

November 2, 2011

The Honorable Lynn Woolsey
United States House of Representatives
1050 Northgate Drive, Suite 354
San Rafael, CA 94903



Protecting Marin Since 1934

Re: Support for HR 192: Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries

Dear Congresswoman Woolsey:

The Marin Conservation League has been an advocate for the North Bay's environmental resources, including its rich marine environment, for more than 75 years, and strongly supports the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Boundary Modification and Protection Act (HR 192) that you have introduced in the 112th Congress. The sanctuaries encompass four estuaries along the Marin and Sonoma County coastlines. HR 192 would expand protected waters along the coast from San Francisco Bay north to Mendocino County and include revised management plans to safeguard maritime resources.

Among benefits of enlarging this protected marine ecosystem would be safeguarding the nutrient-rich California Current Coastal Upwelling centered on Point Arena. Here cold water rises from below the continental shelf to nourish a vast marine food chain that reaches as far south as Monterey Bay. Commercial and sport fishing, along with a tourism industry that attracts millions to our coastal communities, contribute greatly to northern California's economy with the livelihood of thousands depending on the health of our oceans.

Marine sanctuaries provide respite for aquatic species from our deteriorating ocean environment, and are places where over-fished species can be rejuvenated. The expansion area would provide resting and nesting refuge for a host of bird, fish, and marine life and is a prolific nursery for untold numbers of aquatic species. Point Arena's coastal upwelling is also the only one in the United States, and could serve as a natural laboratory for learning about our oceans at a time when the beleaguered ecosystem needs help to continue to be a food source for our growing population.

We look forward to passage into law of this important legislation.

Sincerely,


Susan Stompe
President

cc: Honorable Doc Hastings, Chair, House Natural Resources Committee
Honorable Edward J. Markey, Ranking Member, Natural Resources Committee
Honorable John Fleming, Chair, Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs
Honorable Donna Christensen

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