

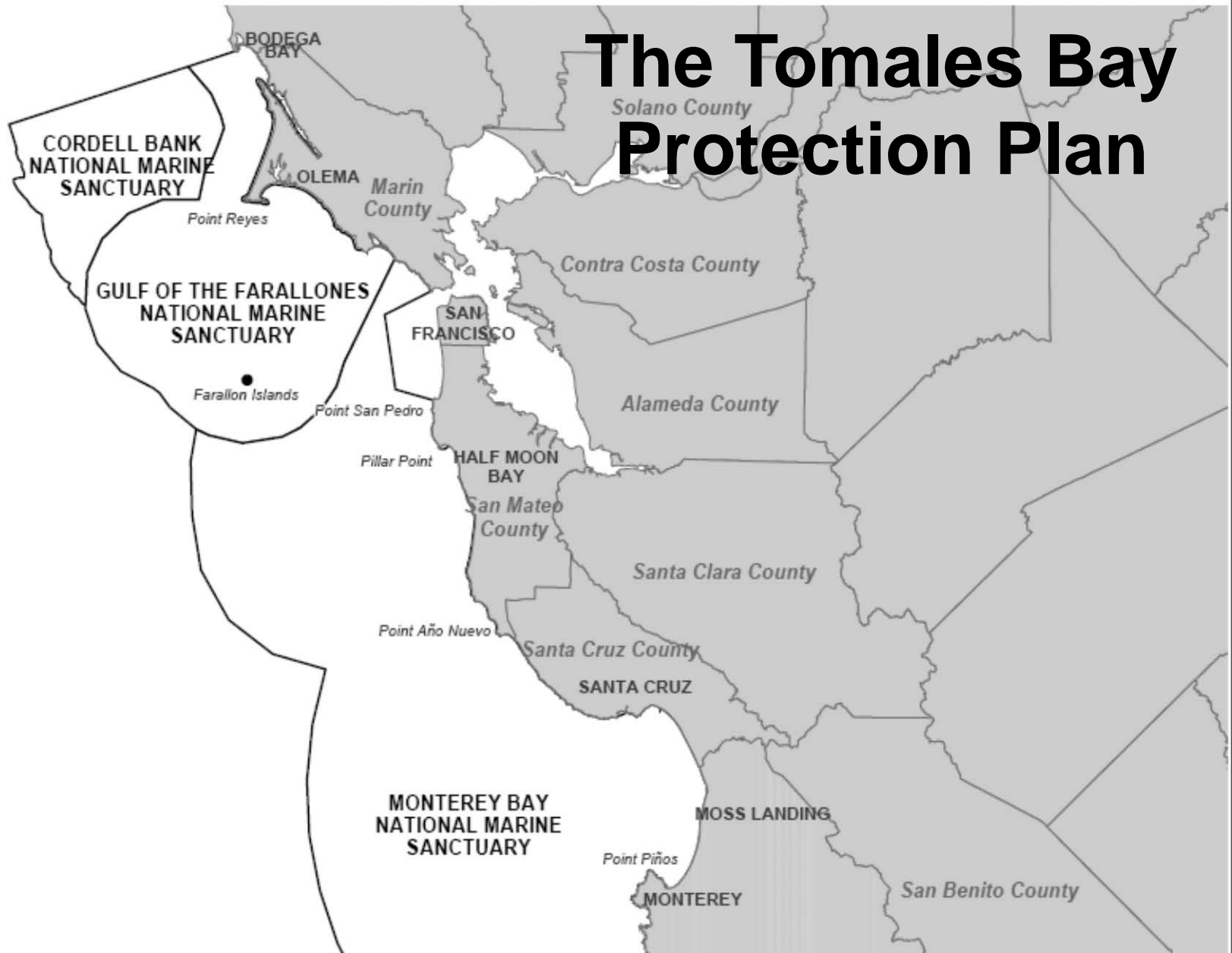
Tomales Bay Vessel Management Plan

GFNMS Advisory Council

August 23, 2012



The Tomales Bay Protection Plan



Tomales Bay



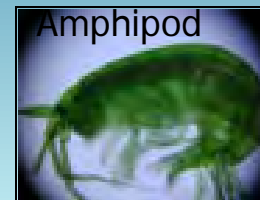
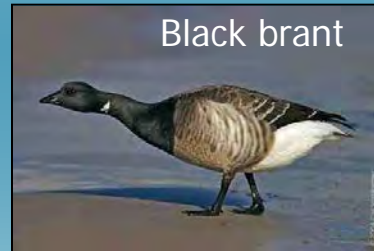
- State, national, and international protections and designations.
- One of the most ecologically significant estuarine areas in the State of California.
- Extensive recreational uses, especially during the summer.
- State's third largest commercial shellfish fisheries.



