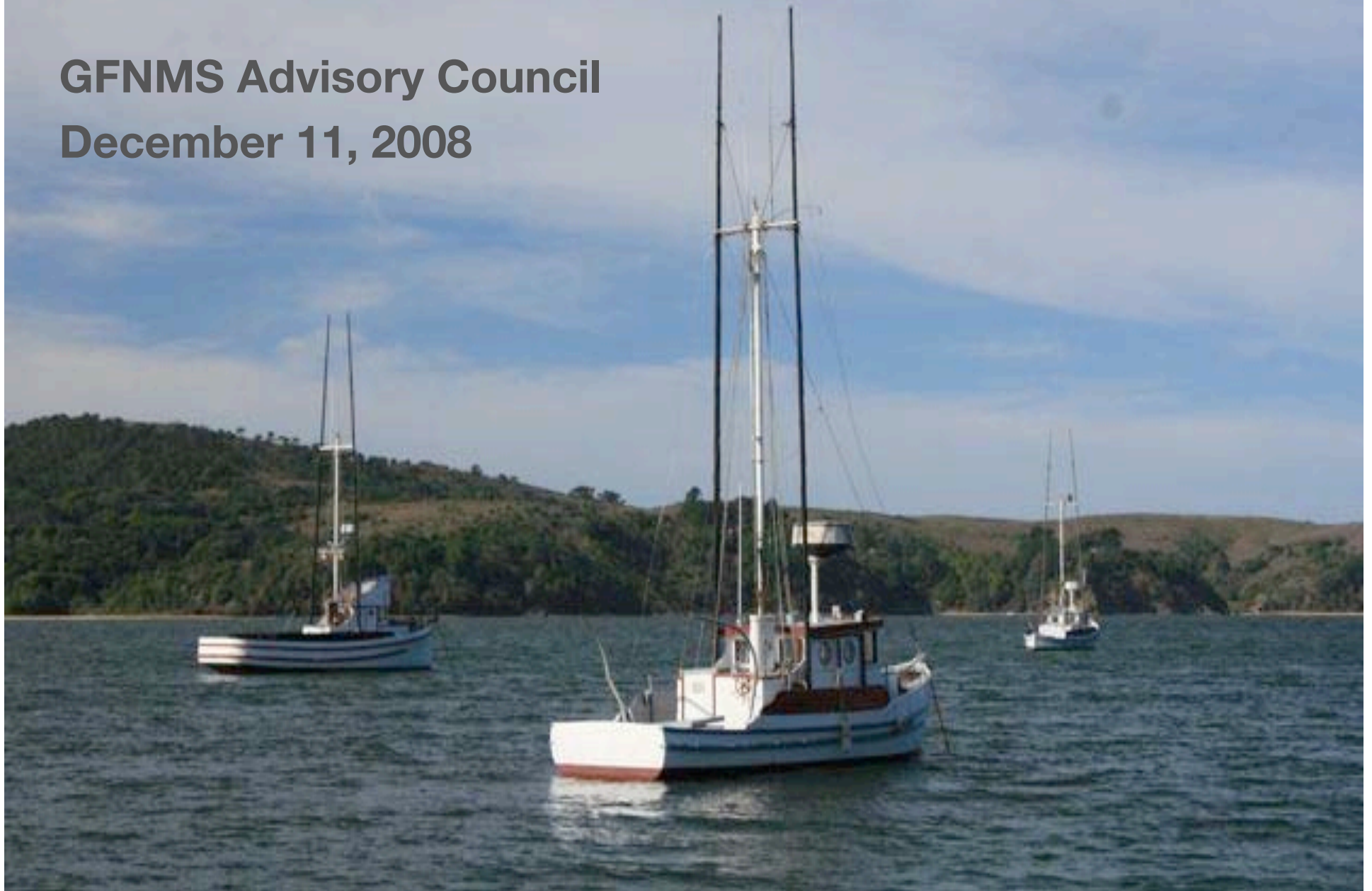


Tomales Bay Vessel Management Plan

GFNMS Advisory Council

December 11, 2008



Tomales Bay Vessel Management Plan

The first step in a comprehensive plan for Tomales Bay outlined in the GFNMS Management Plan (page 201). **(RP-12)**



