



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

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
299 Foam Street
Monterey, California 93940

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November 20, 2001

Dr. Donald McIsaac
Pacific Fisheries Management Council
2130 SW Fifth Avenue, suite 224
Portland, OR 97201

SUBJECT: National Marine Sanctuaries Joint Management Plan Review

Dear Dr. McIsaac,

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, along with the Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuaries, is about to commence a public process to jointly review and revise our respective management plans. A Sanctuary Management Plan is a site-specific planning and management document that describes the objectives, policies, and activities for a sanctuary. This Joint Management Plan Review process will result in new plans, which will outline each Sanctuary's priorities and programs for the next 5-10 years.

At the end of November, we will embark on the public scoping period of the Joint Management Plan Review process, by holding public meetings to get input from resource users, interest groups, government agencies, and other members of the public on resource management issues. This input will help define the range of issues that the program needs to address during the management plan review. We welcome the participation of the Pacific Fisheries Management Council in this process, as many of the issues are of mutual interest to our organizations. The public comment period remains open until January 31, 2002.

I have enclosed several brochures, which explain the process in greater detail. Additional information is available at our Joint Management Plan Review website <http://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/jointplan/>. If you have further questions, or would like to arrange a presentation on the Joint Management Plan Review, please contact Sean Morton, Management Plan Coordinator of my staff at (831) 647-4217.

Sincerely,

William J. Douros
Superintendent



Joint Management Plan Review



Cordell Bank, Gulf of the Farallones & Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries

[Joint Management Plan Review \(JMPR\)](#)

Process and Schedule

[Getting Involved](#)

[Scoping Meeting & Dates](#)

[Summary of Scoping Meeting Comments](#)

[JMPR Process & Schedule](#)

[Announcements](#)

[Maps/Images](#)

[Current Sanctuary Management Plans & Regulations](#)

[State of the Sanctuary Reports](#)

[CA Biogeographic Assessment](#)

[Press Releases & Notices](#)

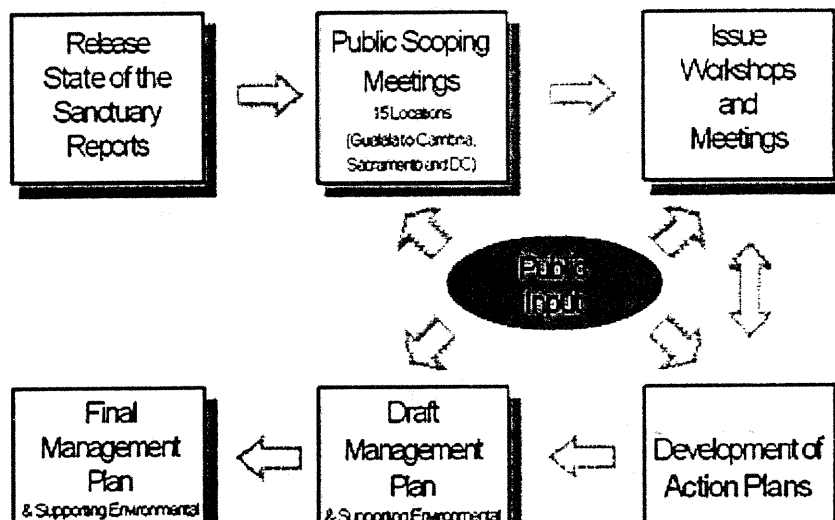
[Your Comments](#)

[Links to Sanctuary Websites](#)

Early November, 2001

Late November, 2001 to Early January, 2002

Spring, 2002



Summer, 2003

Late Fall, 2002 to Winter, 2003

Summer/Fall, 2002

Note: These dates are subject to change.