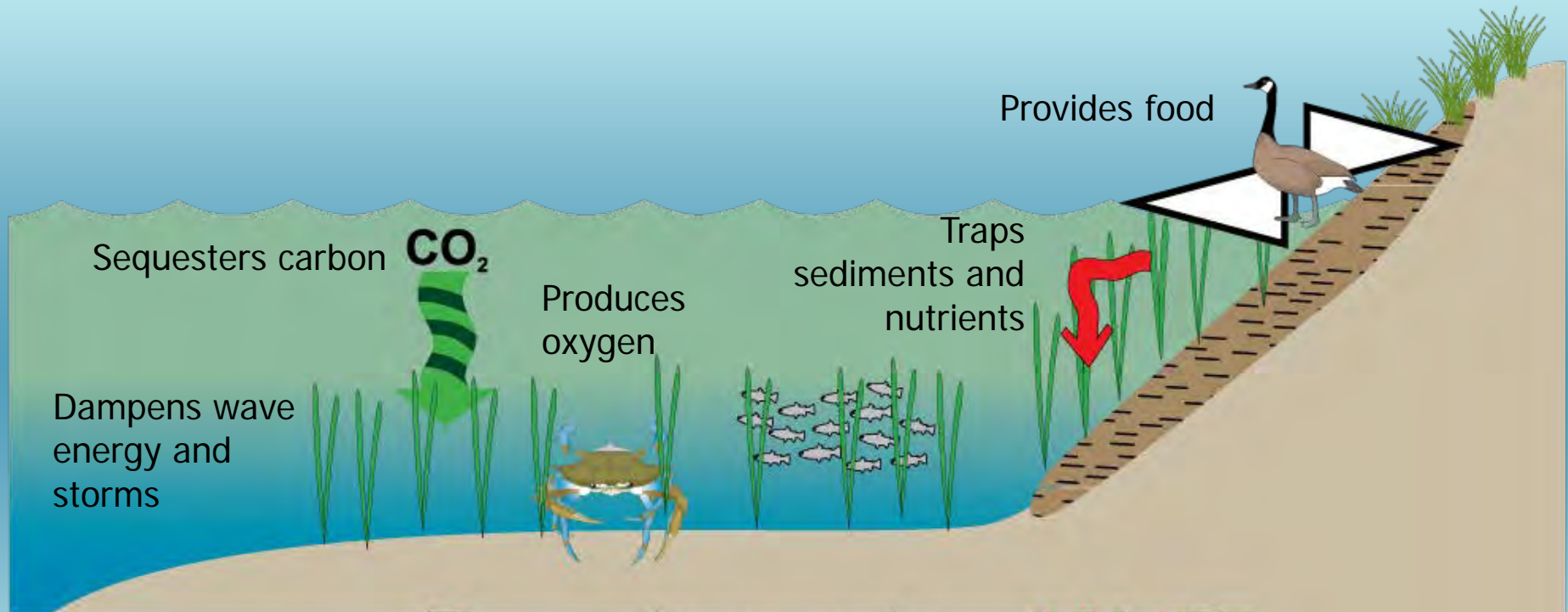
State, National & International protections and designations.



Ecological Significance of Tomales Bay



Besides food and shelter, eelgrass provides many other important ecosystem services:



Orth et al 2006



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Recreational and Commercial Human Uses of Tomales Bay



Challenges

- 11 Agencies with Jurisdiction
- Lack of Coordinated Vision
- Many Interested Parties
- Layers of Regulations
- Several Issues of Concern



Issues of Concern

- Pathogen Impairment, Sewage discharge
- Discharges of fuel, oil and toxic materials
- Boat Grounding and Sinking events
- Wildlife Disturbance
- Invasive Species
- Vessel Mooring and Anchoring



Sunken Vessel



Harbor Seal Flush



Invasive Spartina

Issues of Concern



Mooring Area

Unpermitted Mooring

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



Abandoned Mooring



I. Tomales Bay listed impaired under CWA.

- SWQCB requested that GFNMS address the issue of vessel-caused discharges.
- Illegal moorings become an issue.

