



## **Surfrider Foundation.**

San Mateo County Chapter

### POSITION STATEMENT

#### Use of Motorized Personal Water Craft (MPWC) Within the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

The San Mateo Chapter of Surfrider Foundation supports the responsible use of Motorized Personal Water Craft (MPWC, including Jet Ski's) within those areas of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary where there is clear scientific evidence that they will have minimal or no impact on the marine environment. This position is based on an overwhelming body of scientific evidence and court rulings documenting the adverse environmental impacts of MPWC in the near shore areas where MPWC are commonly used. Many of these scientific documents and court rulings can be found on our chapter's web site at <http://surfridersSMC.org/pwc.php>.

Within the boundaries of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, we support PWC use for public agency life rescue operations and their recreational use in the existing four designated offshore MPWC use zones.

The Surfrider Foundation is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's oceans, waves and beaches for all people, through conservation, activism, research and education.

#### \* **Summary of Relevant Scientific Research**

Scientific research confirms that the significant ocean resources found in the MBNMS are similar or identical to those found in the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary where a total ban on all PWC went into effect on October 10, 2001 (Federal Register Vol. 66, No. 175 Sept. 10, 2001 rules and regulations).

Scientific research has repeatedly shown that the use of MPWC, because of the associated operational impacts, pollution, and noise, seriously harms the marine environment. These studies have also shown that the environmental impacts of MPWC are significantly greater than those of motorboats.

While the San Mateo County Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation is concerned with the polluting fuel discharges associated with the use of MPWC, of greater concern are the impacts to marine life resulting simply by their operation. For example, wildlife biologists have documented the following:

- Seal pup separations from parent
- Flushing of waterfowl and marine mammals from breeding and feeding areas
- PWC collisions with waterfowl and marine mammals