approval of Alternative A.

The Commissioners discussed the matter and there was a consensus of preference for Alternative A with a revision to return Area C to the 500 sq. ft. previously approved and published in the Boat Services RFP and with the 180 sq. ft. on the northern, outside area of the building designated as part of Area A.

President Barrow invited comments from the public.

Barbara Powers, Nipomo, said the portion of Area A with low ceilings was not a problem during the time she occupied the building, and she commented on the RFP's minimum rent requirement of \$1,000 per month.

Emily Shay, co-owner of Avila Beach Paddlesports, thanked the Commission for considering the growing value of the recreational ocean sport business, and how their customer base, along with the sport launch business, will contribute to the success of whatever business operates in the middle portion of the building.

Debbie Wood, Patriot Sportfishing, said she was in agreement with a revision to Alternative A to return Area C to 500 sq. ft.

Brent Lintner, co-operator of the Port San Luis Boatyard, said he is in favor of revising Alternative A with regard to a straight wall and 500 sq. ft. designated to Area C, and he prefers Option 2 in front of the building for the designated ADA parking.



IN THE BOARD OF HARBOR COMMISSIONERS OF
PORT SAN LUIS HARBOR DISTRICT
COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Port San Luis, California

June 23, 2015

RESOLUTION 15-08
(Draft A-Opposed)

WHEREAS, the Port San Luis Harbor District opposes development of offshore oil and supports protection of the abundant natural resources of the San Luis Obispo coast; and

WHEREAS, the Harbor District supports commercial fishing, commercial fishing facilities and the infrastructure needed for our traditional working harbor community; and

WHEREAS, when sanctuaries are created or expanded, this results in sanctuaries becoming another regulatory agent in the already well regulated area of fishing; and

WHEREAS, National Marine Sanctuary programs and the commercial fishing industry have many common goals in education, pollution protection, opposition to offshore oil and creation of a sustainable fishery, so, if managed with proper balance and sensitivity to traditional working harbor uses, the sanctuary programs should have positive working relationships with the commercial fishing industry and working harbor communities; and

WHEREAS, the Sanctuary Act should require Sanctuary managers to use the best available, peer reviewed science in their decision making for permit conditions and potential regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Sanctuary Act did not envision sanctuaries to be regulatory agencies in regard to dredging and dredge material disposal relative to harbors that may be in or adjacent to sanctuaries; and

WHEREAS, the National Marine Sanctuary Program, as currently authorized, does not provide for a mechanism for local control of sanctuary programs; and

WHEREAS, the role of advisory councils should be clarified and strengthened, and that membership of the council accurately reflect the makeup of the community; and

WHEREAS, the public process required to change a sanctuary designation document should be strengthened and should include concurrence from local agencies and the member(s) of Congress from District(s) adjoining the sanctuary;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Port San Luis Harbor Commission that because the National Marine Sanctuary Program has not adequately resolved conflicts and concerns of the commercial fishing industry and traditional working harbor uses and because the National Sanctuary Act does not currently allow for a sanctuary designation with true local control, the Port San Luis Harbor District opposes the formation of a Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary and expansion of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary in the waters of the San Luis Obispo County coast.

Passed and adopted by the Port San Luis Harbor District, State of California, on the 23rd day of June, 2015, by the following vote of said Board:

AYES _____ ABSENT _____ NOES _____ ABSTAIN _____

President

Attest: _____
Secretary

Attachment 13

**MORRO BAY
COMMUNITY
QUOTA FUND**



March 9, 2015

William Douros
West Coast Regional Director
NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
99 Pacific Street, Suite 100F
Monterey, CA 93940

**RE: OPPOSITION TO THE NOMINATION OF THE CHUMASH HERITAGE
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY**

Dear Mr. Douros:

I am writing on behalf of the Morro Bay Community Quota Fund, an organization which is working to enhance a financially and economically sustainable Morro Bay fishery. We are aware of the nomination for the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary (CHNMS) offshore San Luis Obispo and northern Santa Barbara Counties. As presented, the Morro Bay Community Quota Fund is opposed to the nomination of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary due to insufficient information that does not allow evaluation of the impacts of the proposed Sanctuary on the Morro Bay Community Quota Fund activities.

Currently there are a number of marine conservation protections and spatial closures in the same general area proposed for the CHNMS (see attached Central California Commercial Fishing Spatial Closure Map). The existing protections include:

- Essential Fishing Habitat Trawl closure areas
- Rockfish Conservation Area
- Marine Protected areas
- Drift Gillnet Shoreward Boundary.