2002

II. Interagency Committee (IC) is regenerated

- Membership grows to eleven state, federal and local agencies

December 2002

III. First survey of all vessels and moorings on the Bay

- Dozens of vessels are found to be unregistered.
- Over 150 moorings are recorded.

September 2004

IV. GFNMS and SWRCB Conduct Boater Outreach

- Hosted two boater workshops to inform boaters about establishing a TMDL for the Bay.
- Encouraged boater registration

May 2005

V. IC meets to develop mooring criteria.

- Elements of a mooring program are discussed.
- IC determines that SLC and GFNMS should conduct public scoping.

2004-2007

VI. Survey of all vessels and moorings on the Bay

- More vessels are found to be registered.
- Derelict vessels are tagged.

2006

VII. Draft Scoping Document is Released

- A 90-day comment period is given to the public

August 2007

XIV. IC reviews all WG Recommendations and gives feedback

- Mooring criteria is reviewed.

January 2010 - May 2010

XIII. Final Recommendations are given by Advisory Council.

- GFNMS receives all public recommendations and proceeds to developing the Vessel Management Plan.

December 2009

XII. Mooring Anchor Test is Performed

- A study of different types of mooring anchors is conducted.

September 2009

XI. Response to Public Comment Released

- IC conducts review and signoff
- Uploaded to GFNMS website and sent to all workshop participants

December 2008

X. Enforcement Survey is conducted

- Derelict vessels and new moorings are reported to NOAA Law Enforcement

November 2008

IX. SAC Work Group (WG) Provides Input

- Form WG
- 10 meetings
- 9 issues
- Recommendations to GFNMS SAC

March 2008 - December 2009

VIII. Three Boater Workshops are held.

- The public learns about the proposed mooring criteria, sewage services, and other elements of the scoping document

September - October 2007

XV. Letter of Intent to SLC, request formal agreement

- Request to set up a mooring lease program
- Request for CEQA compliance with Plan

March 2010

XVI. Develop Preliminary Draft VMP for SLC Review

- Draft Preferred Option selected
- Request more information from SLC.

July 2010

XVII. Release Preliminary Draft VMP for IC Review

- Request written comments
- Host final IC meeting to receive all feedback

September - October 2010

XVIII. Select Preferred Tackle, lease program, finish grey papers

- GFNMS prepare elements of tackle requirements
- GFNMS and SLC determine format for lease system

October 2010

XIX. Conduct NEPA/CEQA Review

- GFNMS meets with NOAA tiger team and analyzes the preferred option.
- SLC determines state consistency

November 2010 - July 2012

XX. Draft VMP is released to Public

- 30 day comment period
- One public hearing: Sept. 18

August 2012

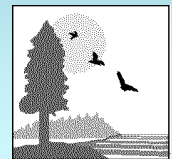
XXI. Final VMP Released

- GFNMS and SLC develop final draft for review

2013

Tomales Bay Vessel Management

The first step in a comprehensive plan for Tomales Bay Vessel Management outlined in the Sanctuary Management Plan.



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SCOPE OF THE PLAN

The Plan reflects a multi-agency effort to streamline and coordinate future vessel-related activities, lead by the Sanctuary and State Lands Commission

Intended outcome: a coordinated, collaborative plan that provides guidance to the public and agencies.

This plan does not establish any new legal authorities; none of the proposed actions will alter existing authorities or regulation of activities within Tomales Bay.



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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

THE PLAN

Goal 1: Protect public health and improve water quality

Actions:

- Designating an EPA no-discharge zone
- Providing adequate facilities for proper sewage disposal
- Implementing an oil absorbant exchange program
- Reducing closures of commercial shellfish harvest
- Requiring all moored vessels to have adequate marine sanitation devices
- Ensure moorings are made of non-toxic, approved materials
- Educating the public

THE PLAN

Goal 2: Protect habitat and decrease threats to and disturbance of wildlife

Actions:

- Preventing impacts from vessels in sensitive habitats
- Removing illegally and improperly placed moorings and grounded, derelict, and deserted vessels
- Permitting moorings and exploring vessel storage options that avoid eelgrass beds, seal haul-out areas, and aquaculture lease areas
- Educating boaters about preventing invasive species
- Educating boaters about the Seagrass protection zones (GFNMS anchoring prohibition).

