



***NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES ACT (NMSA) originally passed in 1972***

*MISSION: to serve as the trustee for the nation's system of marine protected areas and to conserve, protect, and enhance their biodiversity, ecological integrity and cultural legacy."*

# NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SYSTEM

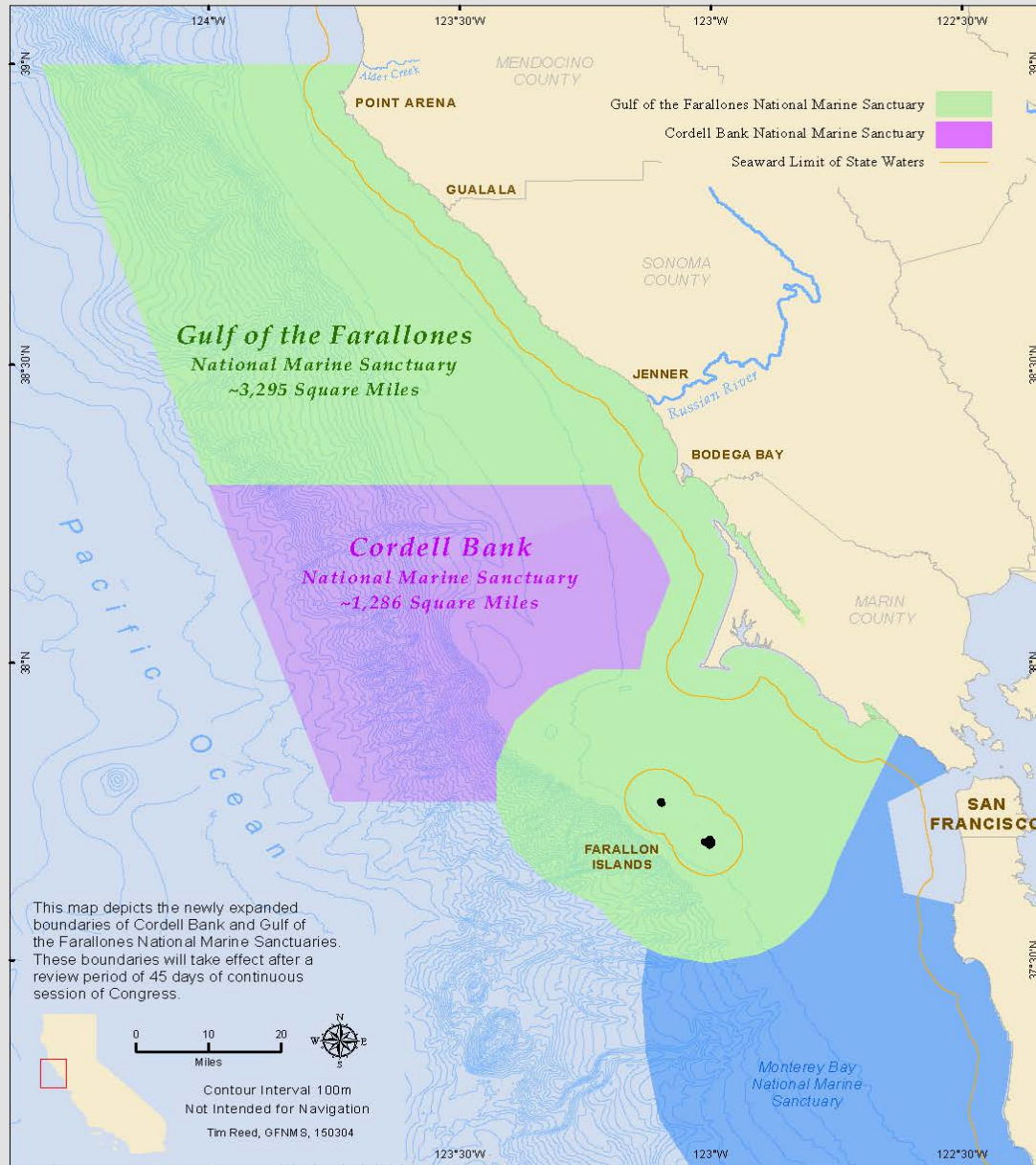


# EXPANDED BOUNDARIES

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary

Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary

March 2015



# NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries



Resource  
