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December 13, 2010

Ms. Debra Malek  
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries  
1305 East-West Highway  
11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Re: RIN 0648-AX79 Amendments to National Marine Sanctuary Regulations Regarding low Overflights in Designated Zones

Ms. Malek,

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) is a not-for-profit individual membership organization of more than 410,000 members. AOPA's mission is to effectively serve the interests and needs of its members as aircraft owners and pilots and establish, maintain, and articulate positions of leadership to promote the economy, safety, utility, and popularity of flight in general aviation aircraft. Representing two thirds of all pilots in the United States, AOPA is the largest civil aviation organization in the world.

AOPA is requesting a 60 day extension to the current 30 day comment period of the notice of proposed rulemaking published in the Federal Register on December 8, 2010. Given the short duration of the existing 30 day comment period, and the multiple holidays celebrated during this time, there is not sufficient time to fully investigate the proposal, notify and gather feedback from all those affected, and develop meaningful and substantive responses to the proposal. AOPA is requesting a 60 day extension so that we, and other impacted members of the public have adequate time to provide comments. Without this extension, we will not be able to fully investigate the impact of this proposed rulemaking and provide meaningful comments to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

We thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Kramer  
Manager Air Traffic Services