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



Working Group Process

Interagency Committee

- CA State Lands Commission
- SF Water Quality Control Board
- National Park Service
- CA Dept. of Fish and Game
- CA Coastal Commission
- CA Boating and Waterways
- CA State Parks
- Marin County Sheriff's Department
- CA Dept. of Health Services
- NOAA (GFNMS Superintendent)

Working Group

- Reviews and discusses options and makes recommendations to Sanctuary Advisory Council

GFNMS Advisory Council

- Reviews and discusses recommendations from the Working Group and advises Superintendent

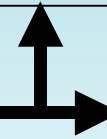
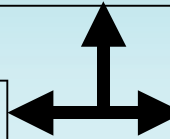
GFNMS

- Reviews, and accepts or rejects recommendations. All rejections must be made in writing and include a rationale for rejection.

NEPA/CEQA

SLC

ONMS



Vessel Management Issues

- 1) Mooring Tackle Pilot Test and Selection
- 2) Siting Environmental Services (Sewage)
- 3) Oily Waste Discharge
- 4) Seagrass Monitoring and Assessment
- 5) Mooring Criteria
- 6) Educational and Outreach Program
- 7) Spacing of moorings and total number of moorings
- 8) Mooring fields
- 9) Permit Program



Progress to date:

- 1) **Mooring Tackle Pilot Test and Selection**
 - Discussed at WG over two-meetings
 - WG Recommendation to SAC

- 2) **Siting Environmental Services**
 - WG Recommendation to SAC
 - Letters to DBW and Marin County--Success!

- 3) **Seagrass Monitoring and Assessment**
 - Seagrass experts meeting held
 - Recommendations for assessment



Progress to date:

4) Mooring Criteria

- Discussed at WG over several meetings
- WG Recommendation to SAC

5) Educational and Outreach Program

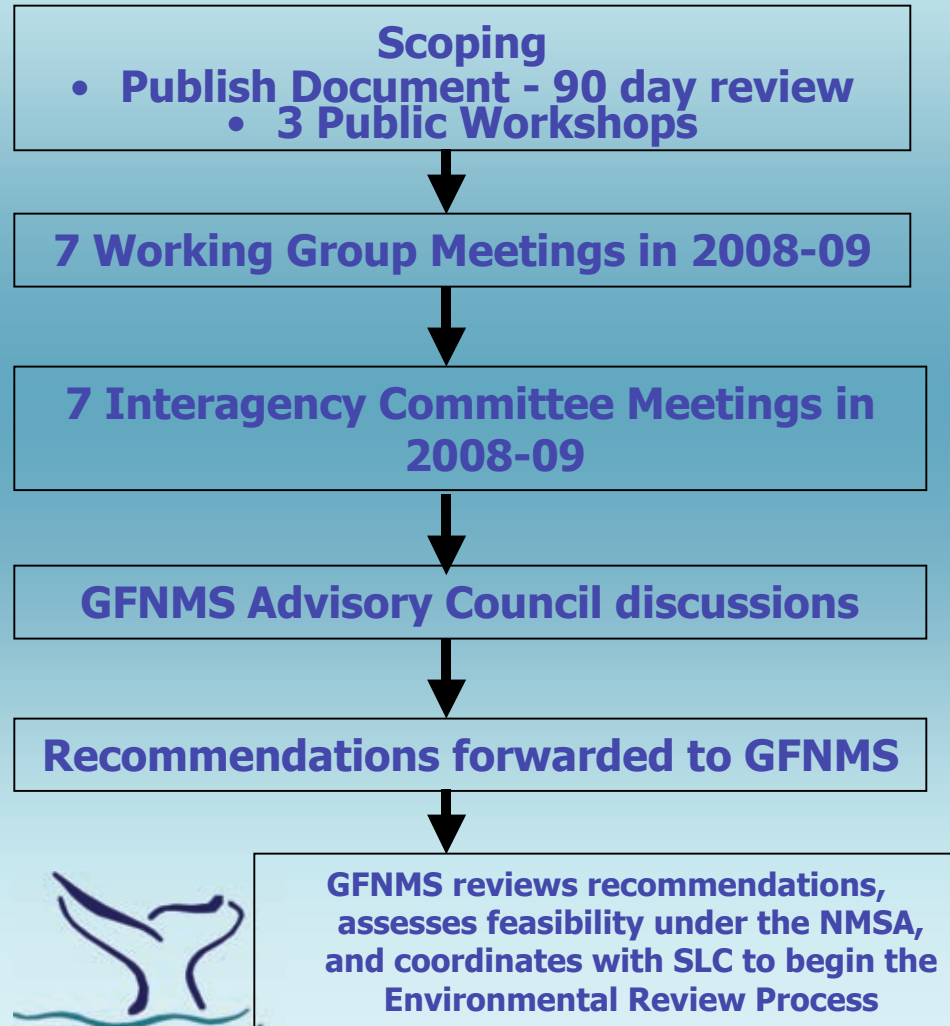
- Developed outline for an Education/Outreach plan which will be part of the VMP.
- WG Recommendation to SAC