Protection



Resource  
Protection

# What do we do to fulfill our mission?

1. **Research/Conservation Science** - Learn about the ecosystem
2. **Education** - Educate the public, schools, users
3. **Volunteer Programs/Citizen Science programs**
4. **Regulations**
5. **Resource Protection** - Oil Spill Response/Prevention; Policy
6. **Sanctuary Advisory Council** - Advises the Sanctuary Superintendent on management priorities

# Wildlife Disturbance Regulatory Setting

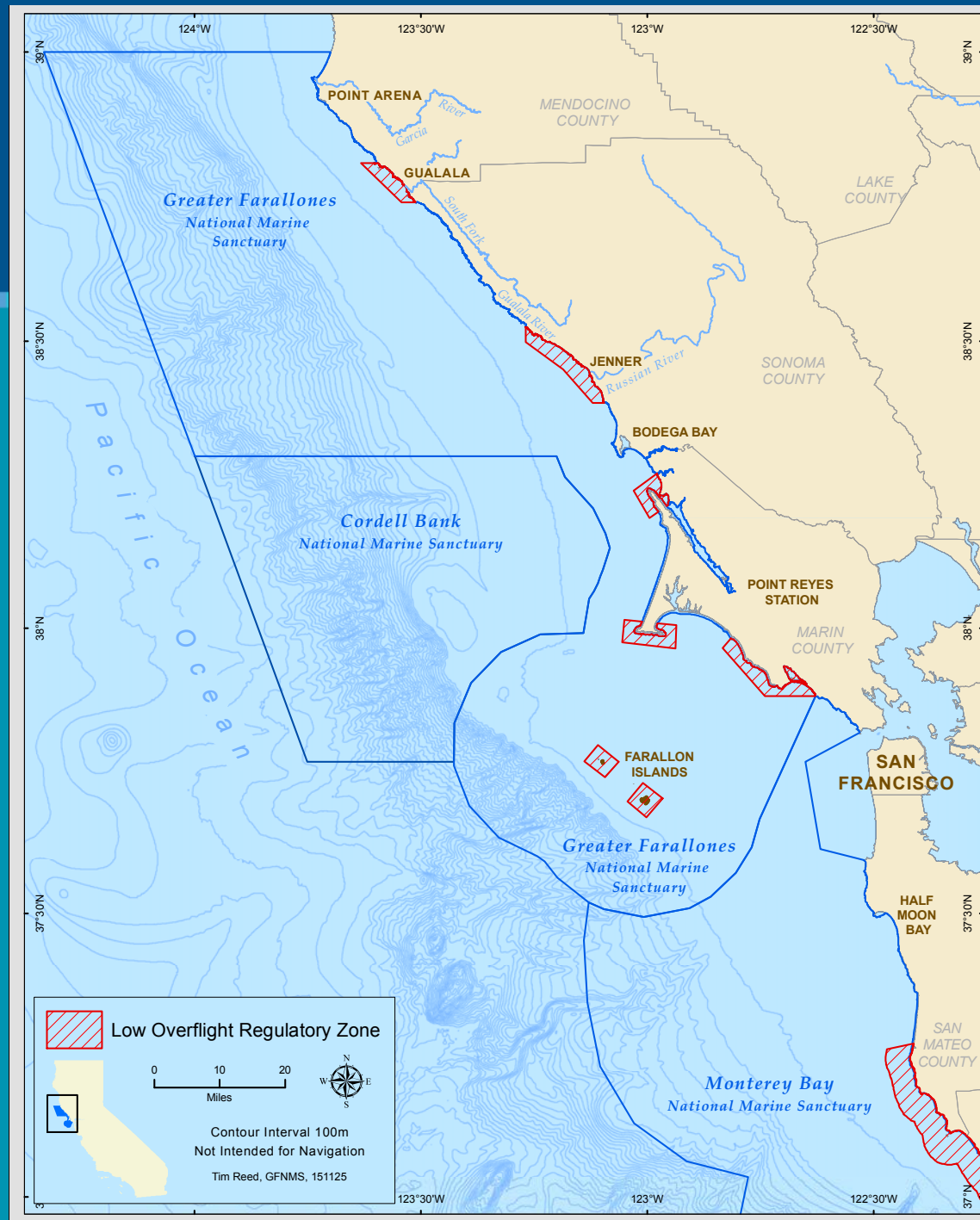
Site specific regulations for GFNMS address wildlife disturbance through prohibitions such as:

