



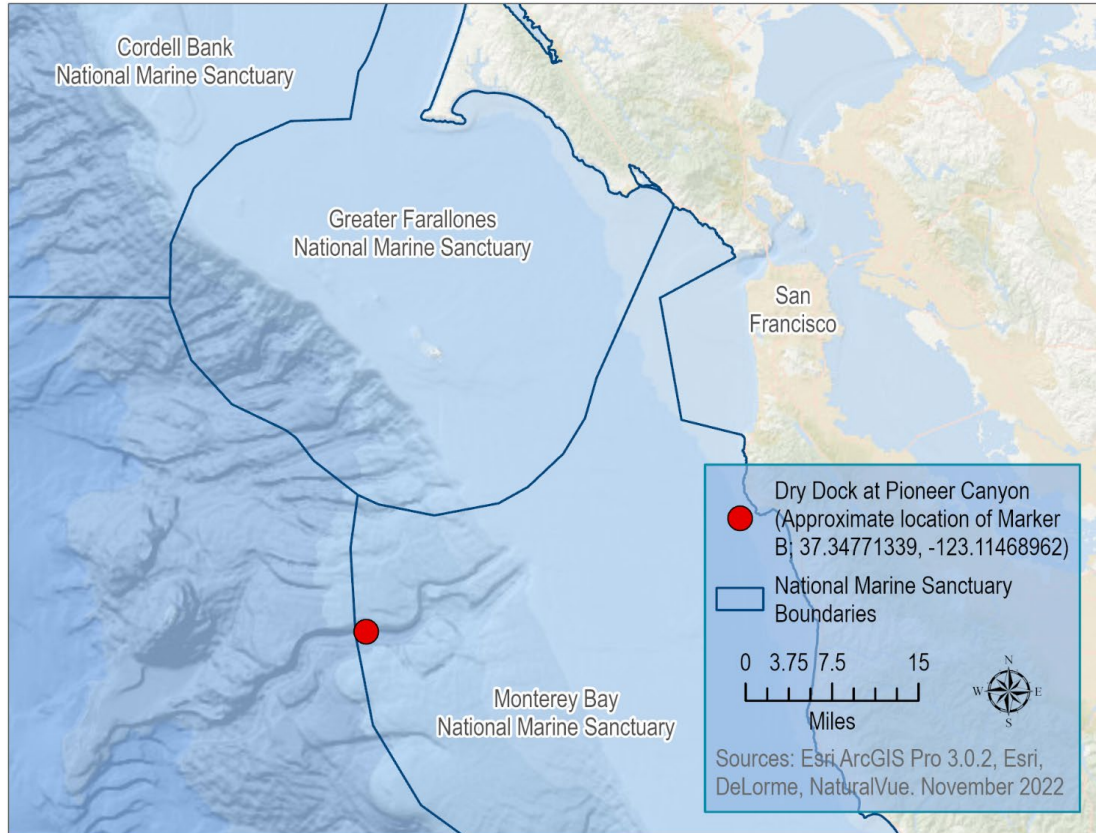
Agenda Item F.4.a
Supplemental ONMS Presentation 1
March 2023

Draft Restoration Plan and NEPA Evaluation for the YFD-70 Dry Dock and the NT-RCA