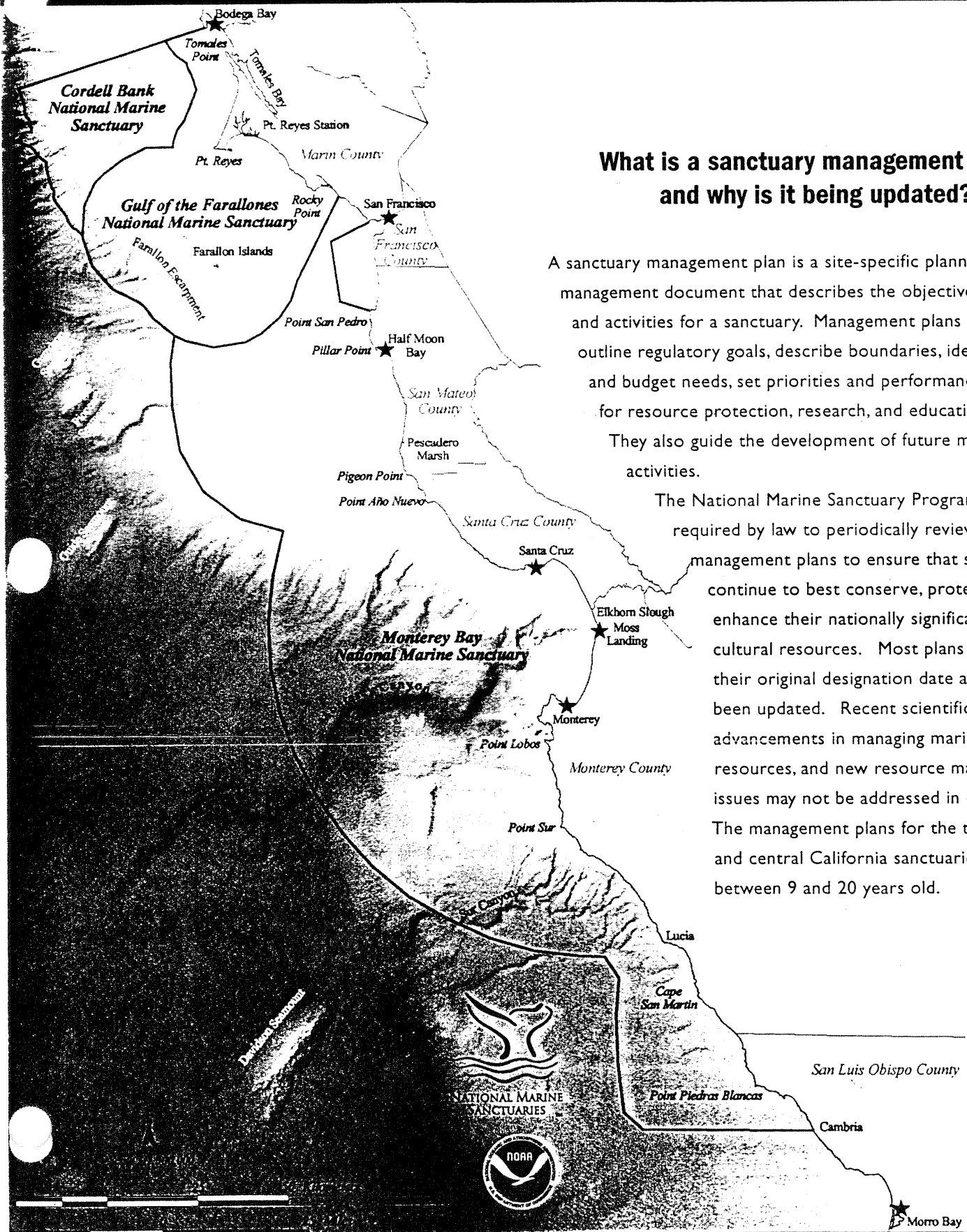
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Search site

Revised February 17, 2002 by [Sanctuaries Web Group](#)

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<http://sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/jointplan/timeline.html>

Joint Management Plan Review Cordell Bank, Gulf of the Farallones & Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries



What is a sanctuary management plan and why is it being updated?

A sanctuary management plan is a site-specific planning and management document that describes the objectives, policies, and activities for a sanctuary. Management plans generally outline regulatory goals, describe boundaries, identify staffing and budget needs, set priorities and performance measures for resource protection, research, and education programs. They also guide the development of future management activities.