- Disturbing seabirds or marine mammals by flying motorized aircraft at less than 1,000 feet (location specific);
- Discharging or depositing (with exceptions);
- Altering the seabed (with exceptions);
- Taking any marine mammal, marine turtle, or bird; and
- Attracting or approaching white sharks.

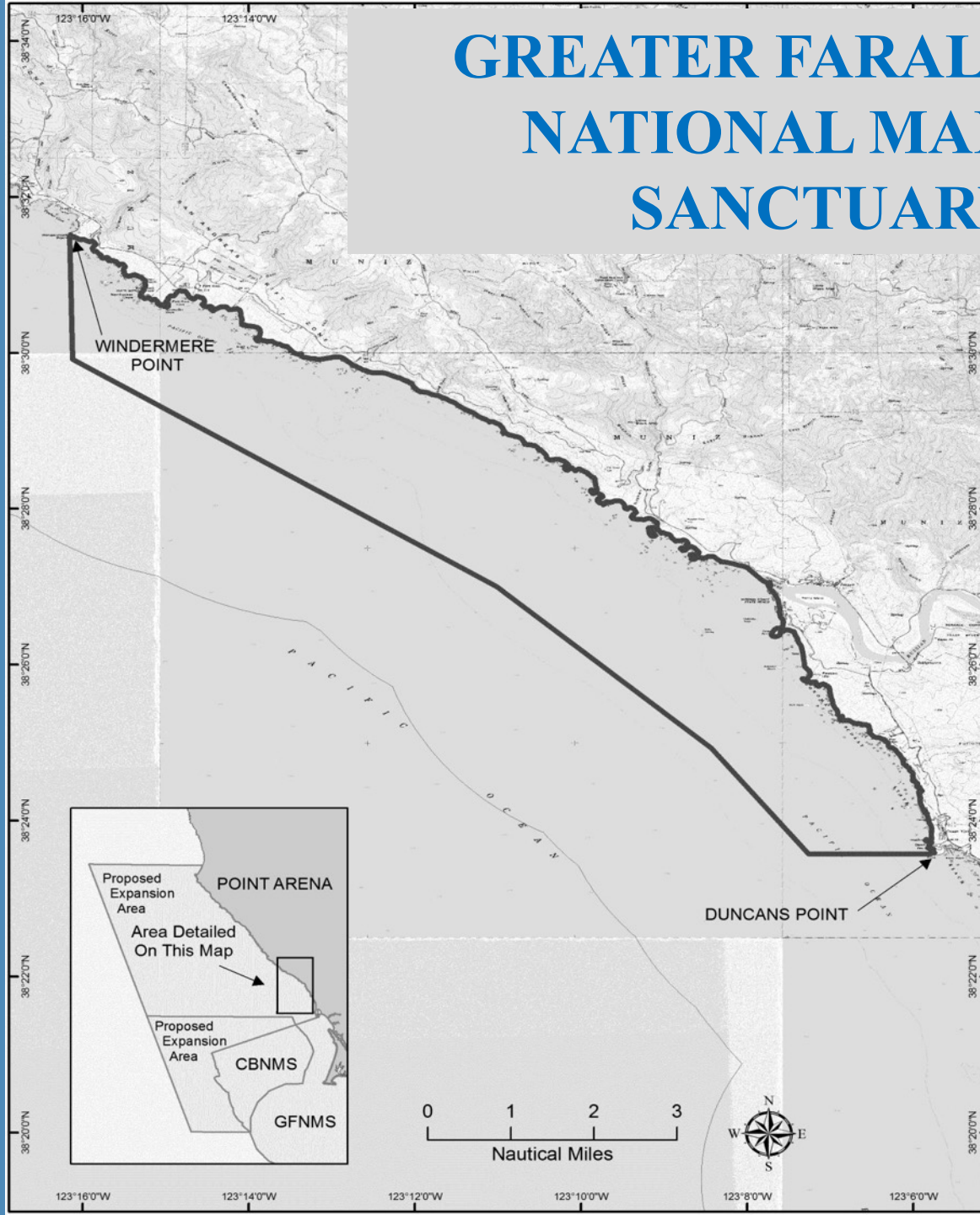


# NOAA Regulatory Overflight Zones

- Disturbing marine mammals or seabirds by flying motorized aircraft at less than 1,000 feet AGL
- Failure to maintain a minimum altitude of 1,000 feet above ground level over such waters is presumed to disturb marine mammals or seabirds.

