

Director,
US Fish & Wildlife Service
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

April 2, 2002

Dear Director,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Environmental Action Committee of West Marin, I would like to nominate Tomales Bay as a Wetland of International Importance under the Convention on Wetlands, commonly known as the Ramsar Convention.

This important coastal site fulfills all the criteria identified by the Ramsar Convention for designation of Wetlands of International Importance. It:

- 1) contains representative natural wetland types representative of the biogeographic region;
- 2) supports vulnerable species and threatened ecological communities;
- 3) supports plant and animal populations important to maintaining biological diversity of the region;
- 4) supports species at critical stages of their life cycle;
- 5) supports 20,000 or more waterbirds;
- 6) supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one subspecies of waterbird (e.g. black brant and bufflehead)
- 7) supports a significant proportion of indigenous fish (e.g. herring and coho salmon), and
- 8) is an important spawning ground, nursery, or migration path for one or more fish species.

The area we are nominating covers the lands and waters as far as the mean high tide mark. It is under the overlapping jurisdiction of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary and the Point Reyes National Seashore. Both these agencies support the nomination, as the enclosed letters show.

This nomination also has the support of our Senator, Barbara Boxer, our Congresswoman, Lynn Woolsey, the Director of the California Department of Fish and Game, our County Supervisor, and many other individuals and community groups, including the Tomales Bay Watershed Council, an alliance of public agencies and concerned citizens, including ranchers, environmentalists, business people, scientists, and local residents dedicated to ensuring a healthy Bay and watershed.

I hope you will accept our nomination and move to have the U.S. government name Tomales Bay as a Wetland of International Importance.

Sincerely,

Catherine Caufield
Executive Director

Enclosures:

Ramsar Convention data sheet

Map of Tomales Bay Watershed

Scientific Papers/ Abstracts

“Distribution, Abundance, and Implications for Conservation of Winter Waterbirds on Tomales Bay, California”

“Fish Species of Tomales Bay and its Watershed”

“Annual Cycle and Interannual Variability of Ecosystem Metabolism in a Temperate Climate Embayment”

“Effect of Changing Bathymetry on the Summer Buoyancy Dynamics of a Shallow Mediterranean Estuary; Tomales Bay, California”

USGS map “Point Reyes National Seashore and Vicinity” showing outline of proposed site.

Letters of support from:

Manager, Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary

Superintendent, Point Reyes National Seashore

Superintendent, Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Senator Barbara Boxer

Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey

Supervisor Steve Kinsey

Director, California Department of Fish and Game

Tomales Bay Watershed Council

Edgar Wayburn

Point Reyes Bird Observatory

Sierra Club, Marin Group