



Final Management Plan Released

NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries release the final management plan and final rule, with a supporting environmental assessment for Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

With input from the public, partners, and sanctuary managers, the final management plan and final rule includes new action plans and minor regulatory changes to guide NOAA in understanding and protecting sanctuary resources over the coming decade.

New Action Plans



These 13 action plans detail specific strategies, activities, and resources needed by the sanctuary to address priority conservation and management issues.

Issue-based Action Plans:

- Climate Change
- Coastal Erosion and Sediment Management
- Davidson Seamount Management Zone and Sur Ridge
- Emerging Issues
- Introduced Species
- Marine Debris
- Water Quality Protection
- Wildlife Disturbance

Program-based Action Plans:

- Education, Outreach, and Communication
- Maritime Heritage
- Operations and Administration
- Research and Monitoring
- Resource Protection



NOAA's Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary was designated in 1992 by Congress to protect special marine areas off California's central coast, stretching 276 miles of shoreline from Marin to Cambria. It encompasses 6,094 square statute miles of ocean, including Davidson Seamount.



Final Rule Released

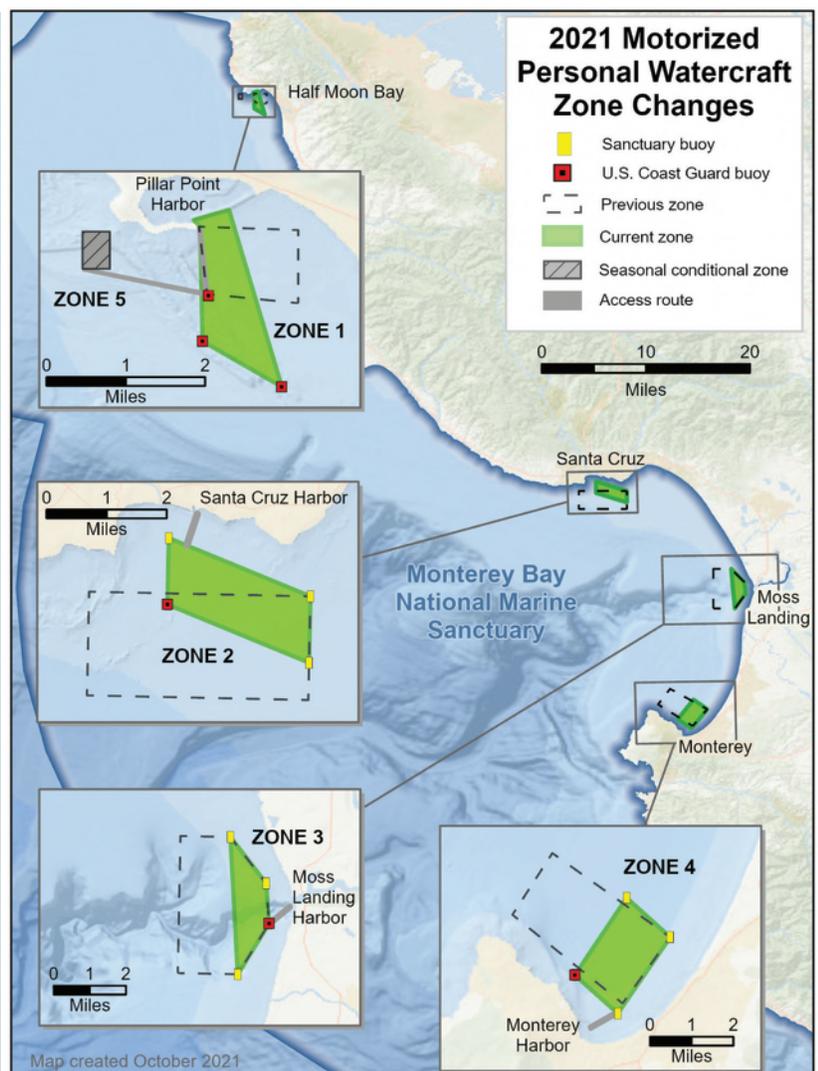
As a result of the management plan review process, NOAA modified existing sanctuary regulations to support more efficient and effective program management and enhanced stewardship of the sanctuary's natural resources.

The regulatory changes are designed to facilitate habitat protection and restoration activities that provide ecological and economic benefits to coastal resources, residents, and businesses, improve access for users of motorized personal watercraft (MPWC) in the sanctuary, and to reduce disturbances of sensitive wildlife.

Final Regulatory Changes:

- Add a definition for the phrase “beneficial use of dredged material” and new regulatory language to clarify NOAA’s ability to approve the beneficial use of suitable dredged material for habitat protection or restoration purposes within the sanctuary.
- Modify the prerequisite conditions for MPWC access to zone 5 at Mavericks surf break so MPWC users may provide safety assistance to surfers in a highly energized surf zone.
- Change the size and shape of four MPWC zones to improve access by MPWC users, protect sensitive resources, reduce navigational hazards, and reduce buoy maintenance costs.
- Make a minor technical correction to document the list of exempted Department of Defense activities at the Davidson Seamount Management Zone that was inadvertently omitted from the 2008 Final Environmental Impact Statement.

Right: Changes to motorized personal watercraft zones, depicting previous and current zones.



For more information on the final management plan and to access the full documents and FAQs, visit montereybay.noaa.gov