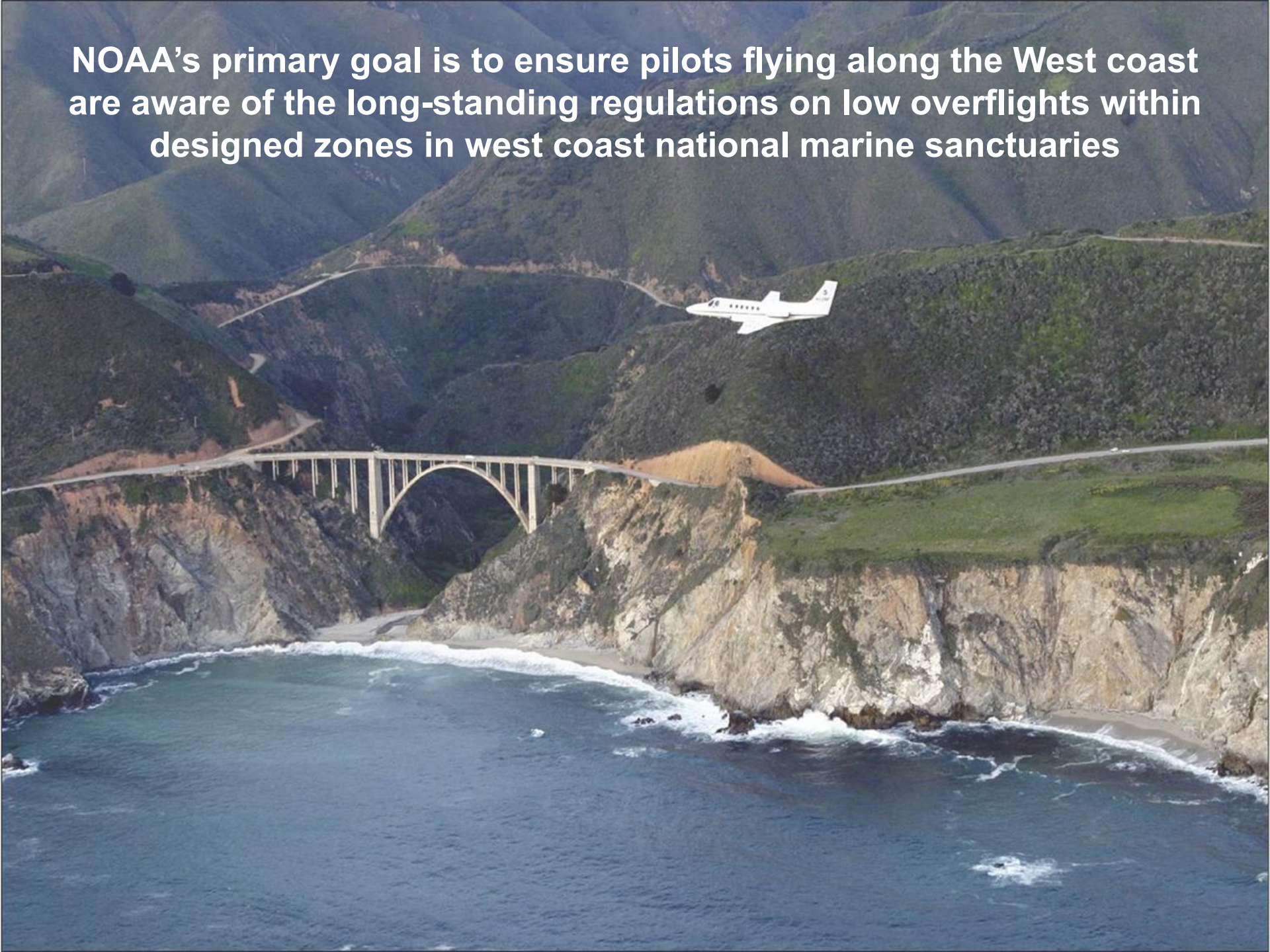


# GREATER FARALLONES NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY





**NOAA's primary goal is to ensure pilots flying along the West coast are aware of the long-standing regulations on low overflights within designed zones in west coast national marine sanctuaries**



# Questions?





# Seabird Protection Network

– Helping Seabirds Thrive –



# Seabird Protection Network

- 11<sup>th</sup> year
- Multi-organizations
- Preferred restoration project
  - *M/T Command* Oil Spill
  - *Luckenbach* mystery spill

