

# **Tomales Bay Vessel Management**

## **GULF OF THE FARALLONES NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY**

**Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting  
December 2007**



**Research • Education • Conservation • Stewardship**

# Tomales Bay Vessel Management Plan

The first step in a comprehensive plan for Tomales Bay outlined in the GFNMS Draft Management Plan. **(RP-12)**



Research • Education • Conservation • Stewardship

# Vessel Management 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



# Management Issues

- Pathogen impairment; sewage discharges
- Discharges of fuel, oil and toxics
- Invasive species
- Seagrass protection
- Preventing wildlife disturbance
- Protecting public safety



# Process to Date

- On August 31st 10 agencies released a document for public input: “Protecting Tomales Bay by Managing Vessel Usage”
  - Outreach to the Tomales Bay Watershed Council
  - Informational meetings with interested stakeholders
  - Held three workshops- 98 participants
  - Completed a 90 day public comment period on December 3rd
- 41 items of written comment received



# Recommendations for Action Presented in Published Document

- Remove abandoned and derelict vessels and moorings
- Replace un-permitted moorings with better moorings and create a permit system
- Create seagrass protection zones and prohibit anchoring there (education & enforcement)
- Minimize sewage and other discharges (provide facilities, implement NDZ & boater education)
- Prevent introduction of invasive species (education)
- Expand current and future permitting and enforcement procedures and programs.



# Moving Forward: Where We Are Headed

- Assess potential for surveys & seagrass monitoring
- Finalizing criteria for protection of resources
- Developing mooring permit program
- Develop criteria for acceptable mooring tackle
- Develop implementation strategy for seagrass protection zones (re: anchoring)
- Develop plan for removal of derelict moorings
- Install sewage and oil services - get NDZ designation



# Requested SAC Action

1) Request for a Working Group

2) Proposed Composition:

- SAC representative (Dominique Richard)
- TBBA representative
- TBWC/ TAC representative
- Reps of boating businesses in Tomales Bay
- Littoral property owner with mooring
- Key agency representatives
- EAC/Marin, Sierra Club
- Others?
- *Facilitated by GFNMS Tomales Bay project staff*





# Proposed Timeline

## January/February

- SAC Working group starts meeting once every 6 weeks to assist interagency group in addressing core issues / uncertainties
- Publish response to comments

## January- August

- GFNMS implementation of non-regulatory recommendations NDZ Designation
- Obtain funding for sewage and oil facilities
- Develop boater education and outreach plan

## Summer

- Begin development of EIS/EIR
- Prepare Notice of Intent to release Draft Vessel Management Plan

## Fall

- Release draft Vessel Management Plan

