



Condition Reports

An Overview

NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

Leaders in Protecting America's Natural and Cultural Heritage

The National Marine Sanctuary System



Condition Reports

Assessing the status and trends of sanctuary resources



Gulf of the Farallones NMS Condition Report: 2010

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

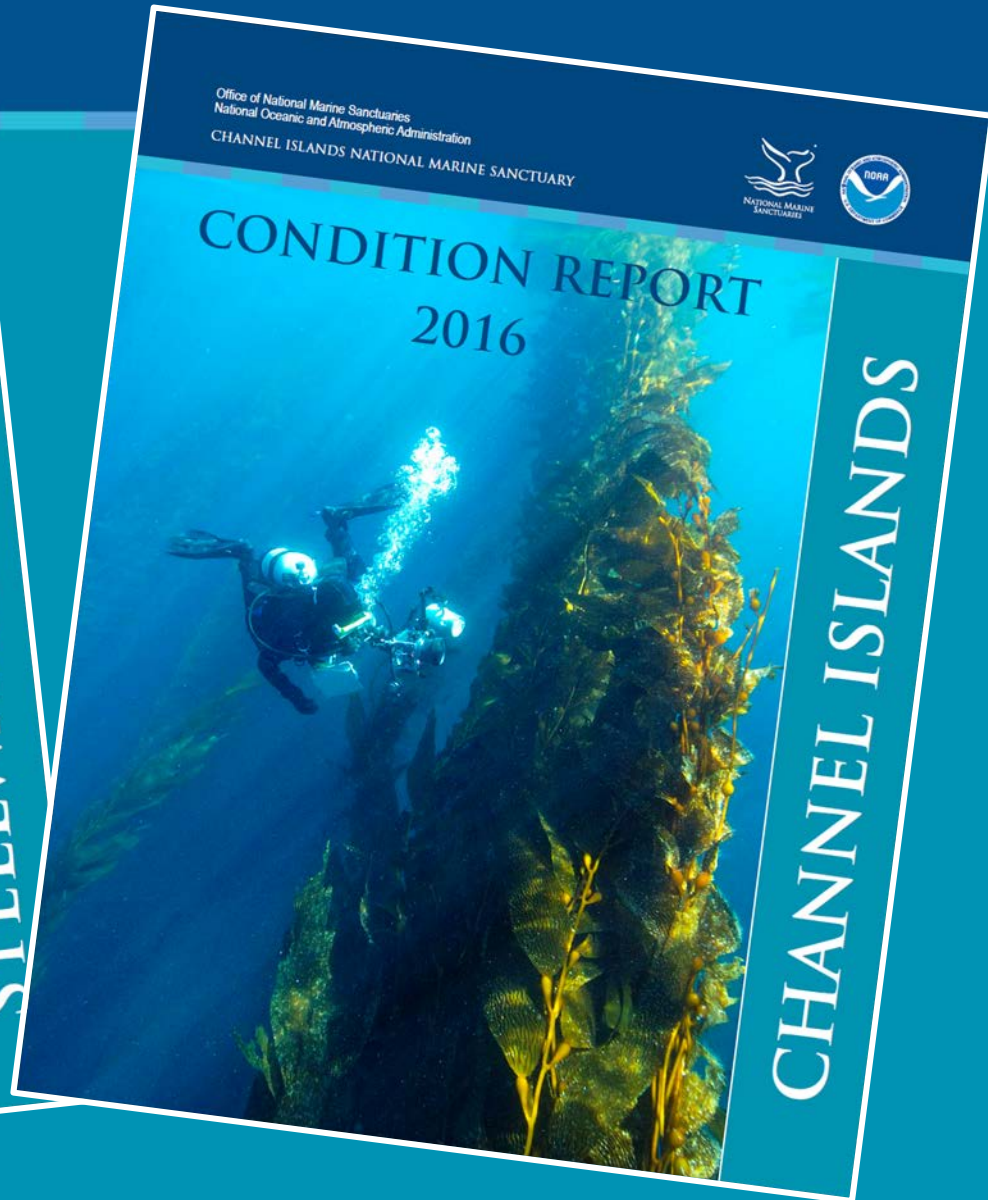


Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary CONDITION REPORT 2010



August 2010

Next Generation of Condition Reports



Purpose and Audience

- Supporting Tool
 - Management plan reviews
- Inform & Educate
 - Community and regional partners, stakeholders, interested members of the public
- Reporting Mechanism
 - NOAA and Congress re: resource protection and improvement goals