These existing restricted areas/closures have achieved significant conservation measures in terms of the status of overfished species and sustainability of a number of fisheries. The Morro Bay Community Quota fund is concerned about the effect an additional layer of restrictions would have on our recovering commercial and sport fishing industry. For example, we understand that in both the Cordell Bank and Gulf of Farallones National Marine Sanctuaries, there are new policies under discussion in regard to fishing restrictions. While the CHNMS has stated there would be no restrictions on fishing, we question how such a statement can be made at this point in the sanctuary nomination process.

The Quota Fund also has significant concerns regarding the lack of local control in a federally designated sanctuary. While the proponents of the CHNMS believe local control is possible, that

has certainly not been the case with the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Even with the designation of a Sanctuary Advisory Committee (SAC), that committee is “advisory” and without any real power in terms of sanctuary management. We also note that in regard to local control and consultation with local agencies, organizations, etc., there is nothing in the CHNMS information that explains how the sanctuary would be managed, what restrictions would be imposed, which agencies, organizations, etc. would be involved in decision making, which are all points that must be spelled out for local stake holders.

We understand that “broad community support” is a significant factor in moving a nomination forward. While the proponents of the CHNMS have indicated broad support, both the Port San Luis Commercial Fishermen’s Organization and the Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen’s Organization (the 2nd largest in the State) have opposed the sanctuary, and the City of Morro Bay has adopted two Resolutions opposing creation of a sanctuary, the most recent in 2012. We have also noted that the recent unsuccessful nomination process to establish an Aleutian Island National Marine Sanctuary failed, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, primarily due to similar local opposition.

A third concern is regarding the ability for the continuation of dredging, disposal of dredge materials and harbor maintenance activities. The Morro Bay Harbor mouth is dredged on an annual basis and the harbor channel dredged every 3-5 years. These activities are mandatory in order to keep the harbor in a safe condition for commercial, recreational and sport fishing vessels, the Harbor Patrol and the United States Coast Guard. While again the CHNMS reports that these activities will not be affected by sanctuary status, we bring your attention to a permit the City of Monterey was required to obtain from the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary/ NOAA Marine Sanctuaries Division to “disturb the seabed”. This required permit allowed the City of Monterey to collect **four cups of sand** from the seafloor in an area adjacent to Wharf 1 and 2 in Monterey Harbor.

To reiterate, due to the concerns of fishing regulations and restrictions, the lack of local control and concern for the continuation of dredging, disposal and harbor maintenance activities, as well as the lack of specific information regarding the CHNMS, the Morro Bay Community Quota Fund is opposed to the nomination. Thank you for considering our comments and concerns regarding this nomination.

Sincerely,



Andrea K. Lueker
Executive Director

cc: Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen’s Organization
Port San Luis Fishermen’s Organization
Morro Bay City Council
Board of Supervisors, San Luis Obispo County

Morro Bay Community Quota Fund
695 Harbor Street
www.morrobaycommunityquotafund.org

Attachment 14

Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries

256 Figueroa Street #1, Monterey, CA 93940

(831) 373-5238

www.alliancefisheries.com

February 20, 2015

RE: OPPOSE Expansion, or New, National Marine Sanctuaries on the West Coast

Sanctuary.Nominations@noaa.gov

william.douros@noaa.gov

Dear Mr. Douros;

The Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries (ACSF) is a 13-year-old 501(c)(3) not-for-profit educational organization, founded to connect fishermen with their communities, and to represent fishing interests in state and federal processes. The ACSF is a regional organization, with commercial fishing leader representatives from Monterey, Moss Landing, Santa Cruz, Morro Bay and Pillar Point harbors and Port San Luis on our Board of Directors. Port communities and several recreational fishing organizations also have representatives on our Board. Thus, the ACSF represents a large cross-section of fishing and community interests for the Central Coast of California. The ACSF was first formed, in part, to create a unified voice for fishing and other community interests in response to the designation of the Monterey Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary (NMS). Thus, our organization has years of experience in working with a NMS.

Recently, proposals have been put forward to either expand existing Sanctuaries, or create new ones, along the West Coast. Many commercial and recreational fishermen, as well as community members, have asked about our experiences with the Monterey Sanctuary, and to a lesser degree the other California Sanctuaries.

The ACSF supports the broad goals of the NMS Program. There are Sanctuary educational and water quality programs, among others, which are of value to our communities. However, our experience is such that we feel that both Congress (in re-authorized National Marine Sanctuary Act (NMSA), and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA)), and the NMS Program itself, need to make certain changes or clarifications to the law and Program before it grows or expands. These include:

- 1) Clarify that the MSA is the dominate statute for any fishing- related management issues, including the creation of marine protected areas, inside Sanctuaries and marine National Monuments. The existing language of the NMSA, which some have interpreted as providing Sanctuaries with the ability to override the regional fishery management councils, combined with the repeated statements from the sanctuary leaders that their primary mandate is "resource protection," creates an atmosphere of intense unease among fishermen and other resource users. In the case of Monterey Sanctuary, it used its prestige in California's Marine Life Protection Act process to lead the effort to create 29 marine reserves or marine conservation areas in the Central Coast of California,

while rejecting a fishermen's proposal for a network that took into account socioeconomic needs.

