

MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY MARINE PROTECTED AREA PROCESS

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS, Sanctuary) has initiated a process to consider criteria, rationale, and scientific justification that would define the need for marine protected areas (MPAs) in Federal waters of the Sanctuary for additional resource protection and has developed three principal management objectives as follows: “1) Preservation of unique and rare areas in their natural state for the benefit of future generations; 2) Preservation of areas where natural ecosystem components are maintained and/or restored; and 3) Designation of research areas to differentiate between natural variation versus human impacts to ecological processes and components.”

At the June 2008 Council meeting Superintendent Michel presented additional rationale and scientific justification for considering MPAs, a draft decision process and timeline for Sanctuary consideration of MPAs, and concepts for a process to move ahead with MPAs in the MBNMS. In a July 29, 2009 response letter, Council Executive Director Don McIsaac provided Council feedback on the determination of need for additional MPAs, independent scientific review, the analytical process, and the process timeline (Agenda Item C.2.a, Attachment 1).

In a letter dated August 26, 2009 (Agenda Item C.2.b, Attachment 1), Superintendent Michel provides a summary update on the Sanctuary’s process for MPA consideration. Based, in part, on the ecosystem-based aspects of the Sanctuary’s three principal management objectives and input from stakeholders, the Sanctuary is proposing a more comprehensive ecosystem-based management approach to its MPA process.

At this meeting, the Council is scheduled to receive a presentation from Superintendent Michel and provide input on the next steps and future coordination.

Council Action:

1. Provide Input on the MBNMS MPA Process.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item C.2.a, Attachment 1: July 29, 2008 letter from Executive Director McIsaac providing Council input to the Sanctuary on the process of considering MPAs.
2. Agenda Item C.2.b, Attachment 1: August 26, 2009 letter from Superintendent Paul Michel to the Council, re: An update on the Sanctuary’s plans for considering MPAs.
3. Agenda Item C.2.d, Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) Report
- c. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. **Council Action:** Provide input to the MBNMS

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PFMC
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