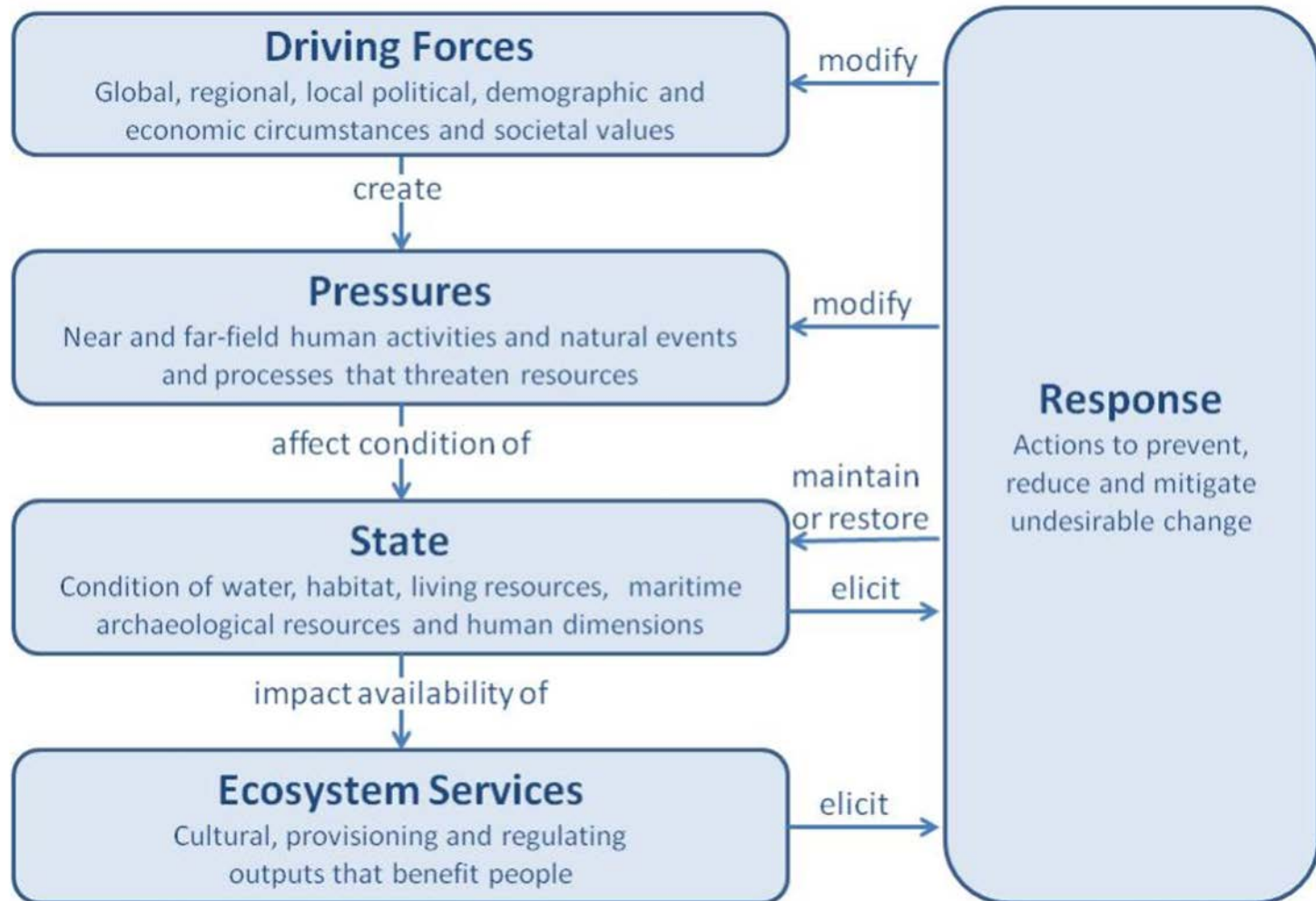


Framework

Driving Forces-Pressure-State-Ecosystem
Services-Response (DPSER)



DPSEER



State of Resources

15 Questions

- Human Dimensions
- Water Quality
- Habitat
- Living Resources
- Maritime Heritage Resources



▲ = Improving — = Not Changing ▼ = Worsening

? = Undetermined

N/A = Not Applicable

Human Dimensions

What are the levels of **human activities** that may adversely influence **water quality** and how are they changing?

