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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0506

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Dear Friends:

Congratulations to NOAA on the occasion of your 200th anniversary. When Thomas Jefferson established the first federal science agency, Survey of the Coast, in 1807, its mandate was to create charts for safe navigation. Today this agency, now known as the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA), has a global reach and a broad range of programs that touch all of our lives.

From promoting waterborne commerce and fisheries to predicting weather and global climate change, NOAA's role is crucial to our nation. I am particularly proud of the National Marine Sanctuaries whose mission is "to serve as the trustee for the nation's system of marine protected areas, to conserve, protect, and enhance their biodiversity, ecological integrity and cultural legacy."

In Northern California we are privileged to have three such sanctuaries, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, and the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary. With our oceans and their rich life increasingly threatened, these sanctuaries play an invaluable role in enhancement and protection.

And, as many of you know, I have introduced legislation, H.R. 1187, the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Boundary Modification and Protection Act, which has broad bipartisan support. This bill, developed with the cooperation of NOAA and many other agencies, would expand the boundaries of these two sanctuaries to include important ocean areas off the entire Sonoma coast and the southern Mendocino coast.

Thank you to the Aquarium of the Bay at PIER 39 and to the Smithsonian Institution Travelling Exhibition Services (SITES) for assisting with this commemorative exhibit. Again, congratulations on 200 years of exemplary public service.

Sincerely,



Lynn Woolsey
Member of Congress