THE PLAN

Goal 3: Ensure safe and enjoyable water-related recreation

Actions:

- Ensure moorings are not in areas where there is a high concentration of recreation, such as swimming beaches
- Prevent moorings near navigation channels
- Site mooring zones in/near areas of historic mooring including sheltered coves
- Create a streamlined process for permitting moorings and educate the public on how to go through the process.

Siting Environmental Services

(Sewage, Oil and Bilge)

- **Current lack of existing vessel oil and sewage services for Tomales Bay**
- **The Plan includes specific recommendations for used oil recycling and an Oil Absorbent Exchange Program**
- **Recommended locations for a pumpout station and three port-a-potty dump stations on Tomales Bay are also detailed in Plan**
- **Vessel sewage services are necessary to pursue No-discharge zone designation, a recommendation of the Plan**
- **Progress has already been made on oil and sewage services recommended in 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.



Environmental Services



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Increasing Boater Education Efforts

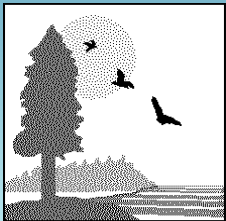


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NOBLE Consultants

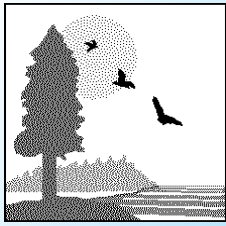
Tomales Bay Mooring Program

Goal: Provide a streamlined approach that minimizes the time for permitting agency staff to process applications by addressing the lease requirements, including where moorings will be allowed, what types of equipment will be acceptable, and how the moorings should be installed, inspected, and maintained.



Tomales Bay Mooring Siting Criteria Exclusion Areas

- **Protecting Wildness, Open Space and Wildlife**
 - Pt. Reyes National Seashore wilderness area
 - Areas within 300 feet of seal haulout areas
 - Areas within 1000 feet of State Park Lands
- **Protecting Habitat and Biota**
 - Seagrass beds
- **Protecting Human Health and Safety**
 - Aquaculture leases
 - Areas within 100 feet of swimming beaches
 - Navigation channels

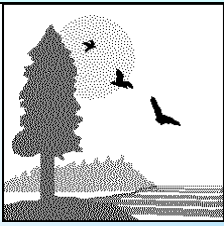


The Mooring Program Implementation Process

Once the final plan is released, a Mooring Program will be implemented over a set timeframe to ensure adequate time for public notification.

Elements:

- **A TBMP Mooring Lease Application**
- **Instructions and Guidance Materials**
- **An interactive map showing mooring zones, restricted areas, and other points of interest.**



The Mooring Program

Potential Benefits

- Reduced costs to mooring owners in applying for a lease.
- Greatly enhanced efficiency in State Lands Commission staff review of permit applications.
- Increased coordination among partner agencies.
- Reduced potential for environmental harm

This is possible because the Program described in the Plan lays out in advance most of the lease requirements and tools for determining adequate locations providing the utmost benefit to the boating community.

Responses to Council Recommendations

- In 2008, the Advisory Council initiated a multi-stakeholder Working Group for Tomales Bay Vessel Management.
- The Advisory Council reviewed working group recommendations and made final recommendations to the Superintendent at four public meetings between July 2008 and December 2009.
- The vast majority of recommendations have been incorporated into the Plan



Feedback Loop

Interagency Committee

- CA State Lands Commission
- SF Water Quality Control Board
- National Park Service
- CA Dept. of Fish and Game
- CA Dept. of Transportation
- 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

State Lands

ONMS



Responses to Council Recommendations

- Recommendations were binned into the following issue-based categories:
 - Sewage Services (SS)
 - Oil and Bilge Services (OB)
 - Education and Outreach (EO)
 - Mooring Criteria (MC)
 - Mooring Zones (MZ)
 - Mooring Tackle (MT)
 - Permitting Program (PP).



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Next Steps

- A 30-day public comment period starts today and ends on **September 20th**
- A Public Hearing will be held on **September 18th** at the Dance Palace
- You can submit comments to:
brad.damitz@noaa.gov



NPS Photo