Karen Reyna

March PFMC Meeting 2023

Background



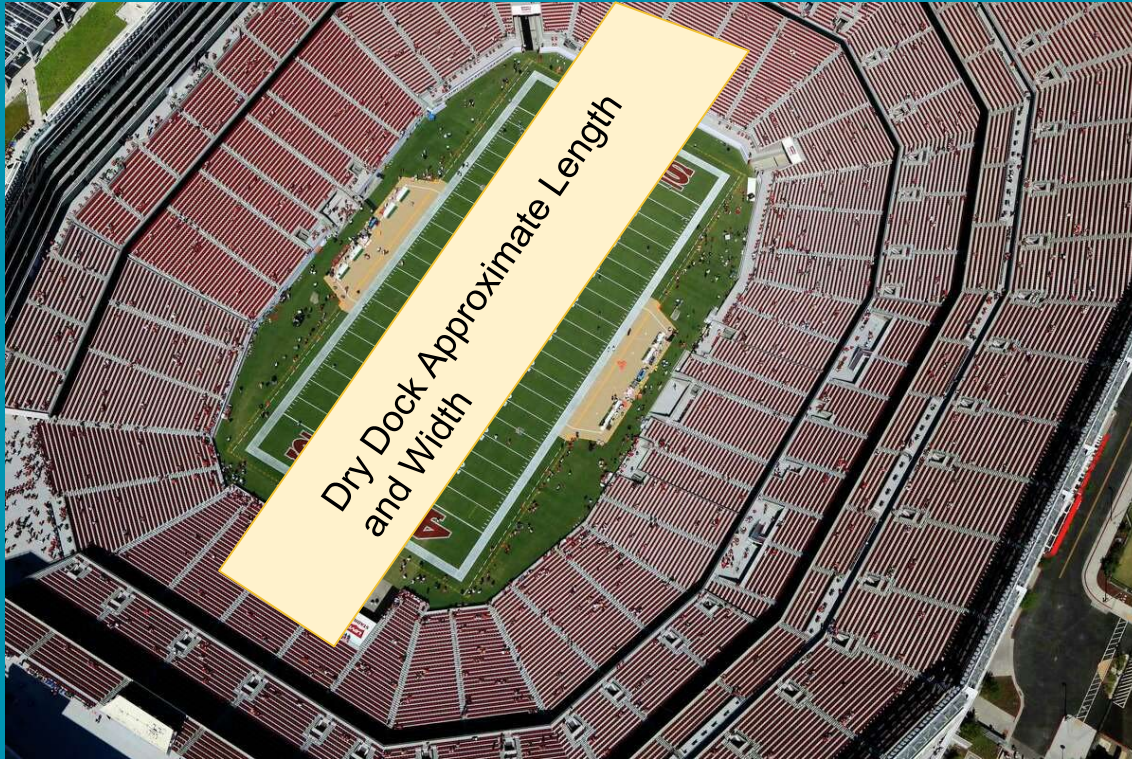
On October 26, 2016 the YFD-70 Dry Dock was being towed from a shipyard in Puget Sound, to a recycling facility in Ensenada, Mexico when it sank in the sanctuary.



Starboard side of the YFD-70

Photo Credit: Marine Surveyors & Safety Consultants, Trip in Tow Suitability Survey, Seattle WA. Dated August 2, 2016

The YFD-70 Dry Dock



Approximately 528 feet long, 118 feet wide, and 26 feet high.



Data collected during ROV surveys in July 2018 found:

1. Associated scattered debris on the seafloor.
2. The presence of corals and bioturbation.

Injury Assessment:

- Impacts to both the seafloor and to biota.
- Permanent loss of habitat and ecosystem functions within the footprint of the YFD-70.



Ptilosarcus (sp.) found off the coast of Central California



The National Marine Sanctuaries Act purpose and policy:

“restore and enhance natural habitats, populations, and ecological processes” (16 U.S.C. § 1431)

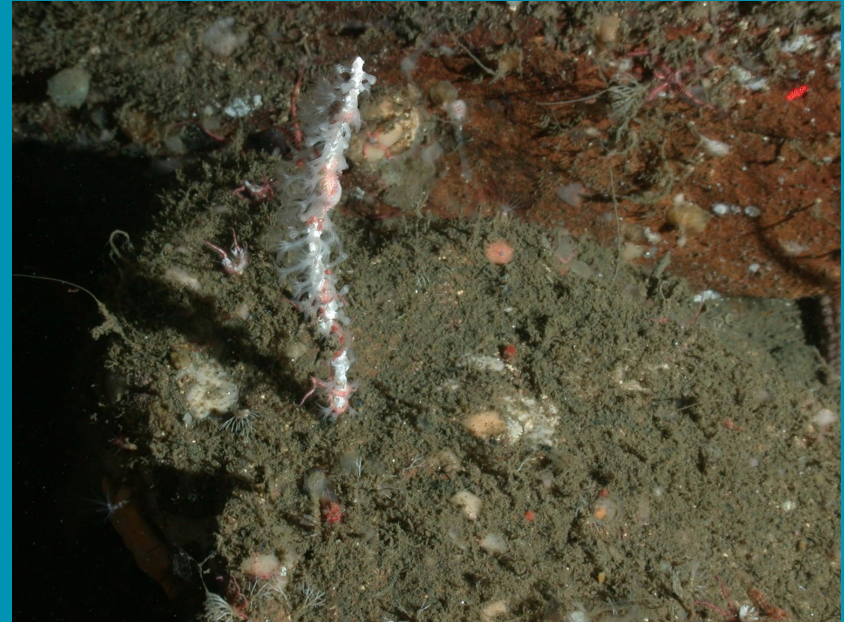
- The Act authorizes the recovery of response costs and damages associated with the destruction, loss, or injury to sanctuary resources, and requires the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries to use funds recovered to restore sanctuary resources.**
- Sanctuaries must compensate, to the extent possible, for losses of sanctuary resources and ecosystem services.**

Restoration Planning



Objective: identify alternatives to restore, rehabilitate, replace, or acquire the “equivalent” of sanctuary resources and their services that were injured or lost.