The National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) is required by law to periodically review sanctuary management plans to ensure that sanctuary sites continue to best conserve, protect, and enhance their nationally significant living and cultural resources. Most plans date back to their original designation date and have not been updated. Recent scientific discoveries, advancements in managing marine resources, and new resource management issues may not be addressed in existing plans. The management plans for the three northern and central California sanctuaries are between 9 and 20 years old.



Why are we reviewing the management plans for all three sites together?

The NMSP is reviewing all three management plans jointly. These sanctuaries are located adjacent to one another, managed by the same program, and share many of the same resources and issues. In addition, all three sites share many overlapping interest and user groups. It is also more cost-effective for the program to review the three sites jointly rather than conducting three independent reviews. During the review, the sanctuaries will evaluate management and operational strategies, regulations, and boundaries. The review will look at whether the management programs at all three sanctuaries can be better coordinated.



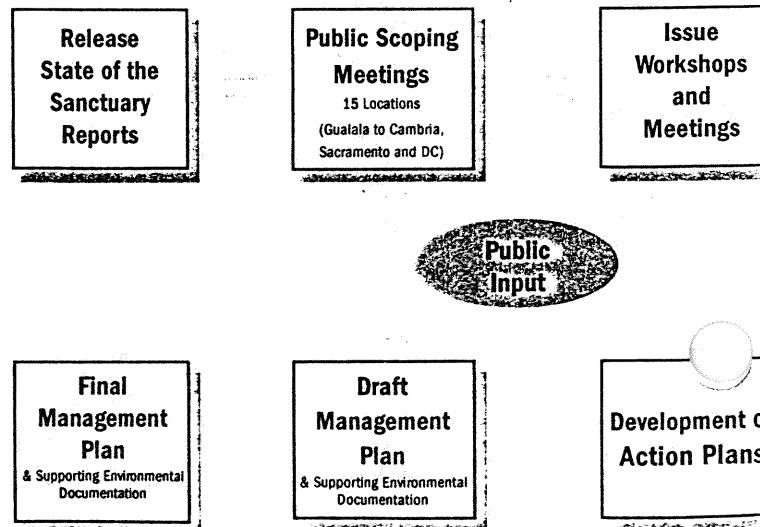
What are the steps for the review?

The NMSP periodically reviews sanctuary management plans relying on public input from both local and national communities. This process begins with the release of a "State of the Sanctuary" report that provides information to the public about the sanctuary, its accomplishments, and current resource management issues. The three reports are scheduled to be distributed this fall and will be available on the Internet or from any of the three sanctuary offices. Following the release of these reports, the sanctuaries will hold public scoping meetings, develop action plans, and prepare a draft management plan. Formal public hearings on the draft plan will help staff revise the document into a final management plan, which, once approved, will outline the sanctuaries' priorities for the next 5-10 years.

Scoping Meetings: Sanctuary staff will hold public scoping meetings in communities adjacent to the sanctuaries in late 2001 and early 2002. The meetings will allow sanctuary users, members of the public, and agencies to comment on each of the three sanctuary management strategies and provide input on what issues and problems they see as management priorities for the next 5 to 10 years. Comments may also be sent to the NMSP through the website or in writing. The final date, time, and location of scoping meetings will be posted on the website.

Action Plans: After the scoping meetings, sanctuary staff will review all comments and work with their Sanctuary Advisory Councils and the public to prioritize issues for the management plan review. If necessary, additional workshops will be scheduled to help sanctuary staff develop tailored action plans that address priority issues. These action plans will form the foundation of the draft management plan.

Draft & Final Management Plans: The revised draft management plans will contain a series of action plans that address resource protection and general management. They may also propose regulatory changes. The sanctuaries will take written comments and host a series of public hearings on the draft plans. A supporting environmental document, such as an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement, will be prepared to support and explain any changes. After the close of the public comment period, the NMSP will review comments and make necessary changes before issuing final management plans.



What kind of changes can I expect?

Management plan review provides an opportunity for sanctuary staff and the public to shape the future direction and management of each sanctuary. At this time, it is too early to determine the specific issues or changes that may be addressed for each sanctuary. This will, in part, depend on program priorities and comments received during the public scoping meetings. However, during the management plan review, each sanctuary will evaluate and possibly revise their operation and management framework; resource protection, education, and research programs; site-specific regulations; boundaries; and management zones. The sanctuaries will also evaluate the need to improve coordination and reduce duplication among the sites.

