

# Seabird Protection Network

*Helping Seabirds Thrive*



**Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods  
Volunteer Orientation**  
April 6, 2019

**Paul Hobi**  
Seabird Protection Network Program Manager

# NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SYSTEM





**Greater Farallones**  
National Marine Sanctuary

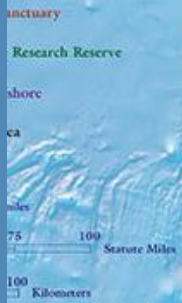
**Cordell Bank**  
National Marine Sanctuary

**Monterey Bay**  
National Marine Sanctuary

**Monterey Bay**  
National Marine Sanctuary

**Channel Islands**  
National Marine Sanctuary

**Channel Islands**



# NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries



Resource  
Protection



Resource  
Protection

# Wildlife Disturbance Regulatory Setting

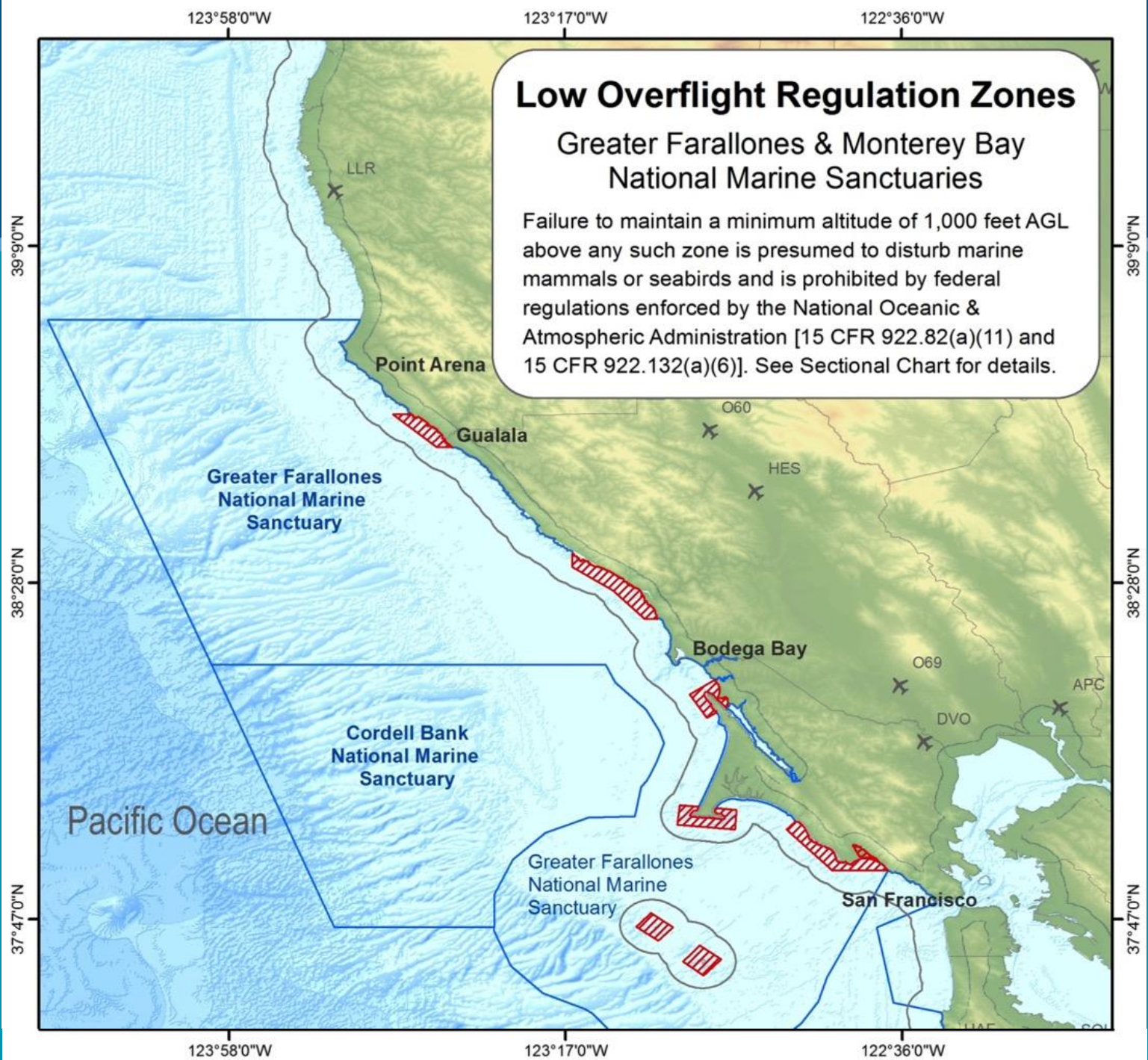
Site specific regulations for GFNMS address wildlife disturbance through prohibitions such as:

