

**Cordell
Bank
National
Marine
Sanctuary**

Final Environmental
Impact Statement/
Management
Plan

Volume One

Designated May 19, 1989

U.S. Department of Commerce

National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration

Marine and Estuarine
Management Division



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE PROPOSED
CORDELL BANK NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

April 1989

Prepared By:

Marine and Estuarine Management
Division
Office of Ocean and Coastal
Resource Management
National Ocean Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration
1825 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. Suite 714
Washington, D.C. 20235

Designation: Final Environmental Impact Statement/Management Plan

Title: Final Environmental Impact Statement and Management Plan for the Proposed Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary

Abstract: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration proposes to designate Cordell Bank on the edge of the Pacific continental shelf, 20 miles west of Point Reyes, California as a National Marine Sanctuary.

The proposed Sanctuary includes all waters within a line extending southwest from Bodega Head to the 1,000 fathom depth contour west of Cordell Bank, then south along this contour until it joins the boundary of the Point Reyes-Farallon Islands National Marine Sanctuary. The proposed Sanctuary includes 397.05 square nautical miles.

The designation of Cordell Bank as a National Marine Sanctuary would provide an integrated program of resource protection, research and interpretation to assist in the long-term management and protection of its resources. Resource protection will involve cooperation with other agencies in formulating resource protection policies and procedures including the enforcement of regulations for visitor use.

Two Sanctuary regulations are proposed. One of those regulations will prohibit the discharge into the Sanctuary of oil and other materials that may be harmful to Sanctuary resources, except as specifically permitted for research, educational, salvage or Sanctuary management purposes. The other regulation will prohibit removing, taking, or injuring or attempting to take, remove or injure benthic organisms, except as specifically permitted for research, educational, salvage, or Sanctuary management purposes. Three other activities are potentially subject to regulations; hydrocarbon activities, anchoring on Cordell Bank, or within the 50 fathom contour surrounding the Bank and taking, removing, or injuring or attempting to take, remove or injure cultural or historical resources. Alternatives to the proposed action include the status quo, larger and smaller boundary options and a non-regulatory option.

Research will include baseline studies, monitoring, and analysis and prediction projects to provide information needed in resolving management issues. Interpretation programs will be directed to improving public awareness of the Sanctuary's resources and the need to use them wisely to ensure their viability.

Lead Agency: U.S. Department Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Ocean Service
Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management

Contact: Frank Christhif, Regional Manager
Marine and Estuarine Management Division
Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management
National Ocean Service/NOAA
1825 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 714
Washington, D.C. 20235
(202) 673-5126