- **Identify where and how we can compensate for lost sanctuary ecosystem services.**
- **Identify if we can restore resources similar to those injured by the impact and long-term presence of the YFD-70.**





Two Projects Selected as “Preferred Alternative”

The preferred restoration projects will compensate for injuries, to the extent possible, by restoring seafloor habitat and replacing biogenic habitat through:

1. removing objects and vessels impacting the sanctuary seafloor;
2. planting coral in 2-5 areas within Greater Farallones and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries.



Products, outcomes, metrics, and monitoring are included in the planning for both projects.

The Draft Restoration Plan

Two Projects in the Preferred Alternative



Project 1

→ “Target” Removal between Point Sur and Point Arena from the coastal zone to 150 feet below sea level.

Scope: multiple habitat types including rocky reefs, sandy beaches, eelgrass beds, and hard, mixed, and soft sediments

Timeframe: 10 years

Total Cost: Approximately \$6M



The Draft Restoration Plan

Two Projects in the Preferred Alternative



Project 2

→ Coral outplanting at suitable depths, based on established methodologies.

Scope: Outplant up to 300 corals in 2-5 previously-disturbed habitat locations that are currently protected from known human impacts in order to immediately serve as habitat and to provide regional propagules to grow additional corals.

Timeframe: 10 Years

Total Cost: Approximately \$2.5M

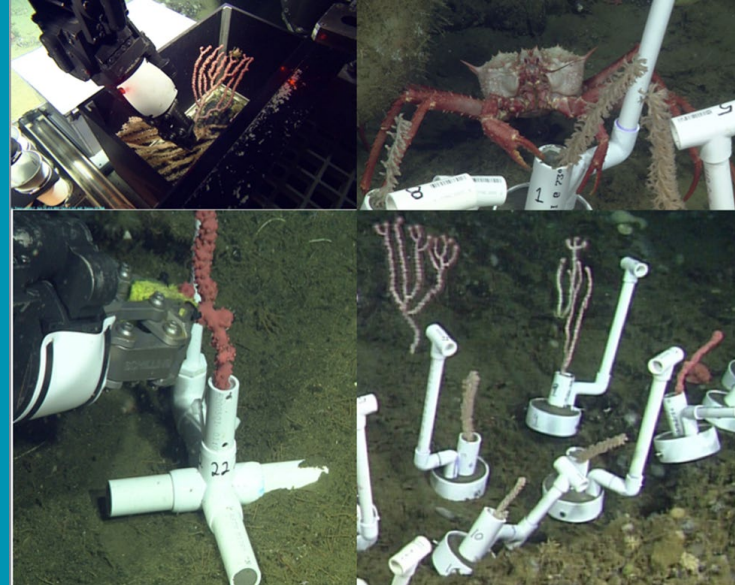


Photo credit: MBNMS/MBARI.

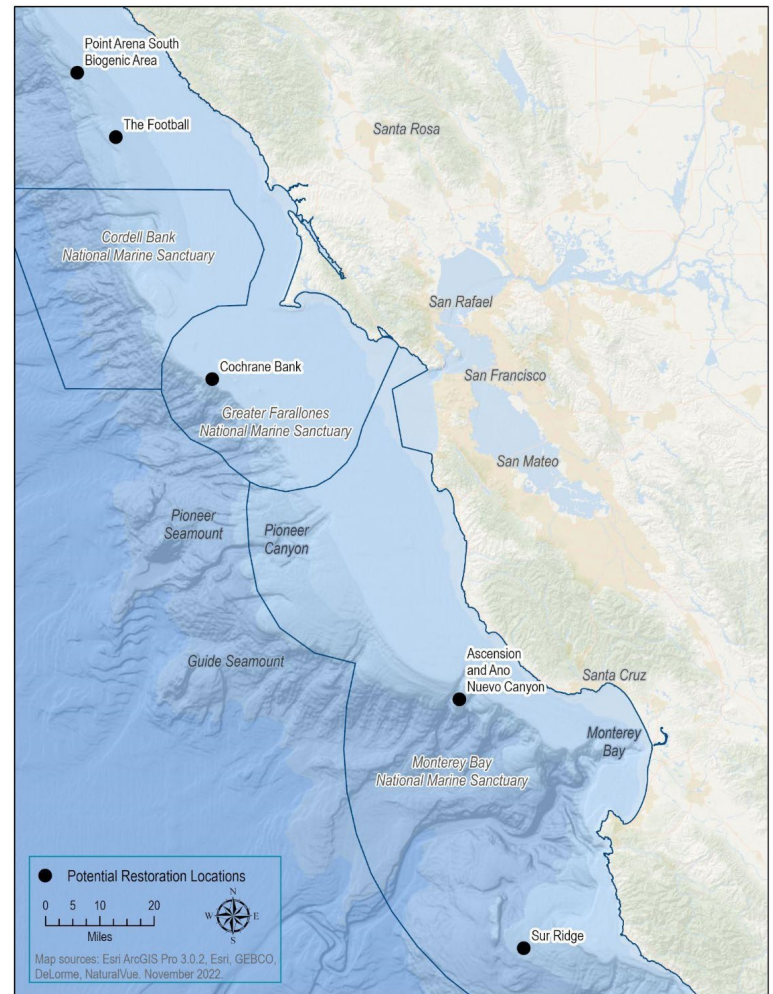
Successfully transplanted *Paragorgia* and *Isidella* corals on Sur Ridge.