## Mission

Help seabirds thrive by informing management and coastal and ocean users how activities, like low-flying aircraft and close-approaching boats can cause nesting seabirds to flee from their nests, leaving eggs or chicks vulnerable to predators, which can lead to a reduction in the long-term survival of affected marine species.

- Founded by Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary





# Why is disturbance a problem?



# How do we disturb seabirds?





# Seabird Protection Network

– Helping Seabirds Thrive –

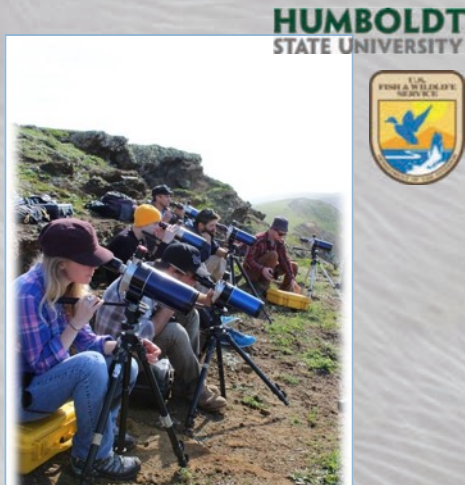


# 3 Components

✓ Monitoring

✓ Outreach

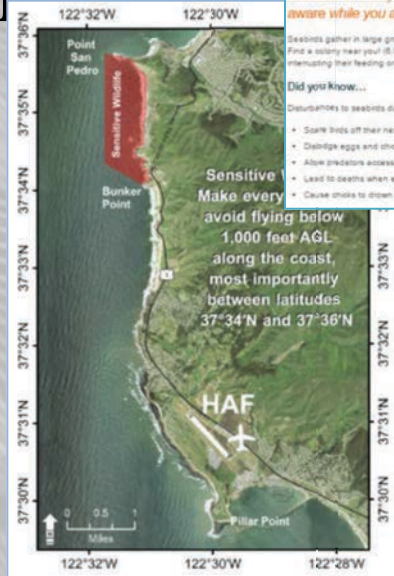
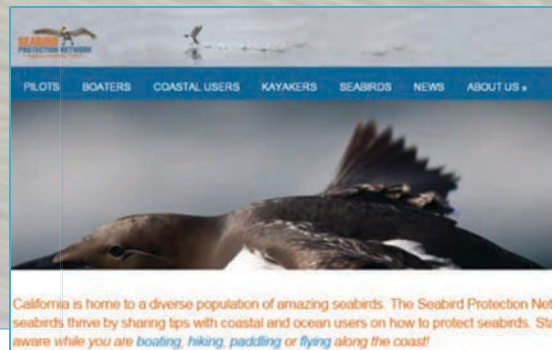
✓ Coordinated Management & Enforcement



