



TOWN OF FAIRFAX

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Mayor
Pam Hartwell-Herrero

Vice Mayor
John Reed

Town Council
Larry Bragman
Ryan O'Neil
David Weinsoff

Town Manager
Michael Rock

May 2, 2012

Assemblymember Jared Huffman
California State Assembly
Sacramento, CA 95816
FAX (916) 319-2106

RE: Support of AJR 20

Dear Mr. Huffman,

On behalf of the Town of Fairfax, I am writing in support of AJR 20 The Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Boundary Modification and Protection Act. The Act would extend the boundaries of those two marine sanctuaries north to protect deeper and biologically important waters, extending much needed protections to the entire Sonoma Coast and the southern Mendocino Coast.

California's unique coastal waters are valuable spots for marine wildlife, scientific research, recreational fishing, kayaking, boating, surfing and tourism. Located just a few miles from San Francisco, the waters within Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary are part of a nationally significant and diverse marine ecosystem.

The Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Boundary Modification and Protection Act, authored by Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey (H.R. 192) and Senator Barbara Boxer (S. 179), would expand the area protected by the National Marine Sanctuary System.

The Gulf of the Farallones is one of the most productive marine food webs on the planet and hosts the largest seabird breeding colony in the continental United States. It supports an abundance of life, including many threatened and endangered species.

The expansion contemplated by this Act, includes one of four coastal upwelling zones on the planet. This zone, although comprising only one percent of the ocean, produces 20 percent of the world's fish.

A congressional and executive moratorium on offshore oil exploration and exploitation was removed in 2008, leaving these waters of special biological significance unprotected. These important marine resources, among the richest on the planet, must be protected from oil spills, pollution, and other forms of imminent environmental degradation. If the precious natural resources that still exist on this planet are not protected, our ecological and economic systems will collapse.

AGENDA ITEM # 9

For these reasons, the Town Council of Fairfax strongly supports AJR 20.

Sincerely,

Pam Hartwell-Herrero
Mayor

c: John Reed, Vice Mayor
Councilmembers Bragman, O'Neil and Reed

RESOLUTION 11- 57

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFAX IN SUPPORT OF HR 192
GULF OF THE FARALLONES AND CORDELL NATIONAL BANK MARINE SANCTUARIES
BOUNDARY MODIFICATION AND PROTECTION ACT**

WHEREAS, The Town of Fairfax is committed to protecting the unique and rich array of marine resources along our coast; and

WHEREAS, The expansion of the boundaries places no additional restrictions on the fishing community, does not conflict with existing or future regulation from the California Department of Fish and Game, and does not interfere with vessel traffic lanes; and,

WHEREAS, The expansion helps maintain important commercial and sport fishing enterprises as well as helps to protect local jobs, existing oyster operations and native fisheries; and,

WHEREAS, It both safeguards and enhances our extremely valuable tourism industry and the vital ocean and fisheries research conducted by the University of California's Bodega Marine Laboratory; and,

WHEREAS, This bill would extend these sanctuaries north and westward to protect the Sonoma and southern Mendocino Coast's natural beauty and significant bio-diversity; and,

WHEREAS, These waters will protect the California Upwelling Ecosystem (CUE), one of only four major coastal upwelling systems on Earth, the only such system in the United States, comprising only 1 percent of the ocean but producing 20 percent of the world's fish; and

WHEREAS, Not only is this region one of the most important 'natural laboratories' in the world, its coastal estuaries are critical passages for endangered salmon and steelhead, essential haulouts for seals and sea lions, and prolific nurseries for hundreds, perhaps thousands, of aquatic species.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfax Town Council strongly supports passage of HR 192 and looks forward to helping ensure its passage into law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be transmitted to The Honorable Barbara Boxer, The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, The Honorable Doc Hastings, Chair, House Natural Resources Committee, The Honorable Edward J. Markey, Ranking Member, The Honorable John D. Rockefeller, Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison, Ranking Member.

The foregoing resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the Fairfax Town Council held in said Town on the 2nd day of November 2011, by the following vote:

AYES: Bragman, Hartwell-Herrero, Reed, Tremaine, Weinsoff
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

MAYOR LARRY BRAGMAN

Attest:

Town Clerk, Judy Anderson

RESOLUTION NO. 2360

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFAX ENDORSING HR 5352, LEGISLATION TO EXPAND THE BOUNDARIES OF THE GULF OF THE FARALLONES NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY AND THE CORDELL BANK NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

WHEREAS, Inclusion in the National Marine Sanctuary system offers comprehensive and permanent protection to marine resources, large scale ecosystem management, and vital oceanic research investments, while allowing for recreational, shipping and fishing activities; and

WHEREAS, Sonoma and Marin coastal waters just south of Bodega Head are within the boundaries of the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries and enjoy the protections and benefits of the National Marine Sanctuary program; and

WHEREAS, The Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Boundary Modification and Protection Act, authored by Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey, would adjust the boundaries of the two existing Sanctuaries north and westward to add deeper and biologically important waters, and would extend the boundaries of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary up to the Gualala River, thus including the entire Sonoma Coast; and

WHEREAS, The Sonoma Coast is one of the most biologically rich regions in the world and National Marine Sanctuaries are only designated in areas that have special biological significance. These waters are within one of the five coastal upwelling zones on the planet, comprising only 1 percent of the ocean, but producing 20 percent of the world's fish. Additionally, its coastal estuaries are important passages for endangered salmon and steelhead, essential haulouts for seals and sea lions, and prolific nurseries for hundreds of aquatic species; and

WHEREAS, these important resources, among the richest on the planet, must be protected from oil spills and other forms of pollution; and

WHEREAS, by expanding the boundaries of the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank Sanctuaries, the bill will protect the Bodega Marine Laboratory's investment in marine research, regional jobs that are dependent on a tourist economy, recreational uses, and indefinable aesthetic benefits. And because the bill will protect fish habitat, it will protect the livelihoods of commercial fishermen; and

WHEREAS, a congressional moratorium on offshore oil exploration and exploitation in these waters is at risk each year in a changing political climate, protection must be made permanent; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of Fairfax hereby endorses the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Boundary Modification and Protection Act and supports its passage.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 1st day of February, 2005, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES: Bragman, Brandborg, Egger, Tremaine
NOES: None
ABSENT: Ghiringhelli

LEW TREMAINE, MAYOR

Attest:

Town Clerk