

MBNMS Report

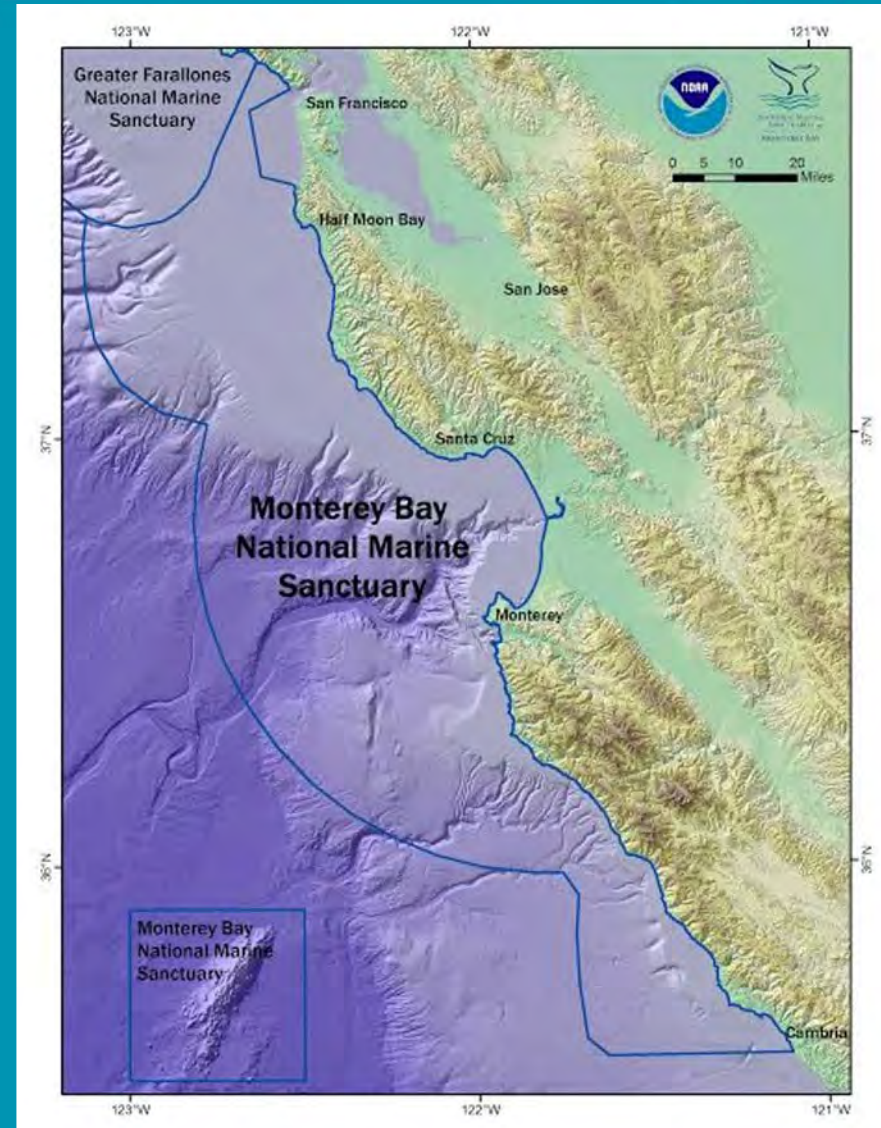
Paul Michel, Superintendent



Management Plan Review GFNMS Advisory Council Meeting

*Draft Management Plan
Proposed Rule
Draft Environmental Assessment*

*Paul Michel
August 24, 2020*

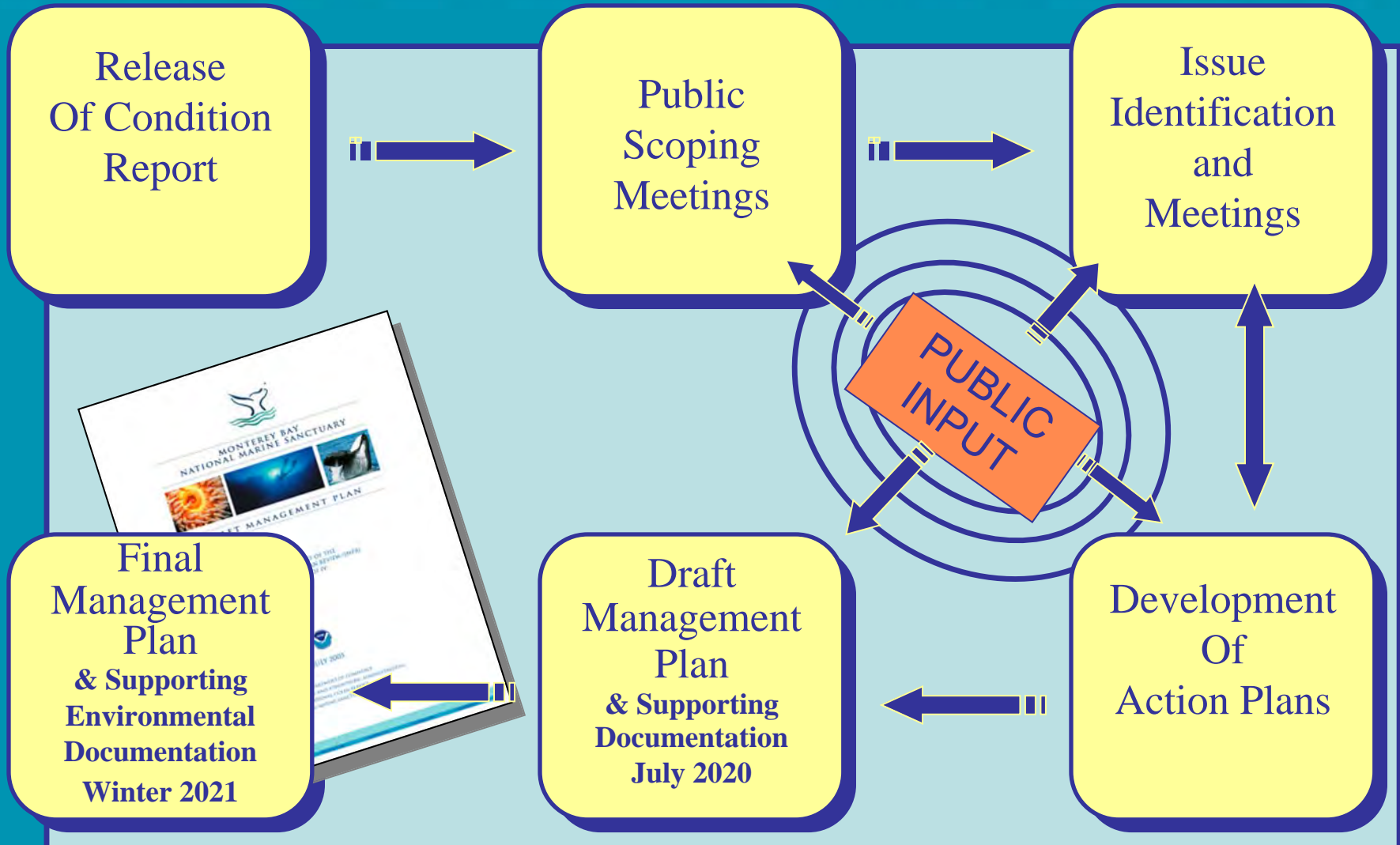


Presentation Purpose



- 1) Provide an overview of the management plan review process and draft documents
- 2) Hear comments from the Association
- 3) Provide information about how to find the full documents and provide further comment

Management Plan Review Process



Participatory Public Process



- Public Scoping Meetings
- Advisory Council Working Group input (MB/GF)
- Presentations and discussion with Advisory Councils
- Comment meetings
 - July 23rd (Public comment meeting)
 - August 21st (MBNMS Advisory Council meeting)
 - August 24th (GFNMS Advisory Council meeting)

MBNMS Draft Management Plan



14 Action Plans

2 Categories

Issue Based Action Plans

Programmatic Action Plans

Issue Based Plans



- Wildlife Disturbance
- Climate Change
- Coastal Erosion and Sediment Management
- Davidson Seamount
- Emerging Issues
- Introduced Species
- Marine Debris
- Water Quality

Programmatic Plans



- Education, Outreach and Communications
- Operations and Administration
- Marine Spatial Planning
- Maritime Heritage
- Research and Monitoring
- Resource Protection

MBNMS Proposed Regulations



- Add a definition for the phrase “beneficial use of dredged material”
- Modify the prerequisite conditions for motorized personal watercraft access to the riding zone at Mavericks surf break
- Change the size and shape of four motorized personal watercraft zones to improve access
- Make a minor technical correction to document the list of exempted Department of Defense activities at the Davidson Seamount Management Zone

Draft Environmental Assessment



3 Alternatives Assessed

- Alternative A, no change, continue with current management plan
- Alternative B, new management plan, no new regulations
- Alternative C (preferred), new management plan and new regulations

Draft Environmental Assessment