- 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

- Specific zones along the coast designed to protect wildlife – especially seabirds – from low overflights of planes and drones
- Failure to maintain a minimum altitude of 1,000 feet above ground level over such waters **is presumed to disturb marine mammals or seabirds.**



## Low Overflight Regulation Zones

### Greater Farallones & Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries

Failure to maintain a minimum altitude of 1,000 feet AGL above any such zone is presumed to disturb marine mammals or seabirds and is prohibited by federal regulations enforced by the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration [15 CFR 922.82(a)(11) and 15 CFR 922.132(a)(6)]. See Sectional Chart for details.

39°9'0"N  
38°28'0"N  
37°47'0"N

39°9'0"N  
38°28'0"N  
37°47'0"N

123°58'0"W 123°17'0"W 122°36'0"W

123°58'0"W 123°17'0"W 122°36'0"W

Pacific Ocean

Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary

Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary

Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary

Point Arena

Gualala

Bodega Bay

San Francisco

LLR

O60

HES

O69

DVO

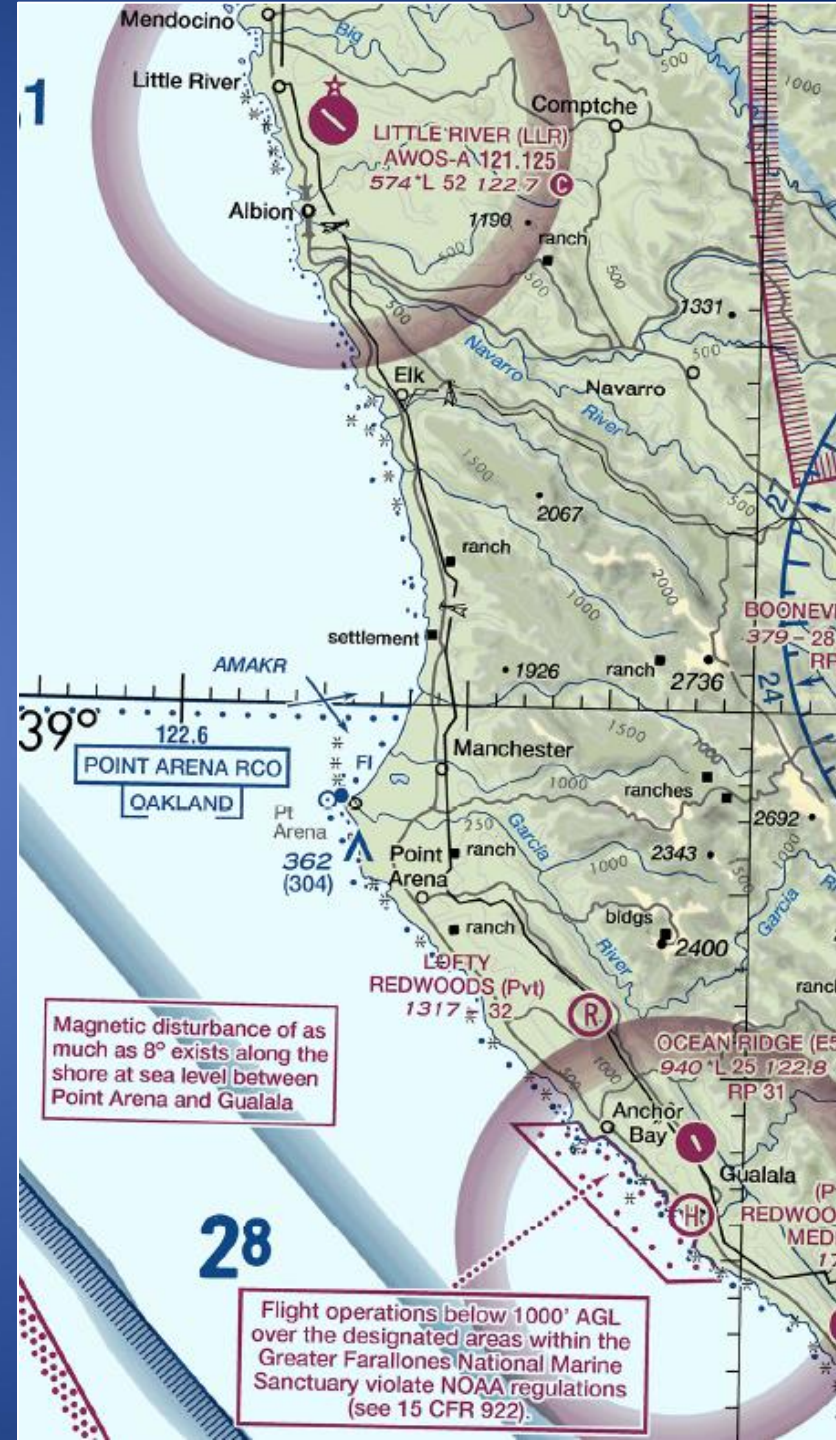
APC



# MendoNoma overflight zone:

## Gualala River mouth

- Havens Neck - Fish Rock to Del Mar Point





# Sonoma overflight zone:

## Russian River mouth

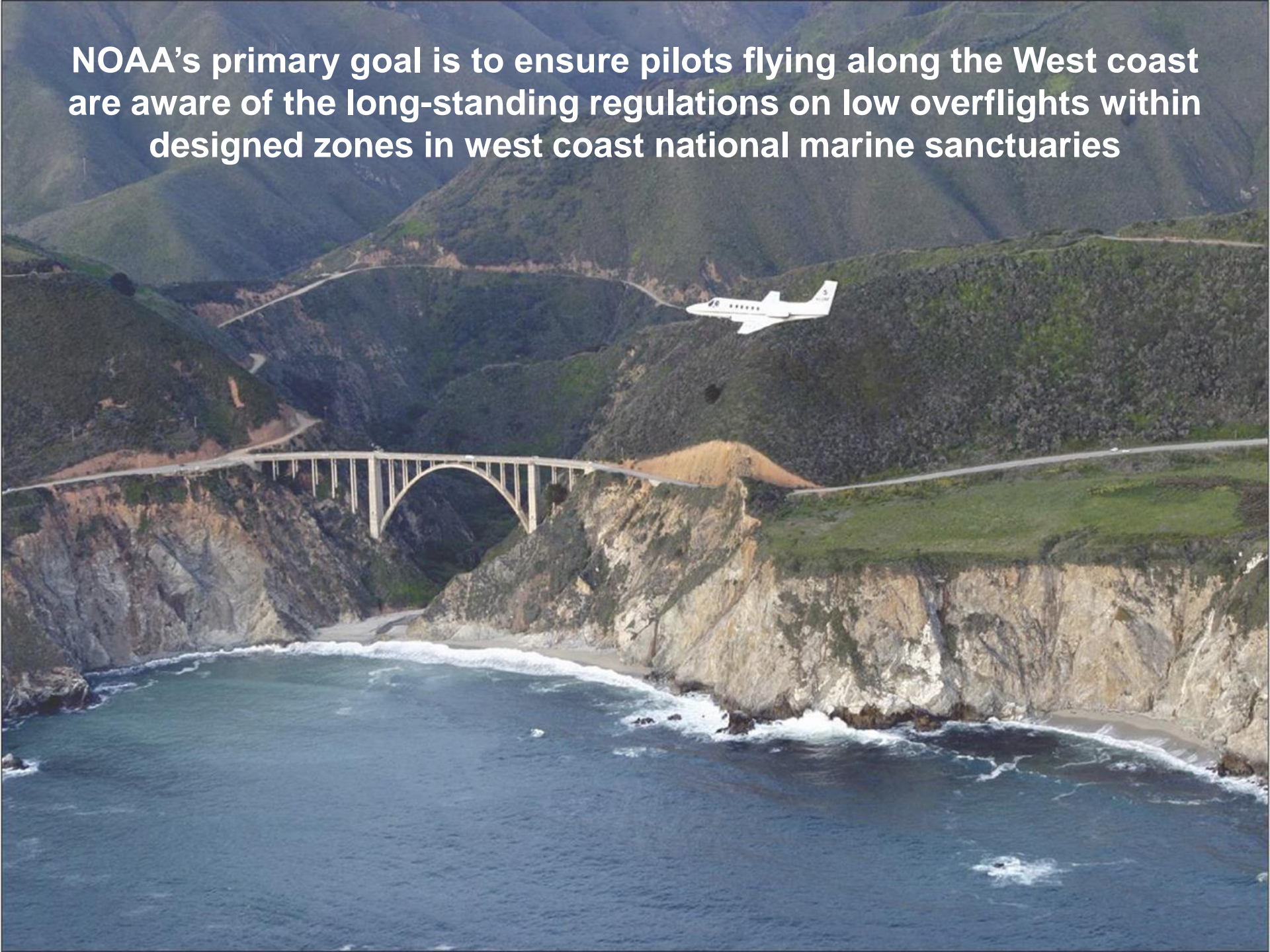
- Windermere Point to Duncan's Point

Annette Teng Wikimedia Commons





**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 –



# Program Goal



**Address human disturbance to breeding seabird colonies to enhance the recovery of seabird populations damaged by oil or other contaminant spills along the central California coast.**

## 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.

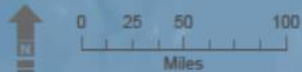
Pt. Sur to Pt. Mugu:  
Funded by Torch/Platform Irene Trustee Council;  
Managed by Bureau of Land Management.

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



April, 2015

- Gualala Pt to Bodega Head
- Bodega Head to Pt Sur
- Pt Sur to Pt Mugu
- Channel Islands



