

Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries

Proposed Northern Expansion

January 2013

Background:

In 2001, during joint management plan review scoping meetings, Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuaries received public comment requesting both sanctuaries expand north and west. As a result, the sanctuaries' revised management plans (published in 2008) included a strategy to facilitate a public process over the next five years to ensure that "current boundaries were inclusive of the area's natural resource and ecological qualities, including the biogeographic representation of the area."

Natural and cultural resources:

The proposed sanctuary expansions include the Point Arena "upwelling" site, which provides beneficial nutrients to marine life in the two sanctuaries via the California Current. Food produced by the Point Arena upwelling supports the largest assemblage of breeding seabirds in the contiguous United States, endangered and threatened whales, and living reefs of coral and sponges that cover the rocky seafloor. The area's maritime cultural landscape is historically relevant, and has national significance to fishing and recreation.

How to participate:

Attend one of the public scoping meetings at:

- Bodega Bay Grange Hall, Bodega Bay, Calif., Jan. 24, 6:00 p.m.
- Point Arena High School, Point Arena, Calif., Feb. 12, 6:00 p.m.
- Gualala Community Center, Gualala, Calif., Feb. 13, 6:00 p.m.

Comments on the proposed boundary expansion are due by March 1, 2013 and may be submitted by:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Submit electronic comments via the Federal eRulemaking Portal with Docket Number NOAA-NOS-2012-0228
- Mail: Maria Brown, Sanctuary Superintendent, Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, 991 Marine Drive, The Presidio San Francisco, CA 94129

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary covers nearly 1,300 square miles of coastal and ocean wilderness west of San Francisco. The sanctuary is home to some of the largest concentrations of white sharks and blue whales on Earth, along with one fifth of California's breeding harbor seals and hundreds of thousands of breeding seabirds. Established Jan. 16, 1981.



Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary gets its name from the underwater mountain that rises to within 115 feet of the ocean's surface off Point Reyes, California. Upwelling of nutrient-rich deep water supports a flourishing ecosystem on and around Cordell Bank, making the 529-square-mile sanctuary a productive feeding destination for diverse marine creatures. Established May 24, 1989.

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