

BACKGROUND

Action: Tomales Bay Vessel Management Plan

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



BACKGROUND

Recommendations for Action Presented in Published Document

(A coordination Effort of 10 Agencies)

1. Site and establish sewage services
2. Remove abandoned and derelict vessels and moorings
3. Address un-permitted moorings and create a permit system
4. Establish mooring criteria to protect Bay water quality, habitat, wildlife and public safety
5. Boater Education
6. Expand current and future permitting and enforcement procedures and programs



BACKGROUND

Key Management Issues

- Pathogen impairment; address sewage discharges
- Prevent discharges of fuel, oil, toxics, marine debris
- Benthic habitat protection
- Preventing wildlife disturbance
- Protecting public safety
- Boater Education



BACKGROUND

Moving Forward

- Finalizing criteria for protection of resources
- Developing mooring permit program
- Develop criteria for acceptable mooring tackle
- Assess potential for surveys & seagrass monitoring
- Develop plan for removal of derelict moorings
- Install sewage and oil services, NDZ designation



BACKGROUND

Overview of Working Group Topics

- Two meetings of the Tomales Bay Vessel Management SAC Working Group were held: one in June, one in July
- Discussion Topics
 1. Sewage Services and Siting
 - Discussed areas where there can be pump-out stations and dump stations could be located
 - Discussed the need for a boater assessment survey
 2. Mooring Criteria
 - Discussed criteria for mooring in seagrass and aquaculture
 3. Talked about mooring equipment/tackle
 - WG members performed a sediment test on Tomales Bay
 - Discussed purpose and scope of testing mooring equipment/tackle
- Through all these discussions, a total of 7 actions have been proposed.



**TOMALES BAY VESSEL MANAGEMENT SAC WORKING GROUP:
Recommendations for SAC Actions**

ACTION 1 (Sewage Services and Siting)

The WG recommends that the SAC write a letter to Marin County Environmental Health asking them to look into the following:

- Is there capacity for a Marshall Boat Works pump-out station for East Shore wastewater site under the existing system as structured and existing agreements, permits and capacity?
- What effect would holding tank chemicals have?
- What will be the cost and feasibility to connecting the ES system during phase 2 of the project?



**TOMALES BAY VESSEL MANAGEMENT SAC WORKING GROUP:
Recommendations for SAC Actions**

ACTION 2 (Sewage Services and Siting)

The Working Group recommends that sanctuary staff follow up with Marin County Parks and Open Space District (MCPOSD) regarding putting a dump station at Miller Park.

ACTION 3 (Sewage Services and Siting)

The Working Group recommends that the SAC write a letter to the Boating and Waterways Commission and Marin County Board of Supervisors to request a dump station at Miller Park and to encourage to approval of phase 2 of the work.



**TOMALES BAY VESSEL MANAGEMENT SAC WORKING GROUP:
Recommendations for SAC Actions**

ACTION 4 (Mooring Criteria-Seagrass)

The Working Group recommends that sanctuary staff ask the following questions to seagrass experts:

- Do moorings have a measurable impact to seagrass, and if so what type of impact do moorings have?
- Is there guidance that can be given on an adequate buffer for a moored boat?
- Do helical moorings have an impact on seagrass? If so, what is the extent of that impact?
- Is there a precedent that shows zero impact from installing moorings on seagrass beds?
- What is everything known about shading from boats and it's impacts to seagrass considering new technology of mooring tackle?
- What is the possibility for local research on impacts to seagrass (and possibility benthic habitat) from moorings?



**TOMALES BAY VESSEL MANAGEMENT SAC WORKING GROUP:
Recommendations for SAC Actions**

ACTION 5 - (Ground-rules/Process)

The Working Group Recommends that Future Working Group Meetings will be open to the public for observation only, and are noticed on the GFNMS (Tomales Bay Section) website.

ACTION 6 - (Mooring Tackle/Gear)

The Working Group recommends a pilot test for the effectiveness of mooring and chain / rode management systems under \$2,000 installed and their environmental impacts using scientific protocol (including new and existing mooring systems)



Rode examples: floats on chain, elastic, etc.

**TOMALES BAY VESSEL MANAGEMENT SAC WORKING GROUP:
Recommendations for SAC Actions**

ACTION 7 - (Mooring Criteria - Aquaculture)

The Working Group Proposes the following additional language to the paragraph below:

Additional consideration may be given to boat type, location, usage, and other factors.

Areas that fail to meet the DPH calculations for safe distances between moorings and shellfish growing operations.

Locations and extents of active aquaculture lease areas were provided by the CA Dept. of Fish and Game. The safe distances between moorings and shellfish growing operations are based on dilution ratios that analyze the number of vessels and volume of water surrounding each vessel relative to fecal coliform dilutions to safe levels (below 14 Most Probable Number) and factor in other viruses and other pathogens. The dilution ratios for moored boats near shellfish beds will be applied on a case-by-case basis.



**TOMALES BAY VESSEL MANAGEMENT SAC WORKING GROUP:
Recommendations for SAC Actions**

Update - No SAC Action (*Mooring Criteria-Seagrass*)

At their June meeting, the Working Group initially suggested a SAC action on proposed mooring criteria for seagrass, but at the July 24th meeting, they tabled action on this item, and have removed the recommendation to SAC.





TOMALES BAY VESSEL MANAGEMENT SAC WORKING GROUP

Seagrass criteria per June 27, 2007 meeting

“Seagrass extents from 1992 were merged with updates from 2000, 2001, and 2002 to designate current seagrass beds. (More recent data were not available at the time). No mooring in designated seagrass beds will be permitted and a buffer equal to the mooring radius of a boat would be applied, **pending future scientific studies into the effects of moorings on seagrass beds.** Based on adaptive management, **designated seagrass beds** will be periodically updated using surveys.”

