

## Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Proposed Northern Expansion

Agenda Item B.2.b  
Supplemental NMS Report  
April 2013

January 2013

### Background:

In 2001, during joint management plan review scoping meetings, Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuaries received public comment requesting both sanctuaries expand north and west. As a result, the sanctuaries' revised management plans (published in 2008) included a strategy to facilitate a public process over the next five years to ensure that "current boundaries were inclusive of the area's natural resource and ecological qualities, including the biogeographic representation of the area."

### Natural and cultural resources:

The proposed sanctuary expansions include the Point Arena "upwelling" site, which provides beneficial nutrients to marine life in the two sanctuaries via the California Current. Food produced by the Point Arena upwelling supports the largest assemblage of breeding seabirds in the contiguous United States, endangered and threatened whales, and living reefs of coral and sponges that cover the rocky seafloor. The area's maritime cultural landscape is historically relevant, and has national significance to fishing and recreation.

### How to participate:

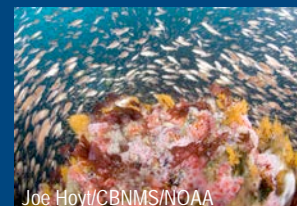
Attend one of the public scoping meetings at:

- Bodega Bay Grange Hall, Bodega Bay, Calif., Jan. 24, 6:00 p.m.
- Point Arena High School, Point Arena, Calif., Feb. 12, 6:00 p.m.
- Gualala Community Center, Gualala, Calif., Feb. 13, 6:00 p.m.

Comments on the proposed boundary expansion are due by March 1, 2013 and may be submitted by:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Submit electronic comments via the Federal eRulemaking Portal with Docket Number NOAA-NOS-2012-0228
- Mail: Maria Brown, Sanctuary Superintendent, Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, 991 Marine Drive, The Presidio San Francisco, CA 94129

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary covers nearly 1,300 square miles of coastal and ocean wilderness west of San Francisco. The sanctuary is home to some of the largest concentrations of white sharks and blue whales on Earth, along with one fifth of California's breeding harbor seals and hundreds of thousands of breeding seabirds. Established Jan. 16, 1981.

