



October 7, 2011

Surfrider Foundation
PO Box 6010
San Clemente, CA
92674-6010

Senator Barbara Boxer
112 Hart Bldg
Washington D.C., DC 20510-0001

Dear Senator Boxer,

The Surfrider Foundation is writing to express its support for S. 179: The Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Boundary Adjustment and Protection Act, and to express our support for sustained funding for NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary program.

S. 179 would expand the existing Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries by over 2000 square nautical miles, and thus protect the beautiful and biologically productive waters off Sonoma and southern Mendocino counties. The proposed area of expansion is one of the most ecologically significant in the world, encompassing a diverse assemblage of marine life and habitats, as well as a major upwelling zone that provides critical nutrients for the existing Sanctuaries to the south. Expanding the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries would also enhance marine science and education opportunities, and protect major economic benefits in the region that result from a healthy and productive marine ecosystem. It should, therefore, come as no surprise that numerous local interests have expressed their support for this concept, including local governments, businesses, recreationalists, fishermen, and conservation groups.

The Surfrider Foundation also strongly support sustained funding for NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary program. The President's FY 2012 proposed budget continues a disturbing trend of decreased funding for National Marine Sanctuaries despite compelling evidence of the value they provide to marine resources and coastal communities. While we recognize the challenges associated with providing increased funding in the current budget climate, we believe that the President's budget request for the program falls short of what is needed for even the most basic operations and maintenance. Investments in our National Marine Sanctuaries provide incredible returns to society, both today and for future generations. For these reasons, we urge you to support continued funding of the National Marine Sanctuary program at the FY 2010 enacted levels.

The Surfrider Foundation is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's oceans, waves and beaches for all people. In California, the Surfrider Foundation maintains over twenty volunteer based chapters and over 90,000 supporters, activists, and members.

Sincerely,

Scott Tye
Chair, Marin County Chapter
Surfrider Foundation

Spencer Nilson
Chair, Sonoma Coast Chapter
Surfrider Foundation

Walt Dooley
Chair, Mendocino Chapter
Surfrider Foundation

Pete Stauffer
Ocean Ecosystem Manager
Surfrider Foundation