What are the levels of **human activities** that may adversely influence **habitats** and how are they changing?

What are the levels of **human activities** that may adversely influence **living resource** quality and how are they changing?

What are the levels of **human activities** that may adversely influence **maritime heritage resource** quality and how are they changing?

Water Quality

What is the **eutrophic condition** of sanctuary waters and how is it changing?

Do sanctuary waters pose **risks to human health** and how are they changing?

Have recent changes in **climate** altered water conditions and how are they changing?

Are **other stressors**, individually or in combination, affecting water quality, and how are they changing?

Habitat

What is the **integrity of major habitat types** and how is it changing?

What are **contaminant concentrations** in sanctuary habitats and how are they changing?

Living Resources

What is the status of **keystone** and foundation species and how is it changing?

What is the status of **other focal species** and how is it changing?

What is the status of **non-indigenous species** and how is it changing?

What is the status of **biodiversity** and how is it changing?

Maritime Heritage Resources

What is the **condition of known maritime heritage resources** and how is it changing?

Rating System



▲ = Improving — = Not Changing ▼ = Worsening

? = Undetermined

N/A = Not Applicable

Description of Findings

Description of findings statement for a given status rating is specific to the question being asked



Good	Water quality does not appear to have the potential to negatively affect human health.
Good/Fair	One or more water quality indicators suggest the potential for human health impacts, but human health impacts have not been reported.
Fair	Water quality problems have caused measurable human impacts, but effects are localized and not widespread or persistent.
Fair/Poor	Water quality problems have caused severe impacts that are either widespread or persistent.
Poor	Water quality problems have caused severe, persistent, and widespread human impacts.

Good	Habitats are in near-pristine condition.
Good/Fair	Selected habitat loss or alteration is suspected and may degrade some attributes of ecological integrity, but has not yet caused measurable degradation.
Fair	Selected habitat loss or alteration has caused measurable, but not severe degradation in some attributes of ecological integrity.
Fair/Poor	Selected habitat loss or alteration has caused severe degradation in some, but not all attributes of ecological integrity.
Poor	Selected habitat loss or alteration has caused severe degradation in most, if not all attributes of ecological integrity.

The customized statements are available here:
<https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/science/condition/rating.html>

Ecosystem Services

Cultural (*non-material benefits*)

- Sense of place
- Non-consumptive recreation
- Consumptive recreation
- Science
- Education
- Heritage

Regulating (*buffers to change*)

- Coastal Protection

Provisioning (*material benefits*)

- Biotechnology
- Ornamentals
- Commercial Harvest
- Subsistence Harvest
- Water
- Energy

Rating System for Ecosystem Services

Good	The capacity to provide the ecosystem service has remained unaffected or has been restored.
Good/Fair	The capacity to provide the ecosystem service is compromised, but performance is acceptable.
Fair	The capacity to provide the ecosystem service is compromised, and existing management would require enhancement to enable acceptable performance.
Fair/Poor	The capacity to provide the ecosystem service is compromised, and substantial new or enhanced management is required to restore it.
Poor	The capacity to provide the ecosystem service is compromised, and it is doubtful that new or enhanced management would restore it.

Confidence Scores

Evidence + Agreement = Confidence

Step 1: Rate Evidence

Consider three categories of evidence typically used to make status or trend ratings: (1.) data,(2.) published information and(3.) personal experience.

Evidence Scores		
Limited	Medium	Robust
Limited data or published information, and little or no substantive personal experience.	Data available, some peer reviewed published information, or direct personal experience.	Considerable data, extensive record of publication, or extensive personal experience.

Step 2: Rate Agreement

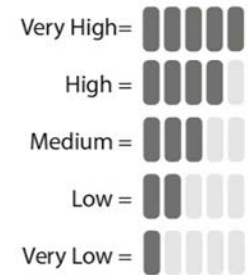
Rate agreement among those participating in determining the status and trend rating, or if possible, within the broader scientific community. Levels of agreement can be characterized as "low," "medium" or "high."

