

DEPARTMENT OF BOATING AND WATERWAYS

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To: Boating and Waterways Commission Members
From: Department of Boating and Waterways, Legislative Unit
Subject: **LEGISLATIVE REPORT, November 24, 2008**

This report was prepared on November 24, 2008.

ASSEMBLY BILLS

Nothing to report

SENATE BILLS

Nothing to report

FEDERAL BILLS

HR 1187 (Woolsey). Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Boundary Modification and Protection Act. This bill would declare it is U.S. policy to protect and preserve living and other resources of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (Farallones NMS) and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary (Cordell Bank NMS) marine environments and make certain adjustments to expand the boundaries of the Farallones NMS and the Cordell NMS. The bill would prohibit within the Farallones NMS and the Cordell Bank NMS: (1) the leasing, exploration, development, production, or transporting by pipeline of minerals or hydrocarbons; (2) the conduct of aquaculture (with exceptions); and (3) subject to limitation, the discharge of materials, substances, or introduced species or a harmful change in the salinity. The bill also prohibits the conduct of aquaculture within Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and directs the Secretary of Commerce to complete: (1) an interim supplemental management plan for each sanctuary that focuses on protective resource management in the areas added by this Act; and (2) a revised comprehensive management plan for each of the sanctuaries. The bill also requires the Secretary to review the operations of the Farallones NMS to determine whether area added to it by this Act shall be designated as a new and separate NMS.

Status: Amended 3/31/2007; 5/15/2008 in the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders on 10/1/2008

Department Position: No approved position

HR 2830 (Oberstar). Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2007. This bill would, among other things, require Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating to study and report to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate regarding recreational vessel operator training. The report would be required to include reviews of (1) Coast Guard Auxiliary and Power Squadron training programs, (2) existing State boating education programs, including programs by NASBLA, and (3) other hands-on training programs available to recreational vessel operators. This bill would also require the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a program to help prevent acts of terrorism and other activities that jeopardize maritime homeland security, by seeking the cooperation of the commercial and recreational boating industries and the public to improve awareness of activity in the maritime domain and report suspicious or unusual activity.

Status: Introduced 6/22/2007. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders, Calendar No. 721.

Department Position: No approved position

HR 3223 (Allen). Keep Our Waterfronts Working Act of 2007. This bill would amend the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 to establish a grant program to coastal states to ensure coastal access for commercial and recreational purposes. The grant program would appropriate \$25 million for fiscal year 2008, \$50 million for fiscal year 2009, and \$75 million for fiscal year 2010 and would have a 25% matching requirement.

Status: Introduced 7/30/2007. 2/28/2008 House Subcommittee Hearings Held

Department Position: No approved position

HR 7150 / S 3552 (Kind / Lieberman). National Fish Habitat Conservation Act. This bill would encourage partnerships among public agencies and other interests consistent with the mission and goals of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan, which are: (1) to protect and maintain intact and healthy aquatic habitats; (2) to prevent further degradation of aquatic habitats that have been adversely affected; (3) to reverse declines in the quality and quantity of aquatic habitats to improve the overall health of fish and other aquatic organisms; (4) to increase the quality and quantity of aquatic habitats that support a broad natural diversity of fish and other aquatic species; (5) to improve fisheries habitat, thereby improving the annual economic output from recreational, subsistence, and commercial fishing; (6) to ensure coordination and facilitation of activities carried out by agencies or departments of the United States under the leadership of the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere of the Department

of Commerce, and the Director of the United States Geological Survey; and (7) to achieve other purposes in accordance with the mission and goals of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan.

Status: Introduced 9/26/2008. Referred to the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Oceans on 10/8/2008.

Department Position: No approved position