

# Tomales Bay Protection Plan

## GULF OF THE FARALLONES NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

July 2007



Research • Education • Conservation • Stewardship

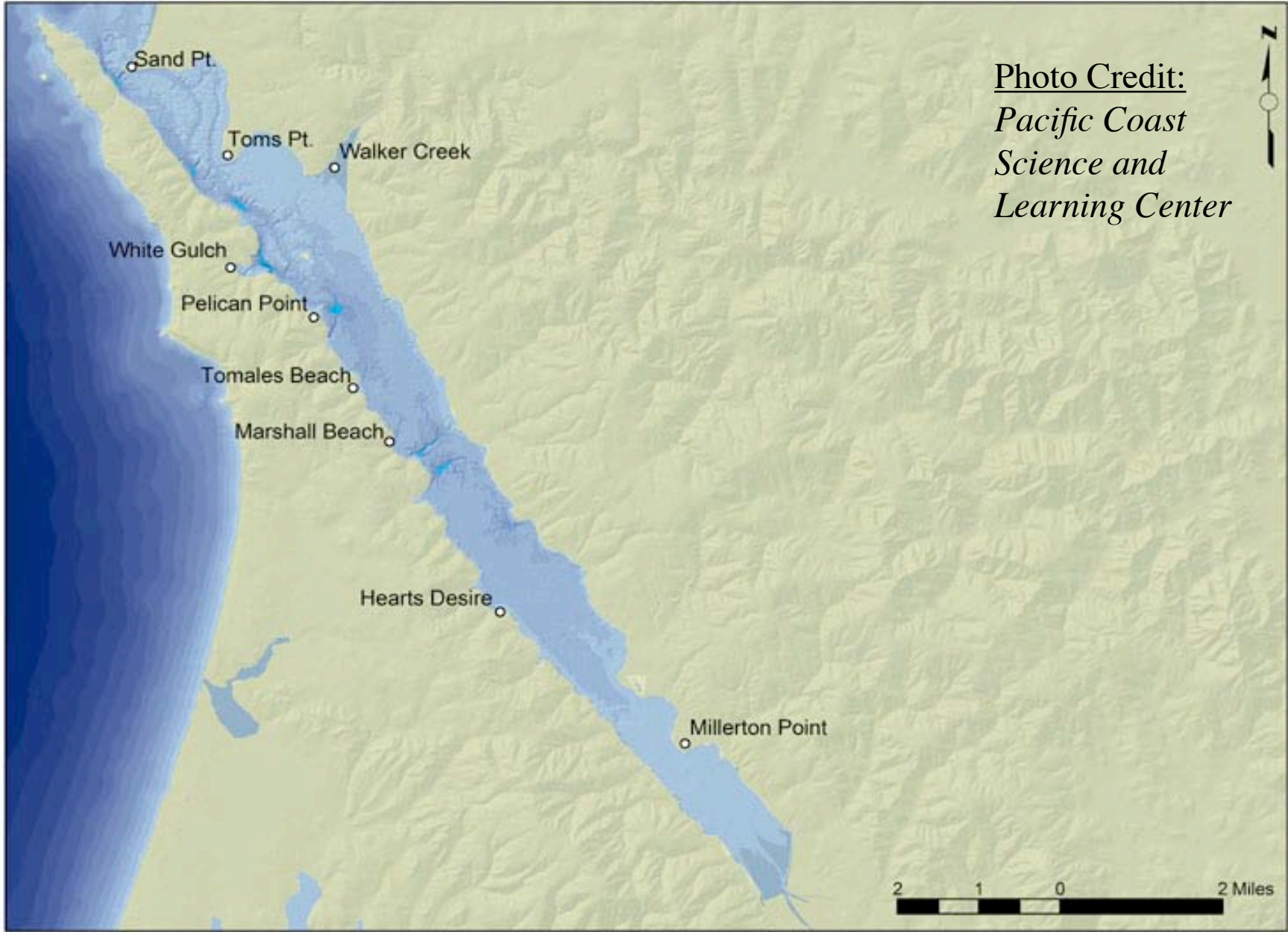


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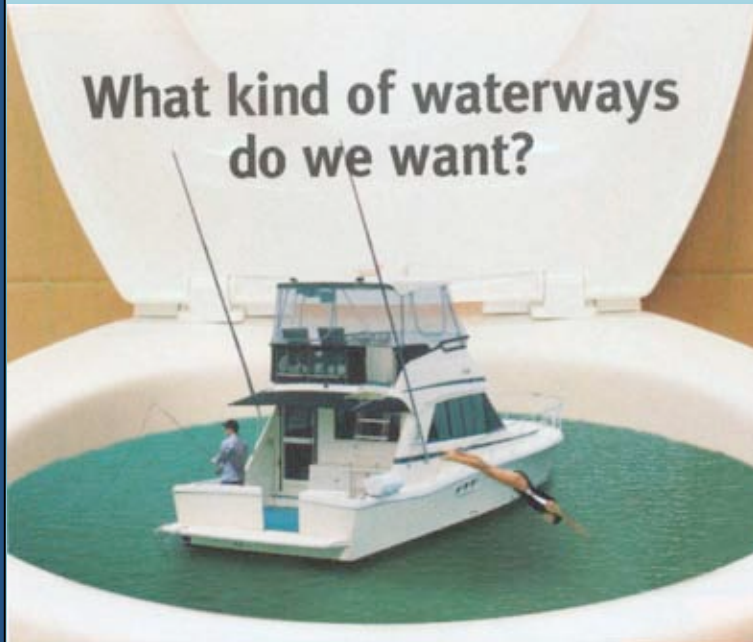
# Background



- State, national, and international protections and designations.
- One of the most ecologically significant estuarine areas in the State of California.
- Extensive recreational uses, especially during the summer.
- State's third largest commercial shellfish fisheries.



# Issues of Concern



- Tomales Bay is listed as impaired by pathogen contamination on the Clean Water Act's 303(d) list.
- Consequences:
  - Loss of recreation uses (swimming and fishing)
  - Commercial Shellfish Contamination





# Issues of Concern



- Discharges of fuel, oil and toxic materials



# Issues of Concern

- Threats to Navigation
- Habitat Damage



# Issues of Concern



## Mooring

- Improper disposal of human waste
- Habitat Damage
- Threats to navigation
- Discharges of fuel, oil and toxic materials