# Outreach Strategies

- Online media
- E-Newsletters
- Annual Mailings
- Plexi-glass Displays
- Tide books

[www.SeabirdProtectionNetwork.org](http://www.SeabirdProtectionNetwork.org)



Seabirds gather in large groups on offshore rocks, cliffs and sands, to nest and raise their young. These large colonies are found all along the California coast. Find a colony near you! (0.53 MB PDF). Seabirds can react when people, boats or aircraft get too close to them. Too close means your presence may be interrupting their feeding or resting behaviors, or maybe startling while they are caring for their chicks.

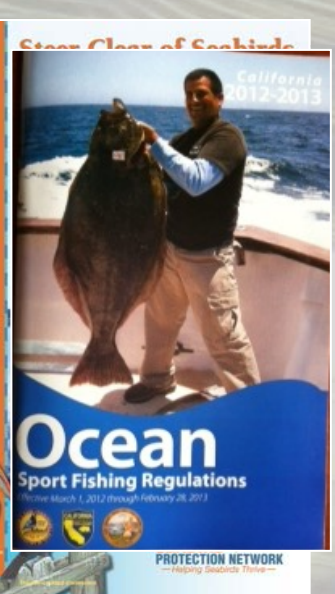
Did you know...  
Disturbances to seabirds during breeding season can:

- Scare birds off their nests
- Destroy eggs and chicks from nest sites
- Allow predator access to eggs and chicks
- Lead to deaths when eggs and chicks are exposed to heat and cold
- Cause chicks to drown when they are forced to leave the nest too soon.



# Outreach Strategies

- Festivals & Presentations
  - Pilot & Boating Clubs
- Products...



...the sample signage for locations and information about each Special Closure



# Current Chapters of the Seabird Protection Network



Gualala Pt. to Bodega Head:  
Largely funded by Bureau of Land Management;  
Managed by Stewards of the Coast & Redwoods.

Bodega Head to Pt. Sur:  
Funded by Luckenbach Trustee Council;  
Managed by Gulf of the Farallones  
National Marine Sanctuary.

Pt. Sur to Pt. Mugu:  
Funded by Torch/Platform Irene Trustee Council;  
Managed by Bureau of Land Management.

Channel Islands:  
Funded and managed by Montrose Settlements  
Restoration Program.



April, 2015

- Gualala Pt. – Bodega Head
- Bodega Head – Pt. Sur
- Pt. Sur – Pt. Mugu
- Channel Islands

Marine Sanctuaries Conservation Series ONMS-13-02



Seabird Protection Network:  
Guide for Establishing New Chapters

U.S. Department of Commerce  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
National Ocean Service  
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries



April 2013

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# Reporting Wildlife Disturbances

# Report Wildlife Disturbances

- Why report incidents?
  - Informs educational strategies
  - Tracking repeat offenders
  - Illustrating the need for more enforcement
- Its as Easy as 1, 2, 3...
  - [www.SeabirdProtectionNetwork.org](http://www.SeabirdProtectionNetwork.org)



## Latest News

- [Seabird Spotlight: Rhinoceros Auklet](#) January 29, 2015
- [From the Flight Deck, Part 2: Wildlife conservation collaborations: the USCG Auxiliary, West Coast National Marine Sanctuaries, and Wildlife](#)