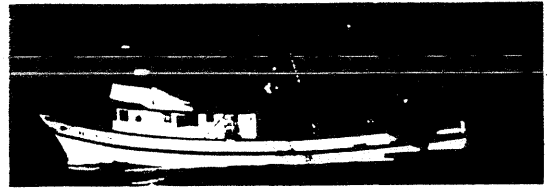
How will the public be involved?

Active and informed public participation is a key element of sanctuary management, particularly during management plan review. The NMSP recognizes the public as a key resource management partner and values their input in helping shape and manage marine sanctuaries. For almost 30 years, the NMSP has engaged the public in helping create new sanctuaries, develop resource protection strategies, resolve multi-stakeholder issues (i.e., water quality, vessel traffic, and marine reserves), and more recently to review existing management plans. Using the lessons learned from these experiences, the NMSP will help build community awareness of key issues affecting these sanctuaries and actively engage user and interest groups, agencies, and the public in an open dialogue about how to best shape the future direction and management of these three contiguous sites.

The public will have numerous opportunities to participate in management plan review, beginning with the scoping meetings and continuing through the development of the draft and final management plans. The NMSP will provide ample notice of each meeting through local media and the website.

Photo Credits (top to bottom):

page 2: sea lion - Jan Roletto; surfer - Gulf of the Farallones NMS
page 3 : fishing boat - Gulf of the Farallones NMS; rockfish - Channel Islands NMS
page 4 : reef fish - Cordell Bank Expedition; shark - Scot Anderson; diver - Kip Evans



How can I be involved?

You can become involved in the joint management plan review by first helping identify issues and potential solutions during the scoping phase. The NMSP will accept comments in writing, via the Internet, or in person at any of the scoping workshops. After the issues have been reviewed and prioritized, the sanctuaries will involve the public in developing action plans. These action plans will become the foundation for draft management plans, which, once completed, will be available for public review and comment. Throughout the review process, you may also attend any of the Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) meetings held at each of the three sanctuaries. Meeting agendas are posted on the individual site websites, and all meetings are open to the public.



Where can I get more information?

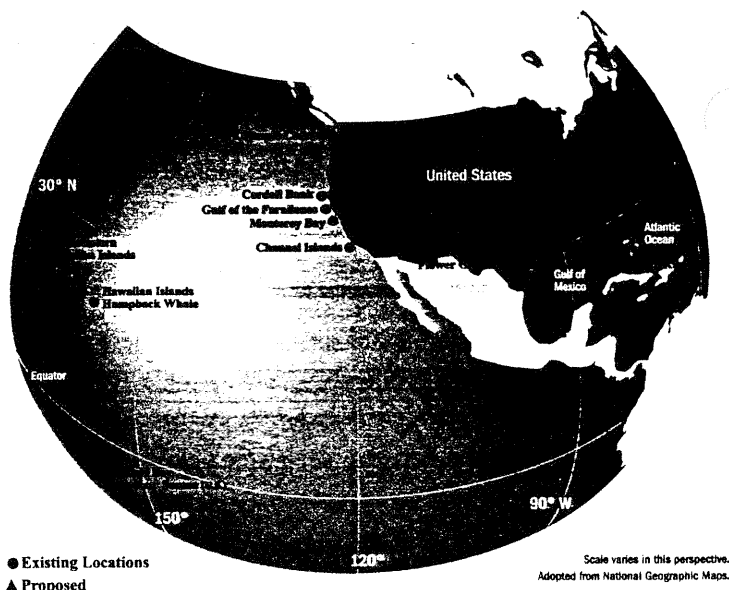
For more information, please visit the joint management plan update website at: <http://sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/jointplan/> or contact your local sanctuary office at:

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Sean Morton, Management Plan Coordinator
299 Foam Street
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(831) 647-4217 • Sean.Morton@noaa.gov

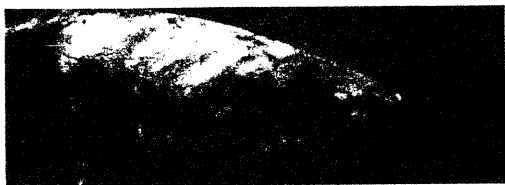
Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank
National Marine Sanctuaries
Anne Walton, Management Plan Coordinator
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123
(415) 561-6622 • Anne.Walton@noaa.gov

What is the National Marine Sanctuary Program?