- 2) Scholarly studies of the history and evolution of the NMSA indicate that Congress intends for the Sanctuary Program to balance resource protections, when needed, with multiple use opportunities. This, however, does not appear to be the value of the Program, which appears to tilt toward preservationist management. Congress would do well to make its intent even clearer in a re-authorized NMSA, and NMS Program leaders should work to not create a sense of "winners" and "losers" from NMS designations.
- 3) Task the NMSP and individual sites to use robust, peer-reviewed science in management decisions. The Sanctuaries have no equivalent of the Pacific Fishery Management Councils' Scientific and Statistical Committees (SSCs), nor any requirement to use the best available science in decision-making. Some Sanctuary science products are quite good; others appear to be advocacy pieces, which would benefit from an independent peer-review.
- 4) Fully comply with the Freedom of Information Act in content and in a timely manner.
- 5) The public in the sanctuary region must have a stronger, independent voice in Sanctuary management decisions. Currently, the main public input to sanctuaries is through "Sanctuary Advisory Councils" (SACs). While these SACs give the appearance of public participation, and are certainly populated by sincere people who are concerned about the health of the ocean, Sanctuary management controls the majority of representation of the SAC, and its agenda. (Perhaps the PFMC recalls recent controversy over the appointment of a fishing representative on the SAC.) These SACs also cannot communicate outside of the NMSP without management permission. Further, the SAC role is to provide advice, which can be accepted -- or ignored. The SAC's are instructed to support the goals of sanctuary management, not to represent the will of the communities. Considering also that the resources of the Sanctuary are viewed by Program managers as national, not local resources, a loss of local control is created. Whether it is through changes in the NMSA, or internal Program changes, it is our experience and advice that the Sanctuary Program will need to solve this problem before communities will want or accept a new level of federal management in areas of the coast so dear to them.
- 6) The Sanctuary Program should explain why expansions, some quite large, and discussions of new NMS's, do not violate Congressional intent, in as much as there is a prohibition on new sanctuary designations, found in the NMSA, until such time as the Sanctuary Programs shows that it is meeting its goals within its budget. We know that at least for the MBNMS, all its goals are not being met.

Fishermen have had at times, a difficult and disappointing relationship with Sanctuaries. For the Monterey Sanctuary, we have had a noteworthy recent improvement with a collaborative effort to create recommendations for groundfish essential fish habitat (EFH) boundary adjustments. We very much appreciate this improvement in our relationship, and hope this collaboration continues. The comments made above, however, reflect our overall experience and ways in which, in our opinion, the NMSP must be improved if sanctuaries are to be made

more attractive to future communities. **The ACSF does not believe sanctuaries should be expanded or new ones created until these issues are resolved.** This includes the recently nominated "Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary" proposal, which we feel does not merit consideration. We trust you will take note of the many factual errors contained in this nomination.

Thank you for considering these comments.



Kathy Fosmark

Co-Chair



Frank Emerson

Co-Chair

Cc The Honorable Lois Capps

San Luis Obispo County area agencies

Santa Barbara County area agencies

Attachment 15

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Opinions

SLO County Fishermen on Proposed Chumash National Marine Sanctuary: 'We're Unanimously Against It'

Posted by [Ed](#) × February 24, 2015 at 9:16 pm

Google +

By **JEREMIAH O'BRIEN**
Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen's Organization

Well, the sanctuary question is back on the table. This issue seems to arise every few years since Monterey got their sanctuary. This one is in the form of the Chumash Heritage National Marine

Sanctuary. The commercial fishermen in our county are unanimously against it, and we have spoken to various sport fishing groups and have yet to find any one of these groups in support of a sanctuary in our area.

The sanctuary issue is a very big concern, not only for the fishing industry, but the entire county. This is an issue that should not be taken lightly. When we invite the federal government to take over control of our resources, we, meaning our communities, will lose the ability to manage our beaches, our ocean, our ports and our harbors.

The cost to communities for additional federal regulations governing areas such as runoff and discharges, currently administered by local and state government, will increase dramatically. These costs will severely impact our harbors and ports, increasing the difficulty for projects necessary for their operations, such as, dredging, soil samples, construction of docks and slips, as well as maintaining structures that are currently in place. Once we take on these additional layers of bureaucracy and find out in the future about the problems it causes, we will not be able to turn back.

Proponents of the National Marine Sanctuary issue have proclaimed there will be no loss of local control. Unfortunately, this is not true as "National Marine Sanctuary" clearly implies management will not be local but rather at the Federal level.

