

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary



- **Year Designated:** 1981
- **Size (area):** 1,255 square miles
- **Location:** Off the California coastline west of San Francisco, includes offshore marine regions of the Gulf of the Farallones and the nearshore waters of Bodega Bay, Tomales Bay, Estero de San Antonio, Estero Americano, and Bolinas Lagoon
- **State Waters:** Includes approximately 966 square miles
- **Purpose:** Preserving and protecting this “unique and fragile ecological community. In the face of increasing human activity in the marine area, existing regulatory controls beyond the nearshore zone which do not provide long term management may not ensure comprehensive protection for this unusual assemblage of marine mammals, numerous seabirds, and important fishery resources including kelp and shellfish.”
- **Fully-Protected Areas:** None
- **Date Management Plan Issued:** 1981
- **Date of Management Plan Review:** The Gulf of the Farallones NMS is reviewing its management plan jointly with Cordell Bank NMS and Monterey Bay NMS. The Draft Joint Management Plan is under NOAA review and is expected to be released by Summer 2006. The Final Management Plan is expected by Winter 2006.



Map credit: Gulf of the Farallones NMS

Sanctuary Website: <http://farallones.noaa.gov>
Sanctuary Regulations: 15 C.F.R. § 922, Subpart H

Examples of Research and Monitoring Activities in the Sanctuary:

- Beach Watch monitoring program of birds, mammals, and pollution.
- Rocky intertidal habitat monitoring.
- Surveys of pelagic habitat, birds, mammals, krill, vessel activities.
- White shark population assessment and predatory behavior study.
- Invasive species assessment, eradication, and control.
- Biological inventory of Tomales Bay.
- Native oyster bed restoration.
- Blue and humpback whale population assessments for abundance and distribution.

Examples of Endangered and Threatened Species in the Sanctuary:

Endangered	Threatened	Candidates/Of Concern	Delisted
Blue Whale	Guadalupe Fur Seal	Common Loon	(E. Pac.) Gray Whale
Fin Whale	Steller Sea Lion	Ashy Storm-petrel	Peregrine Falcon
Humpback Whale	Southern Sea Otter	Cassin’s Auklet	Canada Goose
Northern Right Whale	Chum Salmon	Xantus’s Murrelet	
Sperm Whale	Coho Salmon	Marbled Godwit	
Tidewater Goby	Green Sea Turtle	Black Oystercatcher	
Chinook Salmon	Olive Ridley Sea Turtle	Long-billed Curlew	
(winter/spring run)		Pacific Lamprey	
Steelhead Trout		Longfin Smelt	
Leatherback Sea Turtle			

Regulation of Activities and Uses of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary



Type of Use	Regulated by the Sanctuary (NMS)				Regulated by Another Agency, State/Territory, or Law (may not be comprehensive list)
	Zoned (areas closed to this type of use)	Restricted	Prohibited	Comments	
Commercial Fishing				Not regulated by NMS regulations	State of California, Pacific Fishery Management Council
Recreational Fishing				Not regulated by NMS regulations	State of California, Pacific Fishery Management Council
Bottom Trawling				Not regulated by NMS regulations	State of California, Pacific Fishery Management Council
Collecting Aquarium Fish				Not regulated by NMS regulations	State of California, Pacific Fishery Management Council
Aquaculture				May be regulated under Discharges and Alteration of or Construction on Seafloor	State of California, Army Corps, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Environmental Protection Agency
Alteration of or Construction on Seafloor		√		Only allowed for listed activities, including anchoring and bottom trawling	
Seabed cables or devices				May be regulated under Alteration of or Construction on Seafloor	Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, Army Corps, U.S. Coast Guard, FCC
Exploring for, Developing, or Producing Oil and Gas		√		Only allowed for laying of pipeline to operations outside the NMS	Minerals Management Service, Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act
Exploring for, Developing or Producing Other Minerals				May be regulated under Alteration of or Construction on Seafloor	Minerals Management Service, Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act
Removal/Damage of Natural Resources				May be regulated by other NMS regulations	May be regulated by other agencies
Removal/Damage of Cultural or Historical Resources			√		Abandoned Shipwreck Act of 1987
Overflights	√			Overflights prohibited in zones	Marine Mammal Protection Act
Use of motorized watercraft	√	√		Cargo carriers banned within 2 naut. miles of special zones. Personal watercraft (e.g., jet skis) prohibited in the entire NMS except for search & rescue and law enforcement.	
Underwater Noise				Not regulated by NMS regulations	Marine Mammal Protection Act
Discharging or Depositing Material Within the NMS		√		Listed types of discharge allowed	U.S. Coast Guard
Discharging or Depositing Material Outside the NMS that Might Injure NMS Resources				Not regulated by NMS regulations	U.S. Coast Guard

Other Regulations: Permits for research, education, or salvage/recovery operations may be issued to allow any otherwise prohibited or restricted activity.