The Process

A Comparative View

Sanctuary Process



Required by Law



Moving Forward: Where We Are Headed

- Develop tackle pull test
- Assess potential for surveys & seagrass monitoring
- Finalize criteria for protection of resources, in coordination with Interagency Committee
- Develop mooring permit program, in Coordination with Permitting Agencies.
- Develop criteria for acceptable mooring tackle
- Develop implementation strategy for seagrass protection zones (re: anchoring)
- Develop plan for removal of derelict moorings
- Plan for the installation of sewage and oil services - obtain NDZ designation
- Develop Education and Outreach Plan



Moving Forward: Staffing the next 6 months

- Staff time devoted to developing a Vessel Management Plan, as detailed in the GFNMS Management Plan and implementing additional tasks based on SAC recommendations.
- Maximum Staff Time Available per month:

Brad Damitz: 80 hours/month

Karen Reyna: 24 hours/month

Maria Brown: 12 hours/month



Updated Timeline

Pre-Scoping

1998-1999

- Two meetings (businesses and SLC, CG, NPS, GGNRA) - developed proposed criteria

2002

- Two meetings, agencies only--Discussed jurisdictional issues and TMDL requirements

2004-2007

- 1999 criteria distributed and considered-
- Interagency committee meets on a regular basis to discuss agency jurisdictions, criteria for mooring, and other ways to address the citing of Tomales Bay as an impaired body of water
- Criteria evolve, new agencies are added, scoping document is developed



Post-Scoping

March 2008 - 2009

- SAC Working group meets to address core issues
- Publish response to comments to public scoping
- GFNMS implementation of non-regulatory recommendations, in accordance with work plan.
- Obtain funding for sewage and oil facilities
- Test mooring tackle
- Develop boater education and outreach plan

Winter/Spring 2009

- Begin development of NEPA/CEQA documents
- Prepare Notice of Intent to release Draft Vessel Management Plan

Summer/Fall 2009 - 2010

- Release draft Vessel Management Plan
- Hold Public Hearings

Working Group Recommendations to SAC on Mooring Criteria

Seagrass Criteria:

1-MC Recommend to the SAC the following criteria for seagrass beds:

Seagrass extents from 1992 were merged with updates from 2000, 2001, and 2002 to designate current seagrass beds. No mooring in designated seagrass beds will be permitted and, if mooring tackle touches submerged lands, a buffer equal to the radius of the mooring tackle would be applied. Seagrass criteria can be amended to allow the Sanctuary in its sole discretion to allow a mooring in a designated seagrass bed if its installation, maintenance, and use results in negligible impacts individually or cumulatively, or is beneficial to the environment in comparison to the alternatives. Based on adaptive management, designated seagrass beds will be periodically updated using surveys.”



*There was a minority dissenting opinion that the above criteria not be applied for new installations in actual eelgrass beds.

Mooring Criteria

Seagrass Criteria:

2-MC Recommend to the SAC the following criteria for addressing migrating seagrass beds and the citing of future seagrass beds:

- A. Designated seagrass beds will be established at the time that the permitting process is approved, subject to amendment in accordance with periodic review;
- B. Prior to permit/lease renewal, evaluate location and extent of designated seagrass beds based on the most recent reviewed data. If moorings are within designated seagrass beds, consider repealing the mooring license or permit, relocating the mooring *or mandating alternative mooring technology* in that location.
- C. Seagrass criteria can be amended to allow the Sanctuary, in its sole discretion, to allow a mooring in a designated seagrass bed if its installation, maintenance, and use results in negligible impact or is beneficial to the environment in comparison to the alternatives.