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



# Target Species



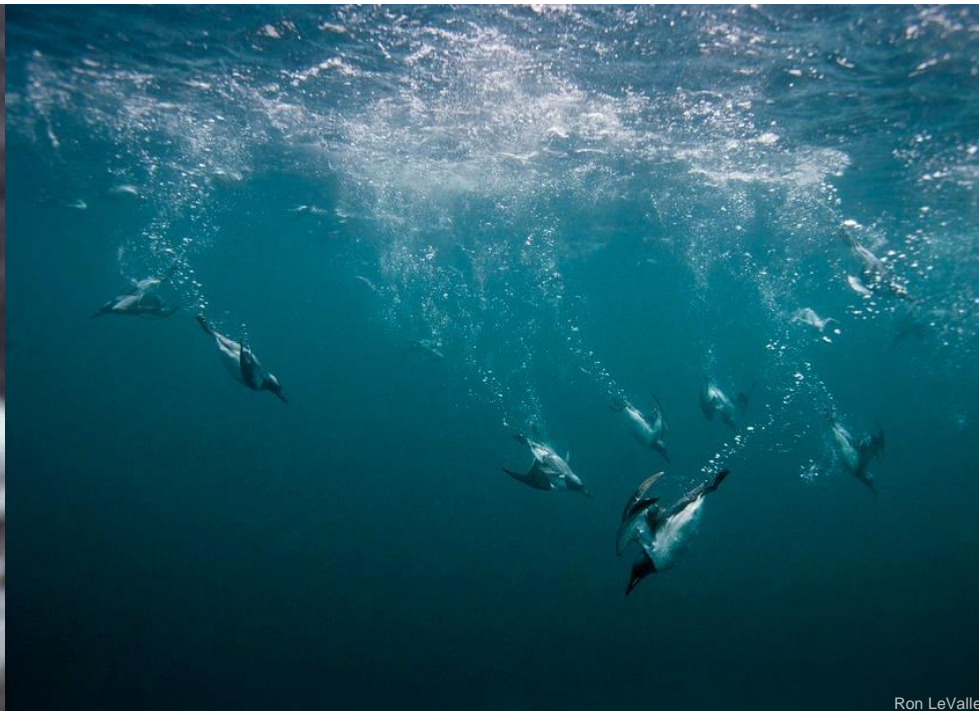
Ron LeValley



USFWS Row Lowe



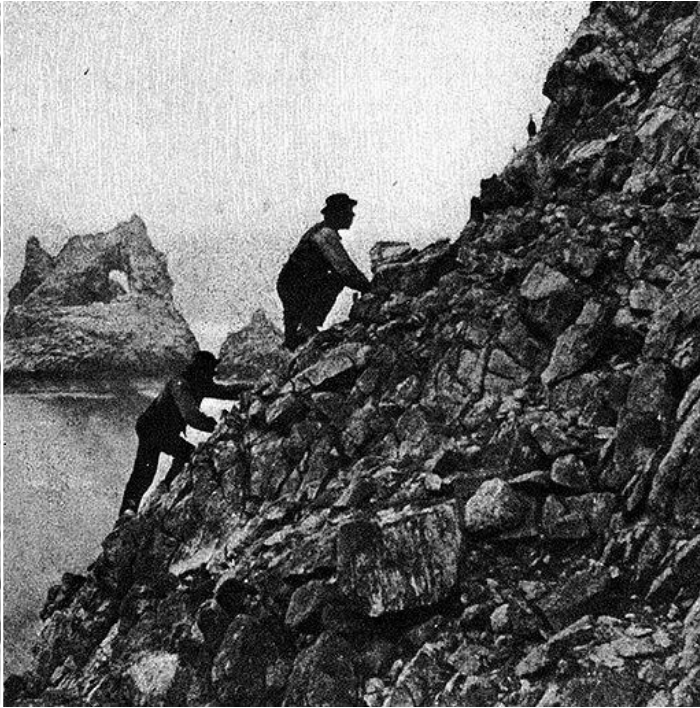
# The Common Murre Story



NOAA Library

Ron LeValley Derek Lee/Point Blue

# Farallon Egg Wars



# Gill Net Fishing + Oil Spills



# The Murre's Path to Recovery



Colony Restoration in 1996

# The Murre's Path to Recovery



Removed decoys in 2005.

# Seabird populations are not safe yet: Some species are still in decline

Disturbance comes from 3 main sources



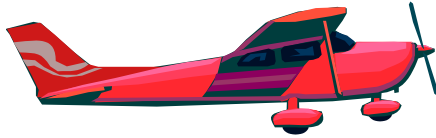
1. Low flying aircraft



2. Close approaching boats



3. Humans on foot



1,000'



1,000'



# Why are nesting areas sensitive?



One event can impact a whole generation of seabirds



# Building Relationships with Pilots and Boaters

## Presentations



## Events





# Building Relationships with Pilots and Boaters

## Materials

## E-Newsletter

### BOATERS

#### Steer Clear of Seabirds

- B**e aware—stay 1,000 feet from cliffs, offshore rocks & islands where birds nest & rest
