



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Marine Region
1933 Cliff Drive, Suite 9
Santa Barbara, CA 93109
www.wildlife.ca.gov

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



May 4, 2020

Mr. Jim Throop
Lompoc City Manager
100 Civic Center Plaza
Lompoc, CA 93436

RECEIVED
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City Manager's Office

SUBJECT: Response to Request for Amending Vandenberg State Marine Reserve Area Regulations

Dear Mr. Throop:

Thank you for your inquiry regarding the Vandenberg State Marine Reserve, I apologize for the delayed response to your inquiry. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) has reviewed your request to allow shore fishing at Surf Beach within the Vandenberg State Marine Reserve (SMR). This letter provides a brief background of the establishment of the Vandenberg SMR, a summary of the adaptive management framework that governs the management of State's Marine Protected Area network, and guidance for advancing your request, if so desired, to the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) for consideration.

In 1999, the State Legislature approved, and the Governor signed into law the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA). The MLPA required the Department to redesign California's existing patchwork of marine protected areas (MPAs) into a science-based, cohesive, ecologically connected network. From 2005 to 2012, a very extensive public planning process took place sequentially across four coastal regions resulting in 124 MPAs and 15 special closures along California's 1100-mile coastline and offshore islands.

The public planning process for the central coast region took place from 2005 to 2007. Following planning, the Commission took action to adopt regulations for 28 central coast MPAs, including the Vandenberg SMR. The SMR designation prohibits any type of take, thus it is considered the backbone of the MPA network. The Vandenberg SMR was intended to protect unique and diverse habitats and species in an area where vessel traffic/extensive human use was already limited due to the Vandenberg Air Force Base.

The Commission has authority over most hunting and fishing regulations in California and oversees the establishment of wildlife areas, ecological reserves, and the designation of MPAs under the MLPA. As part of the adaptive management process, the Commission will be conducting a decadal review of the statewide MPA network in 2022. As part of this review, the Commission will receive information on the four focal

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areas of MPA Program: 1) policy and permitting; 2) enforcement and compliance; 3) outreach and education; and 4) monitoring and research. The Commission will also receive recommendations, if any, for future management actions utilizing all available sources of information. **In addition to the decadal review, the Commission may consider amendments to the MPA network in response to petitions for regulatory change.** Every person or agency recommending that a regulation be added, amended, or repealed must submit a petition to the Commission. Details regarding the regulatory petition process can be found on the Commission's website at www.fgc.ca.gov.

If you need additional information please do not hesitate to contact Stephen Wertz, Senior Environmental Scientist at (562) 342-7184 or at Stephen.Wertz@wildlife.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



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