Note: Plastic is no longer used.

The Draft Restoration Plan: Project 2

Project 2 Area Selection

- Areas that are protected from drilling, dredging, trawling, or seafloor disruption by sanctuary and other regulations such as those promulgated by National Marine Fisheries Service.
- Areas of hard substrate where corals are known to historically or currently occur.
- Five potential areas have been identified and will be further evaluated for suitability.



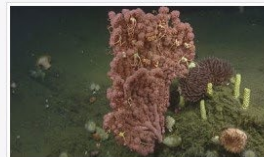


GREATER FARALLONES

We protect the wildlife, habitats, and cultural resources of one of the most diverse and bountiful marine environments in the world, an area of 3,295 square miles off the northern and central California coast. The waters within Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary are a nationally significant marine ecosystem, and support an abundance of life, including many threatened and endangered species.

Public comments will be accepted until March 15, 2023. Download and view the plan at farallones.noaa.gov or montereybay.noaa.gov

Comments must be submitted to gfnms.restoration@noaa.gov by March 15, 2023.



The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries will accept public comment via email until January 5, 2023 on the *Draft Restoration Plan and NEPA Evaluation for the YFD-70 Dry Dock* for Greater Farallones and Monterey Bay national marine sanctuaries that proposes to help restore sanctuary resources injured as a result of this incident. [Download and View the plan.](#) Comments must be submitted to gfnms.restoration@noaa.gov by January 5, 2023.



Plankton Education Program Visits 50 States to Celebrate 50 Years of National Marine Sanctuaries



Ocean Career Video Series

Public Review



Public comments will be accepted until March 15, 2023. Download and view the plan at farallones.noaa.gov or montereybay.noaa.gov

Comments must be submitted to gfnms.restoration@noaa.gov by March 15, 2023.

MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

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WELCOME TO THE SANCTUARY

News & Upcoming Events

Draft Restoration Plan and NEPA Evaluation for the YFD-70 Dry Dock
The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries will accept public comment via email until January 5, 2023 on the Draft Restoration Plan and NEPA Evaluation for the YFD-70 Dry Dock for Greater Farallones and Monterey Bay national marine sanctuaries that proposes to help restore sanctuary resources injured as a result of this incident. (12/6/2022)

MBNMS Offices and Visitor Centers Have Reopened!
We are still following local and departmental guidance, so please make sure to check before planning your visit. (12/5/2022)

Position Announcement: Full-Time Sanctuary Exploration Center Manager
(12/2/2022)

Position Announcement: Full-Time

Come Explore our Visitor Centers!

Contact Us | Site Map | Report An Emergency

Reviewed: June 01, 2022
Web Site Owner: National Ocean Service
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The Draft Restoration Plan and the Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Areas



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

February 15, 2023

Mr. Marc Gorelnik, Chair
Pacific Fisheries Management Council
7700 Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, OR 97220

RE: Agenda item F.4 Non-Trawl Area Management – Final Preferred Alternative

Dear Mr. Gorelnik:

Thank you for the opportunity for Greater Farallones and Monterey Bay national marine sanctuaries (GFNMS, MBNMS, or sanctuary) to submit joint comments regarding the modifications to the non-trawl Rockfish Conservation Area (NT-RCA). The purpose of this letter is to share with the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) a [Draft Restoration Plan and NEPA Evaluation for the YFD-70 Dry Dock](#) (Restoration Plan) authored by Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) to restore resources, habitat, and biota, and to discuss potential effects to the draft Restoration Plan that may occur due to the PFMC's action on NT-RCA.

Sanctuaries provided the PFMC with data collected in several locations within the identified areas that show the intrinsic value of these areas; their unique confluence of rocky reefs, biogenic habitat, and groundfish species of interests; and how locations within these areas would be suitable for coral restoration for the existing proposed Project 2 in the draft Restoration Plan and for potential future opportunities for coral outplanting.