



Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary

SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

October 8, 2009

Dan Howard, Superintendent
Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary

re: Base Funding for Aircraft Services

Dear Dan,

The Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary (CBNMS) Advisory Council would like to express our appreciation to NOAA leadership for its recent action in stationing a Twin Otter aircraft in Monterey to better serve NOAA and west coast sanctuaries programs.

The West Coast Twin Otter affords the CBNMS and other west coast sanctuaries an effective way to track and survey living marine resources, visitor use and vessel traffic patterns. This information is critical for adequate management of the sanctuary and provides much needed data to support the sanctuaries zonal management efforts.

The Twin Otter aircraft is a cost-effective tool that can be used for enforcing new sanctuary regulations. Although new sanctuary regulations were effective in March 2008, there has only been a minimal increase in enforcement within CBNMS. The Twin Otter aircraft allows enforcement officials to get offshore safely and efficiently, and is a vital tool for helping sanctuary sites meet their resource protection mandates.

Finally, this aircraft is an important conduit helping CBNMS to continue to build effective partnerships. The sanctuary has already increased communication and coordination inside and outside NOAA by working with NOAA Fisheries, the Office of Law Enforcement, the Coast Guard and other federal and state agencies on joint projects using the Twin Otter aircraft. These partnerships are critical for developing regional collaborations that promote more effective sanctuary management and better resource protection.

The CBNMS Advisory Council requests that NOAA provides base funding for Aircraft Services to fully support the West Coast Twin Otter in order to meet the NOAA mandate to protect living resources along the west coast. This includes endangered species, marine mammals and resources in west coast sanctuaries.

In addition, we request that this letter is forwarded to NOAA Administrator, Dr. Jane Lubchenco and RADM Jonathan Bailey.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Lance Morgan
CBNMS Advisory Council Chair

The council is an advisory body to the sanctuary superintendent. The opinions and findings of this publication do not necessarily reflect the position of the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Members

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