

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT  
GULF OF FARALLONES AND CORDELL BANKS NATIONAL MARINE  
SANCTUARIES BOUNDARY EXPANSION

The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) is concerned about the proposed expansion of the Gulf of Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries (NMS). While the proposal states that there will be no fishing regulations in the expansion areas, fishing was regulated at the Channel Islands NMS. It was done by using a Marine Protected Area (MPA) to create a no fishing zone inside the sanctuary. According to the Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries located at Monterey Bay, the fishermen have had a hard time maintaining their fishing rights in the Monterey NMS. Fishing regulatory authority must remain with the Council and state authorities for all fishing regulations in any NMS or NMS expansion. Sanctuary authority must not be allowed to create no fishing zones as a substitute for Pacific Fishery Management Council or state fishing regulations. The HMSAS is also concerned about the list of activities that could affect fishing such as prohibitions on gray water discharges, altering the sea bed, taking and possessing certain species, air water quality issues, use of lead weights, bottom contacting gear, and other fishing activities. Restrictions on vessel sewage holding tanks regardless of size, fish cleaning, introduced species, bait, fishing gear defined as harmful, and fuel, oil, and other contaminants produced by fishing boats are also problematic.

HMSAS sees no sound reason for expansion of these two sanctuaries. The fishermen on the HMSAS know there are upwelling currents along the entire West Coast and do not see justification for special protection in these proposed expansion areas. We are not sure just what is being protected in these areas. Especially disconcerting is a proposed new authorization authority for the NMS to allow several of the prohibited activities inside these sanctuaries such as alternative energy development, desalination, oil and gas exploration, dredging, and disposal. The new NMS authority could allow all of these through the issuance of an exemption permit. This can negate the purpose of a marine sanctuary. As far as HMSAS is concerned, there appears to be no need to add yet another layer of jurisdiction to an already well-protected area off of California's coast line.

PFMC  
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