- O**bserve birds—head-bobbing or wing-fluttering means “move away,” you are too close
- A**void harm—put fishing line in the trash, cover bait & use barbless hooks or artificial lures
- T**ake precautions—prevent oil & fuel spills; use non-toxic cleaners on your boat
- I**ncrease your awareness—use binoculars to watch seabirds from a distance
- N**othing overboard—prevent marine pollution & marine debris
- G**et informed—[www.dfg.ca.gov/mpa](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mpa)—Special Closures are closed to all watercraft

**KNOW THE LAW!**  
Do not disturb or harass seabirds, marine mammals or sea turtles.



**SEABIRD PROTECTION NETWORK**  
— Helping Seabirds Thrive —

## Monthly Aviator

The Seabird Protection Network Newsletter

### Flying in for the Big Show?

Don't get left in the lurch! Pacific Coast Ocean Machines is April 29 at the Half Moon Bay Airshow (HMF). It's our favorite event of the year, and we can't wait to share all the magnificent aircraft.

# 3 ways to be Seabird Safe:

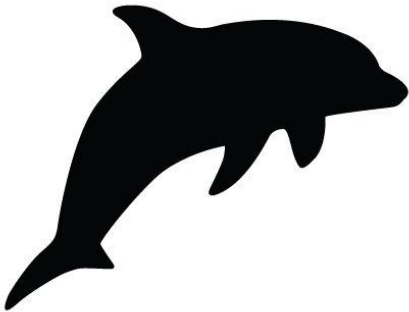
Keep a safe distance  
1000 ft is best from a boat/plane



