



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

March 4, 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR: Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

FROM: Maria Brown *MB*
Superintendent
Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary

Paul Michel *PM*
Superintendent
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

SUBJECT: Monterey Bay and Gulf of the Farallones National Marine
Sanctuary Advisory Councils' joint letter requesting an additional
Fisheries Enforcement Officer.

On February 18, 2010 the Monterey Bay (MBNMS) and Gulf of the Farallones (GFNMS) National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Councils approved a joint letter requesting a Fisheries Enforcement Officer (FEO) be dedicated to the GFNMS management region, which includes the GFNMS boundaries and the northern coastline of MBNMS.

The Advisory Councils have requested this letter be sent to the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries Director, Daniel Basta, as well as the NOAA Administrator, Dr. Jane Lubchenco, and the NOAA Office of Law Enforcement Director, Mr. Dale Jones.

cc: William Douros

Attachments

February 18, 2010

Dan Basta
Director, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Re: Enforcement of National Marine Sanctuaries Regulations

Dear Mr. Basta:

It has been more than a year since a number of new regulatory changes to Gulf of the Farallones (GFNMS) and Monterey Bay (MBNMS) National Marine Sanctuary regulations have been published in the Federal Register (Nov. 20, 2008). Despite the enhanced regulations, enforcement has remained at status quo. Our sanctuaries have witnessed the benefits of a uniformed enforcement officer at MBNMS and see the need to establish uniformed personnel dedicated to the GFNMS management region.

The MBNMS has had a Fisheries Enforcement Officer (FEO) assigned since 2003. What started as an experiment has proved a necessary asset for resource protection and is highly effective, but clearly over tasked. The single FEO stationed at Monterey, CA is responsible for 6,094 square miles and is often requested to assist with enforcement efforts in the GFNMS. The demands on the FEO have increased since the passing of the 2008 regulations.

The GFNMS and MBNMS Advisory Councils jointly request an additional uniformed enforcement officer dedicated to the GFNMS management region. This includes the GFNMS and the northern coastline of the MBNMS. The FEO would logically be assigned in the San Francisco Bay area and would support sanctuary response objectives. This would include a number of resource protection concerns such as: white shark protection, marine mammal and seabird protection, endangered species protection, and enforcement of multiple sanctuary and other federal regulations that protect our resources. The addition of a second uniformed enforcement officer would alleviate the northern response demands on the Monterey FEO, allowing him to dedicate patrols and enforcement efforts in the MBNMS.

In addition, the Advisory Councils jointly request that this letter be forwarded to NOAA Administrator, Dr. Jane Lubchenco and NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) Director, Mr. Dale Jones. Our sanctuaries are proud of the partnership with OLE and fully endorse the use of a FEO in sanctuaries to support sanctuary initiatives, permits, and objectives through dedicated enforcement.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Richard A Charter

Richard Charter
Chair, GFNMS Advisory Council

Chris Harrold

Chris Harrold
Chair, MBNMS Advisory Council

The councils are advisory bodies to the sanctuary superintendents. The opinions and findings of this letter do not necessarily reflect the position of Gulf of the Farallones and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries, or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.