Step 3: Rate Confidence

Using the matrix below, combine ratings for both evidence and agreement to identify a level of confidence. Levels of confidence can be characterized as "very low," "low," "medium," "high" or "very high."

	<p><i>"Medium"</i> High agreement Limited evidence</p>	<p><i>"High"</i> High agreement Medium evidence</p>	<p><i>"Very High"</i> High agreement Robust evidence</p>
Agreement ↑	<p><i>"Low"</i> Medium Agreement Limited evidence</p>	<p><i>"Medium"</i> Medium agreement Medium evidence</p>	<p><i>"High"</i> Medium agreement Robust evidence</p>
	<p><i>"Very Low"</i> Low agreement Limited evidence</p>	<p><i>"Low"</i> Low agreement Medium evidence</p>	<p><i>"Medium"</i> Low agreement Robust evidence</p>
	Evidence (type, amount, quality, consistency) →		

Confidence Scale:



EXAMPLE:

This symbol indicates the condition was rated "fair" with "medium confidence" and a "worsening" trend with "very high confidence."



Process: Major Milestones and Approximate Timing

Year	Season	Milestone
2021	Winter	Kick off
2021	Winter – Fall	Indicator development, data compilation
2021	Fall	*Potential* indicator vetting workshop
2021 - 22	Winter - Spring	Preparation of indicators & data
2022	Spring	Status & Trends Workshop
2022	Spring - Fall	Report drafting
2022 - 23	Fall – Spring	2 Review Periods
2023	Summer	Finalize and release report

Process: Consultation With Experts



Fall 2021: Indicator &
Data Development

Spring 2022:
Status and Trends
Workshop



Process: Two Reviews

1. Expert Review
- ~~2. Invited Review~~
3. Peer Review

https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/science/condition

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/science/condition/>. The page features a teal header with a navigation menu and a search bar. A prominent teal banner contains an information icon and a notice: "National marine sanctuary offices and visitor centers closed to the public; waters remain open". Below this, the NOAA logo and the text "NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES" are displayed. The main content area is titled "Condition Reports" and features a large image of a fan of report covers, including "System", "Monticello", "Gray's", "Flower Banks", "Olympic", "Papahāna", "Cordell", "Monterey", "Cham", "Hawai'i", "Gulf of Florida", and "Thunder Bay". A paragraph explains that these reports provide summaries of resources, pressures, and management responses. Below the text are three blue buttons: "Frequently Asked Questions", "Rating Scheme for System-Wide Monitoring Questions", and "Ecosystem Services and Methods to Determine Ratings". At the bottom, a partial view of the "NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SYSTEM 2013 CONDITION REPORT" is visible, featuring a satellite image of Earth and introductory text.

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sanctuaries.noaa.gov/science/condition/

Apps Bookmarks Email Gmail Facebook YouTube SoundCloud Twitter LinkedIn Instagram Pinterest RSS ONMS Maps Shutterfly NOAA Directory hcpss.me HT Accounts BCBS Darebee HCPSS Connect

i National marine sanctuary offices and visitor centers closed to the public; waters remain open
NOAA's national marine sanctuary offices and visitor centers are closed to the public while the waters remain open for responsible use in accordance with CDC guidance and local regulations. More information on the response from NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries can be found on sanctuaries.noaa.gov/coronavirus/.

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Condition Reports

The Office of National Marine Sanctuary Condition Reports provide a summary of resources in each sanctuary, pressures on those resources, the current condition and trends, and management responses to the pressures that threaten the integrity of the marine environment. Specifically, the reports include information on the status and trends of water quality, habitat, living resources and maritime archaeological resources and the human activities that affect them.

Links are provided below to access the National Condition Report and each sanctuary's condition report.

[Frequently Asked Questions](#) [Rating Scheme for System-Wide Monitoring Questions](#) [Ecosystem Services and Methods to Determine Ratings](#)

NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SYSTEM 2013 CONDITION REPORT

In the National Marine Sanctuary System Condition Report the status and trends of resource condition are evaluated across the system. Among the many pressures on the natural and archaeological resources in the system, a number stand out: marine debris entanglement, trapping and ingestion, loss of biodiversity, wildlife disturbance, ship strikes and water quality, to name a few. In the face of these pressures, sanctuaries are

Questions?

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



NATIONAL MARINE
SANCTUARIES

<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>