## Get Updates!

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Email Address

## Have You Witnessed a Wildlife Disturbance?

**REPORT DISTURBANCE**

Seeing marine wildlife in their natural environment is a thrilling experience; however animals need space to find

# Why Report a Wildlife Disturbance

- Quantify and describe disturbance incidents along California coast
  - seabird breeding and roosting sites
  - marine mammal haul-outs



# What is a Wildlife Disturbance

- Any human-related harassment, flushing, displacement, harm and/or agitation of wildlife, which includes but is not limited to operating a vessel or aircraft or to do any other act that results in the disturbance or molestation of nesting or roosting seabirds or resting marine mammals.



# Seabird Disturbance

- A seabird disturbance is defined as any event that results in the following actions:
  - Birds **flying off** the rock or moving from their nest, resting site or rafting area
  - Any event which causes **eggs or chicks to be exposed** (adult moves away from the egg or chick), **displaced** (egg or chick moves from nest site), or **taken** (egg/chick is depredated).
  - An event that causes birds to be visibly **agitated or alerted**, including “head-bobbing” in Common Murre (birds moving their heads up and down) and **alert postures in cormorants** (e.g., heads up and alert, wing-flapping).
- It may not be necessary to complete the Wildlife Disturbance Reporting Form for an incident that results in only head-bobbing

# Marine Mammal Disturbance

- A marine mammal disturbance can be defined as any event that results in the following actions:
  - **Head-alert** is defined as a pinniped raising its head from a resting position. The animal will turn its head in the direction of potential danger.
  - **Flushing** behavior constitutes the animal moving towards or into the water. The animal is flushed from the resting position.

# How to Report a Disturbance

- Report incident as soon as possible
- Specific information is essential and must be accurately documented
- Photos or video recording a wildlife disturbance incident - confirm details of the incident

# How to Report a Disturbance

- Multi-step process
  - Step 1: Access the online form at [www.SeabirdProtectionNetwork.org](http://www.SeabirdProtectionNetwork.org)
  - Step 2: Complete the form with as much detail as possible
    - Overview of Wildlife Disturbance Reporting)
  - Step 3: SUBMIT form
  - Step 4: You will receive an email with a PDF of your completed form attached
    - Review form thoroughly
    - Return a reply email confirming all information is correct
    - Provide information on any changes or additions to the form in your reply email.
    - Attach any photos, video or maps of the disturbance incident to email

# Wildlife Disturbance Reporting Form

Reporter's Personal Information

\* Required

First Name \*

Last Name \*

Email \*

Phone \*

Continue »

**Complete your  
report in 5-7 minutes**



5% completed

Powered by  
 Drive

This form was created inside of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[Report Abuse](#) - [Terms of Service](#) - [Additional Terms](#)

## Incident Information

### Date of Incident \*

### Start Time of Incident \*

Example: 11:00 AM

### Duration of Incident \*

 :  : 

### Weather Condition \*

This field also describes ceiling height for aircraft

- Low fog (below 500 feet)
- Medium fog (500 - 1000 feet)
- High fog (> 1000 feet)
- Cloudy (unknown fog)
- Clear (Blue skies)
- Unknown



11% completed

\* Required

## Location

### Geographic Region \*

- Gualala Pt. to Bodega Head
- Bodega Head to Pt. Sur
- Southeast Farallon Island
- Pt. Sur to Pt. Mugu
- Channel Islands
- Other

« Back

Continue »



17% completed

\* Required

## Other Location

Identify wildlife location

### Describe Location \*

Provide as much detail as possible.

Alcatraz Island

« Back

Continue »



47% completed

## Additional Description

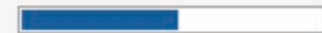
Identify observer location

### Additional Description

Describe observer location

« Back

Continue »



52% completed

## Type & Description of Disturbance

### Type of Disturbance \*

- Aircraft
- Vessel (Motorized & Non-motorized)
- Land-based
- Other:

### Describe Incident \*

Be as specific as possible. Describe details of the incident including person(s) creating disturbance.