California Marine Affairs and Navigation Conference, or C-MANC, is a group of all of California's harbors and the cities affiliated with those harbors. This group encompasses the area from San Diego to Crescent City, the entire length of our state, and deals directly in many of these areas with National Marine Sanctuaries, such as the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary, and the Channel Island National Marine Sanctuary.

C-MANC has issued a legislative policy statement concerning marine sanctuaries, which consists of a list of five problems. Some of those problems include disposal of dredge materials, and requirements to the already burdensome federal and state processes, vessel traffic, fishing regulations, either direct or indirect, and general maintenance issues. And finally, C-MANC's legislative policy reads: "C-MANC recommends suspending the expansion of existing sanctuaries until the problems identified above are resolved." We should remember these are the representatives of their respective areas, many who are living under the umbrella of the National Marine Sanctuaries.

Our county, cities, towns, and commercial and sport fishermen have long been very outstanding stewards of our ocean. We work with many state, federal and environmental groups, as well as universities and colleges. The Central Coast has been the "poster child" of how to do things right in many discussions and meetings held in California, on the East Coast as well as our nation's capital, Washington D.C. And finally, it is important to remember the amount of fishing grounds closed to some form of fishing, those include Marine Protected Areas, Essential Fish Habitat Areas, and Rock Cod Conservation Areas. I think we can be very proud of our stewardship of the Central Coast.

I guess I just love the Central Coast, and when my wife and I step outside and look around, we remind ourselves every single day of what we have here. We do not think additional layers of bureaucracy would be in the best interest or add to the beauty of this area.

#

Got something to say?

0 comments

Attachment 16

Recommendations for the Re-Authorization of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act

C-MANC supports the conservation of the nation's ocean and Great Lake resources through Congressionally established Marine Sanctuaries. C-MANC member ports, harbors, and communities have a great amount of experience in working with California's four National Marine Sanctuaries and with the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. While the National Marine Sanctuaries Act has offered a framework for establishing National Marine Sanctuaries, wherein greater management may occur than in the rest of the nation's ocean and Great Lake waters, C-MANC members also see a number of ways in which the Act can be clarified and strengthened to improve the services it ultimately provides to the nation.

C-MANC's recommendations for the Re-Authorization of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act are:

The Act should explicitly require the Sanctuary site managers to use the best available, peer-reviewed science representing a broad range of scientific views in their decision making for permit conditions and for potential regulations. The sanctuaries must be tasked with making credible efforts to reconcile any competing or conflicting scientific opinions.

Clarify that the 1972 marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act did not envision Sanctuaries be regulatory agencies in regard to dredging and dredge material disposal relative to harbors that may be in or adjacent to Sanctuaries. That primary responsibility has been given by Titles I and II of the Act, to the Corps of Engineers and EPA. Furthermore Sanctuaries should be mandated to embrace beneficial reuse of marine sediment.

Beneficial reuse of the nation's marine sediment resources has become a clear policy mandate in State and Federal resource agency guidelines. EPA/USACOE Beneficial use manual 842 B 07 001; WRDA 2007 Section 2037; 2004 California Ocean Protection Plan, all embrace the concept of preserving and reusing marine sediment resources. Conversely, however, Sanctuary designation documents generally contain pejorative language relative to dredging activities. Such broad brush, negative language does not serve the nation's stated sediment goals and should be amended to encourage a fair, scientific analysis of each dredging application. NOAA should encourage favorable findings by Sanctuary managers where the facts of any individual application support a beneficial outcome.

Sanctuaries should not have the authority to regulate fisheries, either directly or indirectly or through reserves or no-take zones. This should be left to existing science-based regulatory authorities. Sanctuaries would be able to work with the fishing industry, NOAA Fisheries, and the Federal Regional Fishery Management Councils if any fishery-related issue arises.

Clarify the role and purpose of the Sanctuary Advisory Councils. The Sanctuaries Act should provide clear direction that council members accurately reflect the makeup of the community, including stakeholders, and that some method of accountability from the council representatives to their constituency groups, whom they are to represent, must be in place. Sanctuary Managers should not be in the position of having full control over not only the types of seats, but also who occupies those seats on the Advisory Councils. C-MANC believes that the public expects that these Councils will reflect the will of the regional communities and stakeholders.

Strengthen the public process required to change a Sanctuary designation document. Concurrence for any language or boundary changes, or new authorities, should be required from both the member (s) of Congress representing the District(s) that adjoin the Sanctuary, as well as concurrence from whatever local agency served as the lead agency for Sanctuary Designation.

Sanctuary status should not restrict vessel traffic nor require alterations to shipping lanes that are not supported by that industry.

C-MANC recommends not allowing the expansion of existing Sanctuaries or designation of new Sanctuaries until the problems identified above are resolved.