



Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary

SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

November 20, 2012

The Honorable Rebecca Blank
Acting Secretary of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dr. Jane Lubchenco
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and
Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Daniel J. Basta
Director, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1325 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282

Re: Reactivation of the National Marine Sanctuaries Site Evaluation List

Dear Acting Secretary Blank, Dr. Lubchenco, and Director Basta:

On behalf of the Cordell Bank Sanctuary Advisory Council, I am writing to support the reactivation of the Sanctuary Site Evaluation List (SEL), which is a vital part of the process leading to the creation of National Marine Sanctuaries. The SEL is an important and proven process by which local communities can start a public conversation about options for creating a National Marine Sanctuary (NMS) off their coast. It has been 12 years since the last NMS was designated (Thunder Bay NMS), and given the number of intervening years it is appropriate to review and renew the SEL. Reactivation of the SEL will give communities across the country the opportunity to engage in ocean stewardship and to pursue this option if they are interested.

Reopening the SEL is a specific action item identified in the President's National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan (Regional Ecosystem Protection and Restoration Action 6ⁱ). Additionally, National Marine Sanctuaries benefit local economies and will help the Department of Commerce achieve the President's directive to expand travel and tourism to America's coasts and beaches. Given better understanding of the increasing threats to our oceans, it is more important now than ever to consider expanding the protection of our nation's important ocean treasures.

Sincerely,

Lance Morgan, PhD & Chair, Cordell Bank Sanctuary Advisory Council

ⁱ <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/oceans/implementationplan>

The council is an advisory body to the sanctuary superintendent. The opinions and findings of this letter do not necessarily reflect the position of the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Members

Jaime Jahncke Research	Lance Morgan (Chair) Conservation	Kevin Krick Maritime Activities	TBD Fishing	Bill Wolpert Community-at-Large Sonoma	George Clyde (Vice Chair) Community-at-Large Marin	Leslie Adler-Ivanbrook Education
Pete Adams Research Alt.	Todd Steiner Conservation Alt.	John Berge Maritime Activities Alt.	TBD Fishing	Sarah Hameed Community-at-Large Sonoma Alt.	Mike Cummings Community-at-Large Marin Alt.	TBD Education Alt.