# Issues of Concern

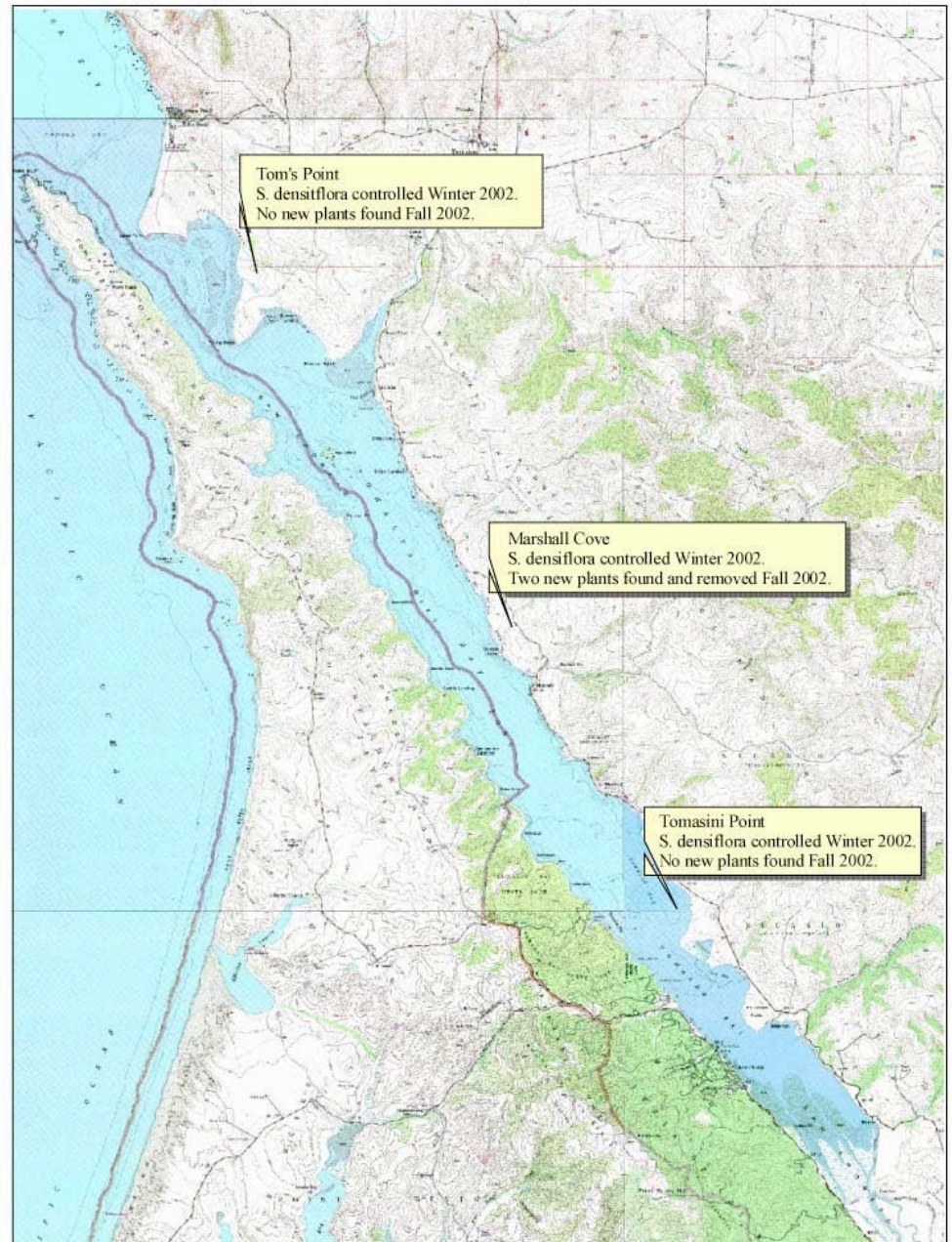
- Wildlife Disturbance





# Issues of Concern

- Invasive Species



Status and locations of *Spartina densiflora* populations in Tomales Bay (December 2002)



# Long-Term Vision: Tomales Bay Protection Plan

- Develop a comprehensive plan to ensure the protection of water quality, natural resources, and safety in Tomales Bay. **(RP-12)**



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# Proposed Process

- Release a scoping document for public input: Agency Actions to Protect Tomales Bay by Managing Vessel Usage
  - Outreach to the Tomales Bay Watershed Council
  - Have a 60-day public comment period
  - Hold two workshops
- Release draft Tomales Bay Vessel Management Plan





# Goals and Objectives



- Protect public health and improve water quality
- Protect habitat and decrease threats to and disturbance of wildlife
- Ensure safe and enjoyable water-related recreation



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# Management Issues Addressed

## Short-Term: Addressed in Scoping Document

- Develop sewage waste guidelines
- Remove illegal moorings
- Propose for public comment strategies for accommodating moorings and vessels
- Establish seagrass protection zones
- Remove existing derelict vessels and control future abandonment through enforcement
- Initiate an education and outreach program



# Management Issues Addressed

## Long-Term: Addressed in the Vessel Management Plan

- Siting and design criteria for future expansion of vessel-related facilities, particularly marinas and boat repair facilities;
- Identification of the location, distribution, and extent of current and future vessel moorings;
- Location of future protected areas necessary to protect water quality, sensitive habitats and public safety
- Location, distribution and extent of vessel waste management facilities
- Current and future permitting and enforcement procedures and programs.





# Timeline

## 2007

### July

- Presentation to SAC
- Announcement to Tomales Bay Watershed Council (TBWC)

### August

- Presentation to TBWC
- Scoping Document released: 60-day comment period.

### September

- 2 Workshops

### October

- Comment period closes



## 2008

### January

- Updated Scoping Document
- Response to comments
- GFNMS implementation of non-regulatory recommendations

### February

- Preparation of Draft Vessel Management Plan

**NOTE:** Future timeline depends on Funding. Currently no funding for EIS/EIR development

# SAC Involvement: Process Options

- GFNMS will send the SAC a copy of the draft Scoping Document
  - Option 1: Individual SAC members can provide comments during the public comment period.
  - Option 2: The SAC can provide comments and advise the Sanctuary Superintendent as a body.
    - NOTE: This would require opening a portion of the SAC retreat scheduled for October for public comment and SAC action.

