

**MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL
RESOLUTION 1-03
IN SUPPORT OF A BAN ON HARMFUL DISCHARGES FROM CRUISE SHIPS**

Whereas, the designation document for the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary acknowledges that water quality is critical to health of its marine ecosystem, and

Whereas, since Sanctuary designation, tremendous effort has been made by the Sanctuary, its partner agencies, and local jurisdictions to reduce land based sources of pollution; and

Whereas, at the time of Sanctuary designation, vessel discharges (excluding oily bilge wastes and raw sewage) were exempted from the general prohibition on discharging materials into the Sanctuary; and

Whereas, with the increase in visitation by large cruise ships to the MBNMS, it has become evident that this exemption may allow large volumes of untreated or inadequately treated wastewaters to be discharged by these types of vessels within the MBNMS with potential adverse impacts to Sanctuary resources and qualities, including the economies of coastal communities; and

Whereas, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) believes that routine discharges from cruise ships such as all wastewater (including sewage and graywater), ballast water, water discharged through oil separators (bilge water) and all forms of solid waste can cause unnecessary and unacceptable harm to the marine resources of the Sanctuary; and

Whereas, there is strong community support for a ban on cruise ship discharges within the Sanctuary

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT the Sanctuary Advisory Council recommends the development and adoption of a regulation in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary; including working with relevant agencies to prohibit harmful discharges. The SAC further recommends that an education program be designed for the benefit of cruise lines passengers and crew that would highlight the unique protected resources of the MBNMS.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY the Sanctuary Advisory Council of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, this 7th day of February, 2003. Vote: 11 in favor, 3 opposed, 2 abstentions.

Stephanie Harlan

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Chair