

Senate Joint Resolution No. 5

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 96

Senate Joint Resolution No. 5—Relative to the federal Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Boundary Modification and Protection Act.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 11, 2009.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 5, Wiggins. Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Boundary Modification and Protection Act.

This measure would call upon the Congress of the United States to quickly pass the federal Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Boundary Modification and Protection Act and the President of the United States to expeditiously sign it into law.

WHEREAS, Inclusion in the National Marine Sanctuary System offers comprehensive and permanent protection to important marine resources, large scale ecosystem management, and vital oceanic research investments, while allowing for recreational, shipping, and fishing activities; and

WHEREAS, Sonoma and Marin Counties' coastal waters just south of Bodega Head are within the boundaries of the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries and enjoy the protections and benefits of the National Marine Sanctuary System; and

WHEREAS, The Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Boundary Modification and Protection Act (H.R. 223 and S. 212), authored by Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey and sponsored by Senator Barbara Boxer, would adjust the boundaries of those two marine sanctuaries north and westward to add deeper and biologically important waters, and would extend the boundaries of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary just past Point Arena, thus including the entire Sonoma Coast and the southern Mendocino Coast; and

WHEREAS, The area encompassed by the Sonoma Coast and southern Mendocino Coast is one of the most biologically rich regions in the world. These waters are within one of the four coastal upwelling zones on the planet, comprising only 1 percent of the ocean, but producing 20 percent of the world's fish. Additionally, the coastal estuaries of that area are important passages for endangered salmon and steelhead, essential haul sites for seals and sea lions, migration corridors for the California gray whale and other whale species, and prolific nurseries for hundreds of aquatic species; and

WHEREAS, These important marine resources, among the richest on the planet, must be protected from oil spills and other forms of pollution; and

WHEREAS, By expanding the boundaries of the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries, the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Boundary Modification and Protection Act (H.R. 223 and S. 212) will protect the University of California, Davis, Bodega Marine Laboratory's investment in marine research, regional jobs that are dependent on commercial and recreational fishing, tourism, recreational uses, and indefinable aesthetic benefits; and

WHEREAS, A congressional and executive moratorium on offshore oil exploration and exploitation was removed in 2008, leaving these waters of special biological significance unprotected; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature joins with the Counties of Marin, Mendocino, and Sonoma, the California Coastal Commission, and the State Lands Commission to call upon the Congress of the United States to quickly pass the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Boundary Modification and Protection Act (H.R. 223 and S. 212) and the President of the United States to expeditiously sign that act into law; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the President pro Tempore of the Senate, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the Chairs of the House Committee on Natural Resources and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.