

PROPOSED EXPANSION OF CORDELL BANK AND GULF OF THE FARALLONES  
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES (NMS)

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is considering an expansion of the boundaries of Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary and Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (CBNMS and GFNMS), pursuant to section 304(e) of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act. In December, 2012, the Federal Register published a Notice of Intent to consider expanding sanctuary boundaries, to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and to initiate scoping meetings (Agenda Item B.2.a, Attachment 1). The review will follow National Environmental Policy Act process. The initial scoping period closed March 1, 2013. The CBNMS and GFNMS are anticipating a December, 2013 issuance of a draft EIS, which will also be available for public and Council review.

Representatives of the CBNMS and GFNMS will be present to describe the need and plan for the proposed expansion, and to answer questions from the Council. Although the initial scoping period is closed, NMS representatives have indicated that input from the Council will be considered. NOAA anticipates that the review and potential expansion of existing sanctuary boundaries will be completed by December 2014.

**Council Action:**

- 1. Consider Plans for Sanctuaries Expansion.**
- 2. Provide Feedback.**

**Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item B.2.a, Attachment 1: *Federal Register* Notice regarding plans for expansion of National Marine Sanctuaries.
2. Agenda Item B.2.d, Public Comment.

**Agenda Order:**

- a. Agenda Item Overview
  - b. Report of the NMS
  - c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
  - d. Public Comment
  - e. **Council Action:** Discussion and provide feedback to National Marine Sanctuaries
- Kerry Griffin  
Maria Brown and Dan Howard