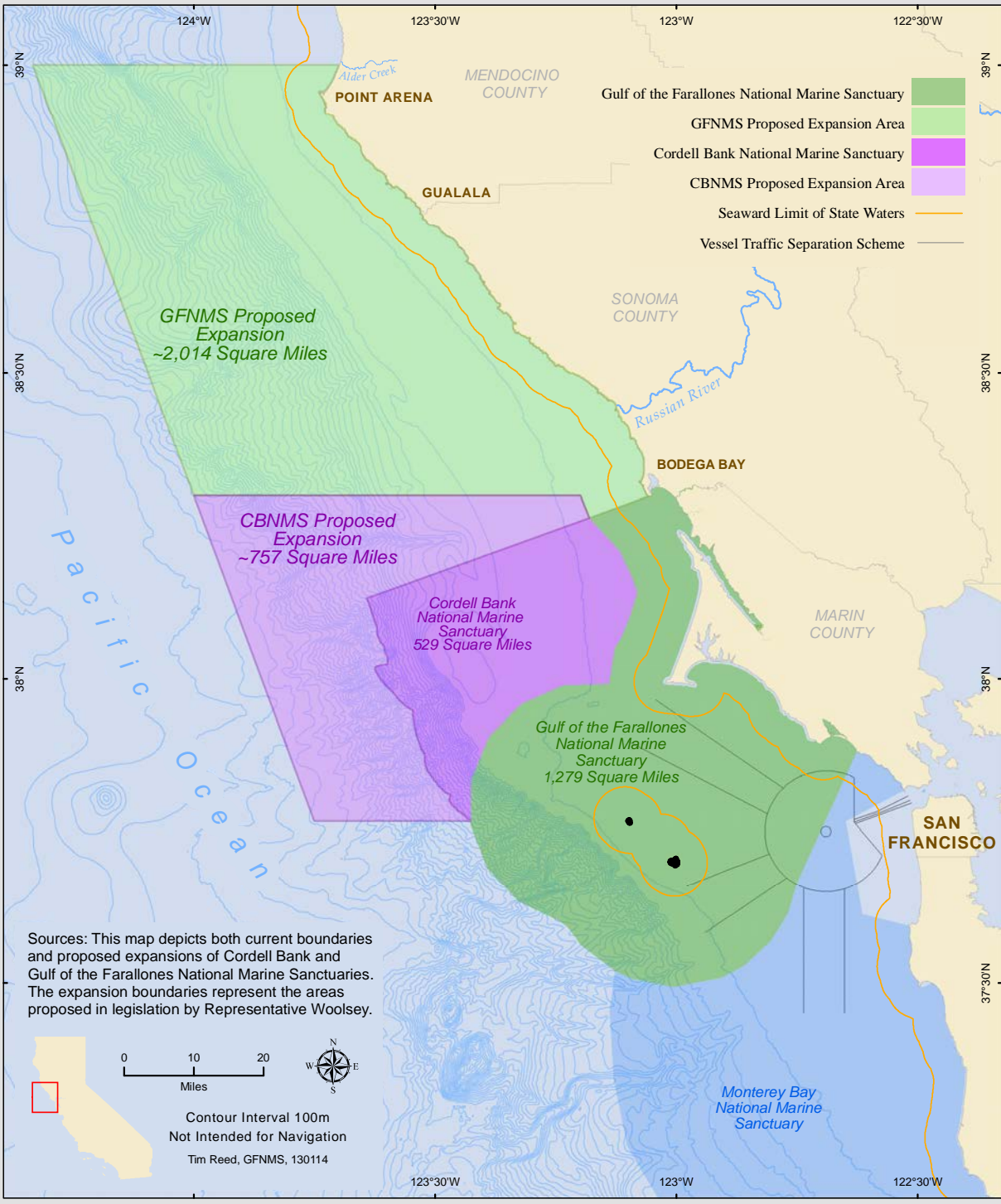


Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary gets its name from the underwater mountain that rises to within 115 feet of the ocean's surface off Point Reyes, California. Upwelling of nutrient-rich deep water supports a flourishing ecosystem on and around Cordell Bank, making the 529-square-mile sanctuary a productive feeding destination for diverse marine creatures. Established May 24, 1989.

# PROPOSED NORTHERN EXPANSION

## Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary

January 2013



Sources: This map depicts both current boundaries and proposed expansions of Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuaries. The expansion boundaries represent the areas proposed in legislation by Representative Woolsey.



EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor  
JOHN LAIRD, Secretary for Natural Resources

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June 25, 2012

The Honorable Barbara Boxer  
United States Senate  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lynn Woolsey  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2263 Rayburn Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Boxer and Congresswoman Woolsey:

On behalf of Governor Brown, I write to offer California's support for achieving the goals of the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Boundary Modification and Protection Act of 2011 (S. 179 and H.R. 192). This bill would expand the existing marine sanctuaries by over 2,000 square nautical miles.

Both the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (GFNMS) and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary (CBNMS) were established in the 1980s to protect and preserve California's extraordinary marine environment and wildlife. Centered along an important upwelling area, the sanctuaries are able to support important commercial and recreational fisheries, tourism and recreation industries, and coastal economies and communities.

The sanctuaries contribute greatly to ocean and coastal management by engaging in public outreach and education to promote stewardship, conducting scientific and applied research initiatives, and developing and supporting programs that strengthen resource protection for the long-term health of the region. Improving management to strengthen the protections of these critical ecosystems within the Sanctuaries will help to ensure a clean and safe environment for healthy fish stocks to thrive, keeping fisherman and tour operators on the water.

The state of California is proud of its strong partnership with the NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries in managing the unique and special areas known as National Marine Sanctuaries off the coast of California. The NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries has been invaluable in reaching out and educating our coastal communities and visitors about the importance of a healthy ocean in our lives. By promoting sustainable use and stewardship, minimizing user conflicts, and connecting the public to their ocean resources, the sanctuaries hope to bolster vibrant, prosperous, and well-informed local communities.

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Baldwin Hills Conservancy • California Coastal Commission • California Coastal Conservancy • California Conservation Corps • California Tahoe Conservancy  
Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy • Colorado River Board of California • Delta Protection Commission • Delta Stewardship Council • Department of Boating & Waterways • Department of Conservation  
Department of Fish & Game • Department of Forestry & Fire Protection • Department of Parks & Recreation • Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery • Department of Water Resources  
Energy Resources Conservation & Development Commission • Native American Heritage Commission • Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy • San Diego River Conservancy  
San Francisco Bay Conservation & Development Commission • San Gabriel & Lower Los Angeles Rivers & Mountains Conservancy • San Joaquin River Conservancy  
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy • Sierra Nevada Conservancy • State Lands Commission • Wildlife Conservation Board



June 25, 2012

Page 2

I am proud to join others in supporting this proposed legislation, including members of Congress and the California State Legislature; the California Coastal Commission, the California State Lands Commission; many local governments and elected officials; leadership from fishing interests; local chambers of commerce and business groups; national and local environmental groups; and prominent marine scientists.

Thank you for introducing the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Boundary Modification and Protection Act of 2011 and for your continued leadership on critical ocean issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Laird", written over a circular stamp or mark.

John Laird  
Secretary for Natural Resources