The nation's National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSPP), established in 1972 by the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, is administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and protects a network of 13 special marine and freshwater areas. The goal of the Sanctuaries Act is to set aside and manage areas for resource protection, research, enhanced public education, and compatible public and private uses. Today, our marine sanctuaries contain whale migration corridors, deep sea canyons, kelp forests, coral reefs, and underwater archeological sites. Off the northern and central California coast, three contiguous National Marine Sanctuaries - Cordell Bank, Gulf of the Farallones, and Monterey Bay - have been established to protect and conserve these marine ecosystems.



Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary, designated in 1989, encompasses 526 square miles of open ocean off Point Reyes. Cordell Bank is a submerged island that reaches within 120 feet of the ocean surface. The upwelling of nutrient rich ocean waters and the bank's topography create one of the most biologically productive areas in North America — a lush feeding ground for marine mammals, and seabirds. Its depth, currents, and distance from the mainland have kept this remote and productive part of the California sea floor a mystery to most of the public. (<http://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/oms/omscordell/omscordell.html>)



Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary is located along the California coast west of the San Francisco Bay area. It was designated in 1981 and encompasses 1,255 square miles. The Gulf of the Farallones is rich in marine resources, including spawning grounds and nursery areas for commercially valuable species, at least 36 species of marine mammals, and 15 species of breeding seabirds. One-fifth of California's harbor seals breed within the sanctuary, and the Farallon Islands are home to the largest concentration of breeding seabirds in the contiguous United States. The Sanctuary also includes the coastline up to the mean high tide, protecting a number of accessible lagoons, estuaries, bays, and beaches. (<http://www.gfnms.nos.noaa.gov/>)



Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary stretches along 276 miles of the central California coast and encompasses 5,328 square miles of coastal and ocean waters. It was designated in 1992 and contains many diverse biological communities, including sandy bottom and rocky outcrop habitats, the nation's largest expanse of kelp forests, one of the deepest underwater canyons in North America, and a vast open ocean habitat. Nutrients from two upwelling centers fuel an abundance of life, from tiny plankton to huge blue whales. This diversity of habitats and marine life has made the Sanctuary a national focus for marine research and educational programs. (<http://www.mbnms.nos.noaa.gov/>)

Joint Management Plan Review Cordell Bank, Gulf of the Farallones & Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries

Scoping Meetings

What are scoping meetings?

At the onset of a management plan review, the National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) holds public meetings to “scope out” or get input from resource users, interest groups, government agencies, and other members of the public on resource management issues. This input will help define the range of issues that the program needs to address during the management plan review.

What kind of comments are we looking for?

Scoping meetings provide an opportunity for people to make direct comments to the NMSP and the local sanctuary on issues related to management of the sanctuary’s natural and cultural resources and overall administration. We encourage interested members of the public to participate in the management plan review and welcome any comments related to the sanctuary. In particular, we are interested in hearing about the public’s view on:

- effectiveness of the existing management plan in protecting sanctuary resources
- emerging sanctuary resource management issues
- implementation of regulations and permits
- resource protection programs (such as water quality and enforcement)
- research and monitoring programs
- education, volunteer, and outreach programs
- adequacy of existing boundaries, including zones, to protect sanctuary resources
- assessment of the existing operational and administrative framework (staffing, offices, vessels, etc.).

How can you provide input?

The NMSP and the local sanctuaries encourage interested members of the public to participate and provide comments at one of the 20 scoping meetings held in communities throughout the three-sanctuary region, from Gualala in Sonoma County to Cambria in San Luis Obispo County, and one each in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. (see reverse side for meeting dates, times, and locations). Each meeting is equally important. During the meetings, participants may comment on issues related to the three individual sanctuaries or all three sites together. Those unable to attend the scoping meetings in person can mail or fax written comments directly to one of the management plan review coordinators. Comments may also be submitted via e-mail at jointplancomments@noaa.gov or directly on the project website at <http://sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/jointplan/>. The public comment period remains open until January 31, 2002.

