Tomales Bay Vessel Management Plan and Mooring Program

Status Update and Project Implementation Timeline

GFNMS Advisory Council
August 21, 2013
Project Status

- Public process for Vessel Management Plan Review completed:
  - A public hearing was held in Pt. Reyes.
  - Over 50 comments were received.
  - A revised Final Plan/EA-IS was released April 2013.
  - Adopted by CA State Lands Commission at a public hearing on April 26, 2013.

- The Plan and EA/IS are currently in the final stages of the review/clearance process by NOAA. Final clearance and release of the final Plan are expected by September 2013.
Implementing the Vessel Management Plan and Mooring Program

The Official launch of the Tomales Bay Mooring Program is planned for April 2014. In the meantime, GFNMS/CSLC staff will be implementing other recommendations of the Vessel Management Plan, and preparing for the mooring program roll-out including:

• Developing required public outreach and permit application materials;

• Conducting mooring surveys; and

• Developing protocols for inter-agency coordination and permit issuance.
AUGUST 2013 — MARCH 2014

• Seek funding for implementation of other Plan recommendations (e.g. sewage, oil and bilge services).

  A proposal has been submitted to expand the number of absorbent exchange station sites on Tomales Bay from 1 to 2.

• Prioritize key boater education materials and resources for print and online and seek funding to implement boater education program and eeggrass protection outreach products.
• GFNMS is conducting mooring surveys (any new moorings installed illegally will be immediately reported to enforcement authorities).

• Develop and distribute permit and lease application support materials (outreach materials).

• Finalize Mooring Program policies, procedures and rules.
TB Mooring Program: Summary Timeline

APRIL — JUNE 2014

• Official launch of Tomales Bay Mooring Program begins the 90-day priority application window.

• Initial outreach efforts and distribution of Mooring Program materials begins.

• All existing moorings will be tagged on launch date.
In June, CSLC begins processing initial mooring lease applications and inspections begin.

Priority lease application window for existing mooring owners and littoral property owners ends (90 days after Mooring Program launch date).

Mooring lease applications will be processed in the order received from all Tomales Bay boaters.
OCTOBER 2014

• The time period for current mooring owners to claim and apply for a mooring officially ends. All moorings without an active lease or application for a lease or removal permit will be identified and reported to enforcement as abandoned.

• Follow-up mooring survey conducted to characterize abandoned moorings and determine appropriate removal methods.
Vessel Management Plan

ONGOING IMPLEMENTATION HIGHLIGHTS

• Continue conducting periodic mooring surveys.

• Continue ongoing enforcement efforts including tagging and reporting illegal moorings and abandoned moorings to enforcement.

• Continue to implement other Plan recommendations (boater education, oil/sewage services, etc).