



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

AGENDA ITEM NO.  
**C-6**

For the meeting of: July 25, 2017

Date: July 14, 2017  
To: Board of Supervisors  
From: Supervisor Mike Wilson  
Subject: Consider Resolution in Support of the Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries as Supported by Marin, Mendocino and Sonoma Counties.

RECOMMENDATION(S): That the Board of Supervisors consider a resolution in support of the Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries.

SOURCE OF FUNDING: N/A

DISCUSSION: The Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries are home to some of the most diverse coastal ecosystems which support giant kelp forests, many species of marine mammals, migrating salmon and hundreds of other forms of sea life. These waters are currently protected against pollution and seabed destruction through designation in 1981 as part of the National Marine Sanctuary System. However, the recent presidential order to review National Marine Sanctuaries designated in the past ten years with the goal of opening these protected areas to offshore exploration and drilling, is of deep concern.

As a coastal county, Humboldt County has long supported the protection of vital coastal resources, tourism, fishing and mariculture cultivation industries, and stands with other coastal counties in their efforts to protect these very pristine coastal waters.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: N/A

Prepared by Kathy Hayes Signature

REVIEW: Auditor \_\_\_\_\_ County Counsel \_\_\_\_\_ Personnel \_\_\_\_\_ Risk Manager \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF ITEM:  
\_\_\_\_ Consent  
\_\_\_\_ Departmental  
\_\_\_\_ Public Hearing  
\_\_\_\_ Other

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Board Order No. \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting of: \_\_\_\_\_

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**  
Upon motion of Supervisor Wilson Seconded by Supervisor Fennell  
Ayes Fennell, Wilson, Sundberg  
Nays  
Abstain  
Absent Bass, Bohn

and carried by those members present, the Board hereby approves the recommended action contained in this Board report.

Dated: July 25, 2017  
By: Kathy Hayes  
**Kathy Hayes, Clerk of the Board**

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT N/A

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS Board discretion

ATTACHMENTS Proposed Resolution

**RESOLUTION**  
**OF THE**  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**

**WHEREAS**, the coast of California is one of the treasures of the nation, with the continent's strongest upwelling system at Point Arena creating a bountiful and beautiful coastal ecosystem, whose riches include giant kelp forests, many species of marine mammals, migrating salmon and hundreds of other forms of sea life; and

**WHEREAS**, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors is aware that the federal government is reviewing National Marine Sanctuaries designated in the last ten years to facilitate the opening of these waters to offshore oil exploration and drilling; and

**WHEREAS**, the Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries prohibit offshore oil, gas, and mineral extraction in federal waters, all of which have the potential to negatively impact the Humboldt County coastline and economy; and

**WHEREAS**, many of our local fishing industry wholly depends on pollution free waters to deliver delicious and nutritious seafood, including wild salmon, Dungeness crab, and shellfish to customers around the world; and

**WHEREAS**, the Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries have prioritized proactive working relationships with the commercial fishing industry, maintaining an open and transparent approach to managing their living marine resources that serves as a model for the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, reliance on coastal resources has been a foundation of Humboldt County's culture and economy for generations; and

**WHEREAS**, California coastal beaches receive millions of visitors a year and are a cornerstone for our tourist economy; and

**WHEREAS**, the North Coast has a long history of coastal protection, its citizens taking an active role in protecting our coast against pollution; and

**WHEREAS**, over fifty years of marine research at Humboldt State University's Telonicher Marine Lab is dependent on keeping these coastal waters pristine; and

**WHEREAS**, all of California's coastal waters are interconnected and interdependent; and

**WHEREAS**, Humboldt County recognizes the extensive input from citizens of Mendocino, Sonoma, and Marin Counties that demonstrated overwhelming support for the 2015 expansion of the Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mendocino, Sonoma, and Marin County Boards of Supervisors have expressed unanimous support for maintaining the existing boundaries of and legal protections for California's national marine sanctuaries.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors hereby urges all citizens of the county and state to stand with them in support of the Greater Farallones and the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries and in opposition to any new policies that weaken the benefits and protections of our coastal waters.

DATED: August 15, 2017

  
VIRGINIA BASS, Chair