What can I expect at the scoping meetings?

Scoping meetings provide a forum for the public to provide comments to sanctuary staff on one or all of the three sanctuaries. They are not decision making meetings. Meetings will generally follow a similar format, but they will be flexible enough to accommodate the number of people in attendance and the physical constraints of each location. At the beginning of each scoping meeting, sanctuary staff will provide all the participants with a summary of the Joint Management Plan Review, detail the scoping meeting format, and answer any questions. Following the introduction, the group will break up into discussion groups consisting of 10 to 12 people. A group leader will help guide the discussion and ensure everyone has the opportunity to provide comments. Each group will have a recorder who will summarize each of the comments on a chart so the group can see their comments are being recorded.

What’s next after scoping?

Comments from each of the scoping meetings, as well as written comments and e-mail, will be summarized and posted on the NMSP website. The individual sanctuaries will work with their respective Sanctuary Advisory Councils and other members of the public to help prioritize issues to be addressed during this management plan review and later to develop a draft management plan.

Where will the meetings be held?

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Time</u> | <u>Venue</u> |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Nov. 28, Wednesday | Santa Cruz, CA* | 1:00 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. | Santa Cruz Civic Center 307 Church Street |
| Nov. 29, Thursday | Monterey, CA* | 1:00 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. | Monterey Conference Center One Portola Plaza |
| Dec. 1, Saturday | Salinas, CA* | 1:00 p.m. | Hartnell College 156 Homestead Avenue |
| Dec. 3, Monday | San Luis Obispo, CA | 6:30 p.m. | San Luis Obispo Public Library 995 Palm Street |
| Dec. 4, Tuesday | Cambria, CA | 6:30 p.m. | Cambria Grammer School 1350 Main Street |
| Dec. 5, Wednesday | Big Sur, CA | 6:30 p.m. | Big Sur Lodge at Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park 47225 Pacific Coast Highway One |
| Dec. 6, Thursday | Half Moon Bay, CA | 6:30 p.m. | Ted Adcock Community Center 535 Kelly Avenue |
| Dec. 7, Friday | Half Moon Bay, CA | 8:30 a.m. | MBNMS Advisory Council Meeting, Douglas Beach House, 311 Mirada Road |
| Dec. 11, Tuesday | Sacramento, CA | 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. | Sheraton Grand Sacramento, Compagno Room 1230 J Street |
| Dec. 14, Friday | Washington, D.C. | 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Herbert G. Hoover Bldg. 14th and Constitution Ave. NW, Room 6800 & 6802 |
| Jan. 7, Monday | Gualala, CA | 6:30 p.m. | Gualala Arts Center 46501 Old State Highway |
| Jan. 8, Tuesday | Bodega Bay, CA | 6:30 p.m. | Bodega Marine Laboratory 2099 Westside Road |
| Jan. 9, Wednesday | Pt. Reyes Station, CA | 7:30 p.m. | Point Reyes Dance Palace, Main Hall 5th and B Street |
| Jan. 10, Thursday | San Rafael, CA | 6:30 p.m. | Marin Center, Hospitality Room and Six Meeting Rooms Avenue of the Flags, North San Pedro Road |
| Jan. 14, Monday | Rohnert Park, CA (near Santa Rosa) | 6:30 p.m. | Doubletree Hotel, Rohnert Park, Salons 3 & 4 1 Doubletree Drive |
| Jan. 15, Tuesday | San Francisco, CA | 6:30 p.m. | Marina Middle School 3500 Fillmore Street |
| Jan. 16, Wednesday | Pacifica | 6:30 p.m. | Oceana High School 401 Paloma Avenue |
| Jan. 17, Thursday | San Jose* | 6:30 p.m. | Santa Clara County Office of Education 1290 Ridder Park Drive |

* Spanish Translation available

The public comment period will remain open until January 31, 2002.

For more information, visit the Joint Management Plan Review website at <http://sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/jointplan>

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