Summary of Conclusions

- The continued operation and management of MBNMS, the revision of the sanctuary management plan and adoption of revised regulations would have an overall beneficial effect on resources within the sanctuary.
- Because the management plan is a broad, guidance document, many of the anticipated beneficial effects would be indirect, resulting from MBNMS efforts to:
 - 1) improve public understanding of ocean stewardship issues;
 - 2) further scientific understanding of sanctuary ecosystems and cultural and historical resources;
 - 3) implement resource protection and maritime heritage programs; and
 - 4) implement regulations to limit stressors on marine resources.

Draft Environmental Assessment



Summary of Conclusions

- Some actions proposed under all alternatives would have adverse effects on resources. These adverse effects include:
 - 1) disturbance of the seafloor and benthic habitat from marker buoy deployment and sampling activities; and
 - 2) disturbance of wildlife through research and monitoring of species.

In all cases, adverse effects were found to be less than significant because NOAA conducts these activities on a small scale.

- Cumulative effects of the actions proposed would be less than significant because the actions (both beneficial and adverse) are small in scale and localized.

Timeline



Documents released July 6, 2020

Close of comment period September 4, 2020

Public meetings:

July 24 (Public comments)

August 21 (MBNMS AC mtg)

August 24 (GFNMS AC mtg)



Next Steps



- Complete public comment period
- Compile, categorize, and analyze comments
- Draft responses to comments and submit for approval
- Revise documents (MPs, Regs. and DEA) where appropriate
- Release Final MP/EA (Fall 2020)
- Publish Record of Decision (final Regs.) (Spring 2021)

Ways to comment



- Comment today
- Comment online directly to [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov)
use docket # NOAA-NOS-2020-0094
- E-mail comments to:
mbnmsmanagementplan@noaa.gov
- Web address:
<https://montereybay.noaa.gov>



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