*There was a minority dissenting opinion that the above criteria not be applied for new installations in actual eelgrass beds.

Mooring Criteria

State Parks Criteria:

3-MC Working Group recommends to the SAC that the Sanctuary investigate the possibility of State Parks revising their recommendations for mooring. Specifically, to change the recommendation from “No mooring in areas 1000 feet offshore of State Park lands” to “individual mooring permits be reviewed subject to the approval of State Parks, if required.”

Shoreside Properties Criteria:

4-MC Working Group recommends to the SAC that the Sanctuary bring for consideration to the Interagency Committee the creation of a no-mooring buffer in front of residential shoreside properties without the consent of the property owner.



Working Group Recommendations to SAC on Sewage Services

1-SS Recommend to SAC that staff, with continued input from community stakeholders, pursue the investigation and planning for sewage services at the following locations: Lawson's Landing, Marshall Boat Works, Marconi Cove, and Miller Park.

2-SS Recommend to SAC staff support in pursuit of environmental services grants at those sites deemed appropriate in the investigation from #1 above.

3-SS Recommend to SAC that the Sanctuary encourage Marin County Parks and Recreation, State Parks and/or GGNRA to purchase the private Marconi Cove parcel up for sale that is currently being used as a boat ramp.

4-SS Recommend to the SAC that the Sanctuary write a letter to PRNS requesting that the GGNRA install and maintain a "Port-a-John" bathroom facility at Grassy Point on GGNRA 17-111 (Marin County Assessors Parcel No. 104-230-23).



Working Group Recommendations to SAC on Oil Services

OIL AND BILGE (OB)

1-OB The Working Group recommends the issue of oil and bilge services be included as part of the Vessel Management Plan for reducing impacts to water quality, and impacts to wildlife, habitats, and human health.

Specifically, the WG recommends:

- A. Oil absorbent exchange program for the following locations: Marshall Boatworks, Miller Park, and Lawson's Landing.
- B. Identification of existing vessel oil recycling facilities for Tomales Bay (including Lawson's Landing, Greenbridge Auto and Gas and others) and investigation of the potential for a new facility at Marshall Boat Works.

2-OB

The Working Group requests that the SAC not include a recommendation for pursuing a bilge pump-out station for Tomales Bay, in the *Tomales Bay Vessel Management Plan*.



Oil Absorbent Exchange Program



OIL ABSORBENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Boaters, Pick Up Your Free Oil Absorbents

LET'S KEEP THE DELTA CLEAN

by using an Oil Absorbent in the bilge to capture leaks and drips from your boat engine.



1. Take Only What You Need
2. Drop Used Oil Absorbents into the Red "Absorbent Only" Recycling Can or Ask the Marina Attendant
3. See Absorbent Pillow Cover for Other Marinas Participating in the Oil Absorbent Exchange Program

Call 1-800-CLEANUP (www.earth911.org) for Other Oil Absorbent Distribution and Disposal Locations



Funded by a grant from the State Water Resources Control Board and the California Bay-Delta Authority



USED OIL ABSORBENTS ONLY
NO TRASH!



OIL ABSORBENT SHEET



OIL ABSORBENT PILLOW



Provided by a grant from the State Water Resources Control Board and the California Bay-Delta Authority



Working Group Recommendations to SAC on Education and Outreach

1-EO WG recommends an educational approach focused on not anchoring in eelgrass beds, rather than using buoys as markers of eelgrass beds or anchoring/no-anchoring zones.

2-EO The Working Group Recommends that a boater education and outreach program be developed that encompasses the following:

A. Education and Outreach Messages:

- Take out your trash
- Dispose of human waste properly (locations of disposal sites)
- Dispose of oil, fuel and maintenance products properly (disposal site locations)
- Do not disturb wildlife;
- Do not introduce non-native species;
- Register your Vessel/ do not abandon boats
- Protect eelgrass: don't anchor in eelgrass.



Working Group Recommendations to SAC on Education and Outreach

2-EO (continued)

- B. Education and Outreach Materials/Strategies and potential locations as identified in WG notes from 11/12/08. The highest/short-term priority was identified as creating a webpage with maps, locations for products and services, and integrated messages, and outreach at specific venues and events.