« Back

Continue »



58% completed

\* Required

## Vessel

**Vessel Registration Number \***

CF Number

Yes

No

**If YES, Report CF Number**

Example: CF 1234 AB

**Name of Vessel \***

**Home Port and/or Vessel Nationality \***

**Characteristics and/or Special Markings \***

**Vessel Color \***

Blue

Brown

Green

Maroon

Purple

Red

White

Yellow

Other:

**Vessel Type \***

Charter Boat (whale watch, fishing charter, etc.)

Commercial Fishing Vessel

Kayak/Canoe

Jet ski

Recreational Motoboat

Sailboat

Wind or Kite Surfer

Yacht/Cruiser

Other:

**Vessel Length \***

Measurements are based on California length classes

- < 16 feet
- 16 - 26 feet
- 26 - 40 feet
- 40 - 65 feet
- >65 feet
- Unknown

**Approximate Vessel Distance to Disturbed Wildlife \***

300 feet is approximately the length of a football field

- 0 - 150 feet
- 150 - 300 feet
- 300 - 600 feet
- 600 - 1,200 feet
- > 1,200 feet
- Unknown
- Other:

**Landmark and/or Equipment Used to Determine Distance \*****Last Observed Direction of Vessel \***[« Back](#)[Continue »](#)

82% completed

**Identify All Species Disturbed \***

- Brandt's Cormorant (BRAC)
- Double-crested Cormorant (DCCO)
- Pelagic Cormorant (PECO)
- Brown Pelican (BRPE)
- Pigeon Gulliemot (PIGU)
- Common Murre (COMU)
- Cassin's Auklet (CAAU)
- Tufted Puffin (TUPU)
- Western Gull (WEGU)
- Ashy Storm-Petrel (ASSP)
- Leach's Storm-Petrel (LESP)
- Black Storm-Petrel (BLSP)
- Scripps's Murrelet (SCMU)
- Black Oystercatcher (BLOY)
- Harbor seal (HASE)
- Northern Elephant seal (NESE)
- California sea lion (CSLI)
- Steller sea lion (SSLI)
- Other:

**Number of Disturbed \***

List number of each species disturbed. For example COMU-12, PIGU-49, CSLI-25, etc.

**Disturbance Pattern \***

- Single pass
- Multiple passes
- Hovering/Lingering
- Unknown

**Describe Disturbance Pattern**

List number of passes or length of time source hovered/lingered

**Behavior of Any Animal Affected During Incident \***

- Alarmed/Agitated
- Flushed
- Eggs or Chicks Lost
- Trampling
- Moved Away from Original Position (Displaced)
- No Reaction Observed
- Other:

**Describe Various Behaviors Observed During Incident**

Describe which species were flushed versus agitated if two species had different reactions.

**Did Affected Animals Return to their Original Behavior After Incident? \***

- Yes
- No

**If No, Describe How the Behavior Changed**

94% completed

## Additional Information

### Additional Notes

### Photos or Video

- YES, photos were taken
- YES, video was captured

### If YES, Report Contact Information of Photographer/Videographer

## Other Witnesses

Report contact information for all witnesses

### Other Witness First Name

### Other Witness Last Name

### Other Witness Email

### Other Witness Phone

## Notification

### What Other Agencies Were Notified \*

None

BLM

CDFW

NOAA

State Parks

USFWS

Other:

## Contact

### If Contact was Made with Suspected Violator, Please Explain

Never submit passwords through Google Forms.



100%: You made it.

# Thank you for your help!



## QUESTIONS

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415.970.5243

[www.SeabirdProtectionNetwork.org](http://www.SeabirdProtectionNetwork.org)



# Special Closures

- Point Reyes
- Point Resistance
- Double Point
- Devil's Slide Rock
- North Farallon Islands
- South East Farallon Island

