



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

October 18, 2024

Mr. Brad Pettinger, Chair
Pacific Fisheries Management Council

RE: Agenda item I.5 – Cordell Bank Regulation Changes

Dear Mr. Pettinger:

Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries (GFNMS and CBNMS) are administered as one management unit and as such I've directed our science team to review the Cordell Bank Regulation Changes Range of Alternatives (ROA) and Preliminary Environmental Assessment once it is released in the advance briefing book. The area under consideration for regulatory change as described in the [September 2023 scoping document](#) is one of the most researched areas within CBNMS.

We intend to submit a report to the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) in the supplemental briefing book with information related to our decades of research on the Cordell Bank ecosystem. We understand that the current action before the Council is not tied to designating an area for the conservation of fish habitat. However, without other processes available, we ask the Council to consider the information in determining the appropriate range of alternatives given that there has not been a comprehensive Essential Fish Habitat review of the non-trawl sector of the Groundfish Fishery Management Plan.

The other purpose of this letter is to share with the PFMC that the Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Joint Advisory Councils (SACs) have scheduled a special 2-hour meeting that will take place on **October 31 from 1-3 pm PST** to review the analysis and discuss the ROA. Members may also make recommendations that would be shared with the PFMC prior to your November meeting after my review. The meeting is virtual and open to the public.

Meeting Registration: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/799864365578184539>

The meeting agenda will be posted in advance of the meeting on the CBNMS website: <https://cordellbank.noaa.gov/council/documents.html>

If you have any questions about the SACs meeting, please contact Tishma Patel, SAC Coordinator: tishma.patel@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maria Brown".

Maria Brown, Superintendent
Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank
National Marine Sanctuaries

cc: Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council