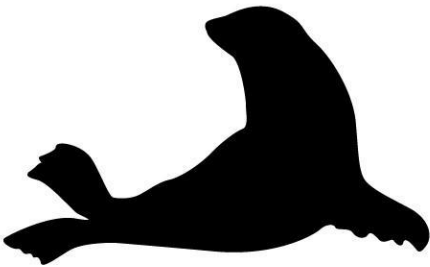
# NOAA Marine Mammal Viewing Guidelines



At least 100 yards



At least 50 yards



At least 50 yards

# 3 ways to be Seabird Safe:

Steer around flocks



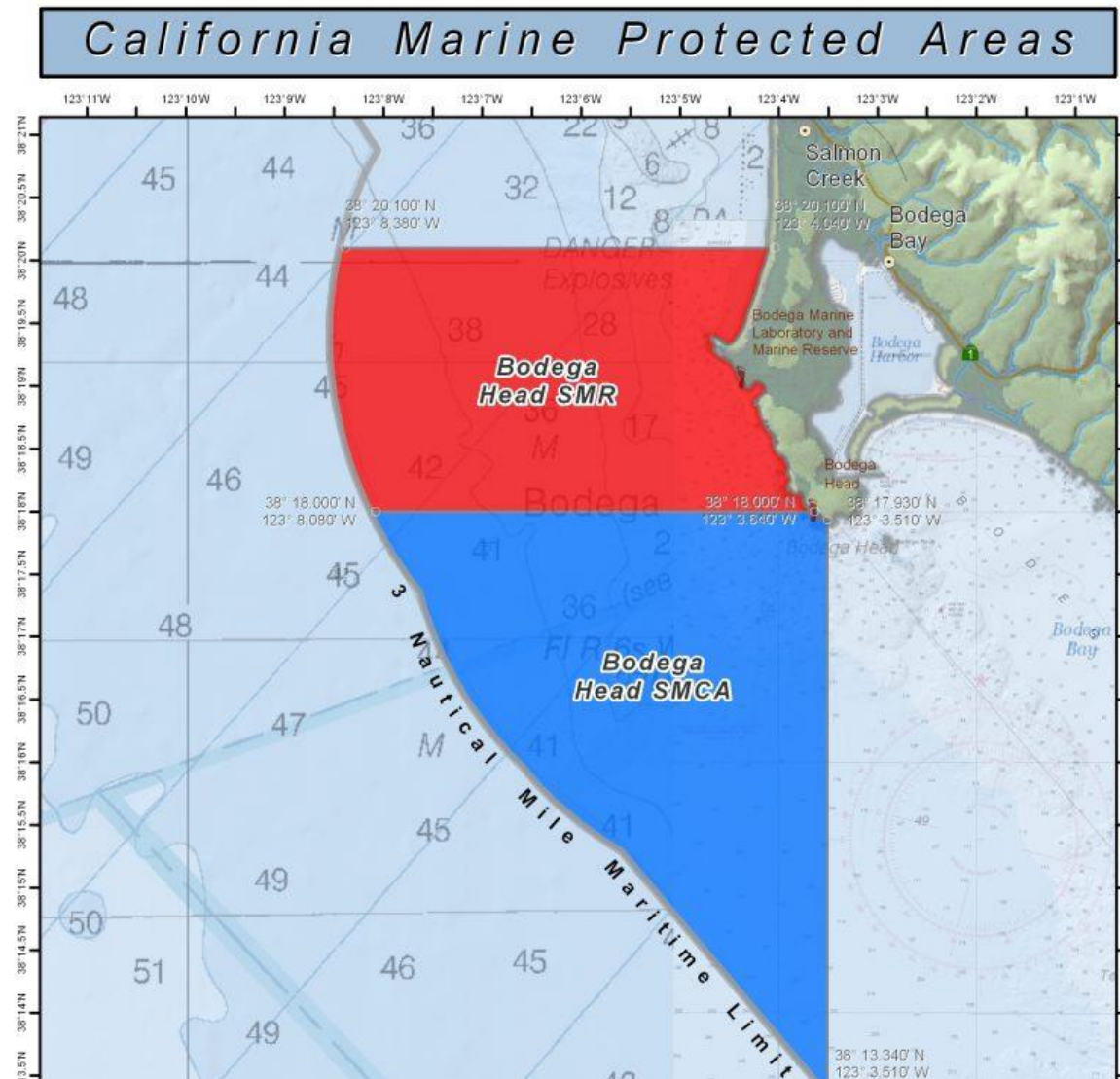
# 3 ways to be Seabird Safe:

Watch for signs you're too close



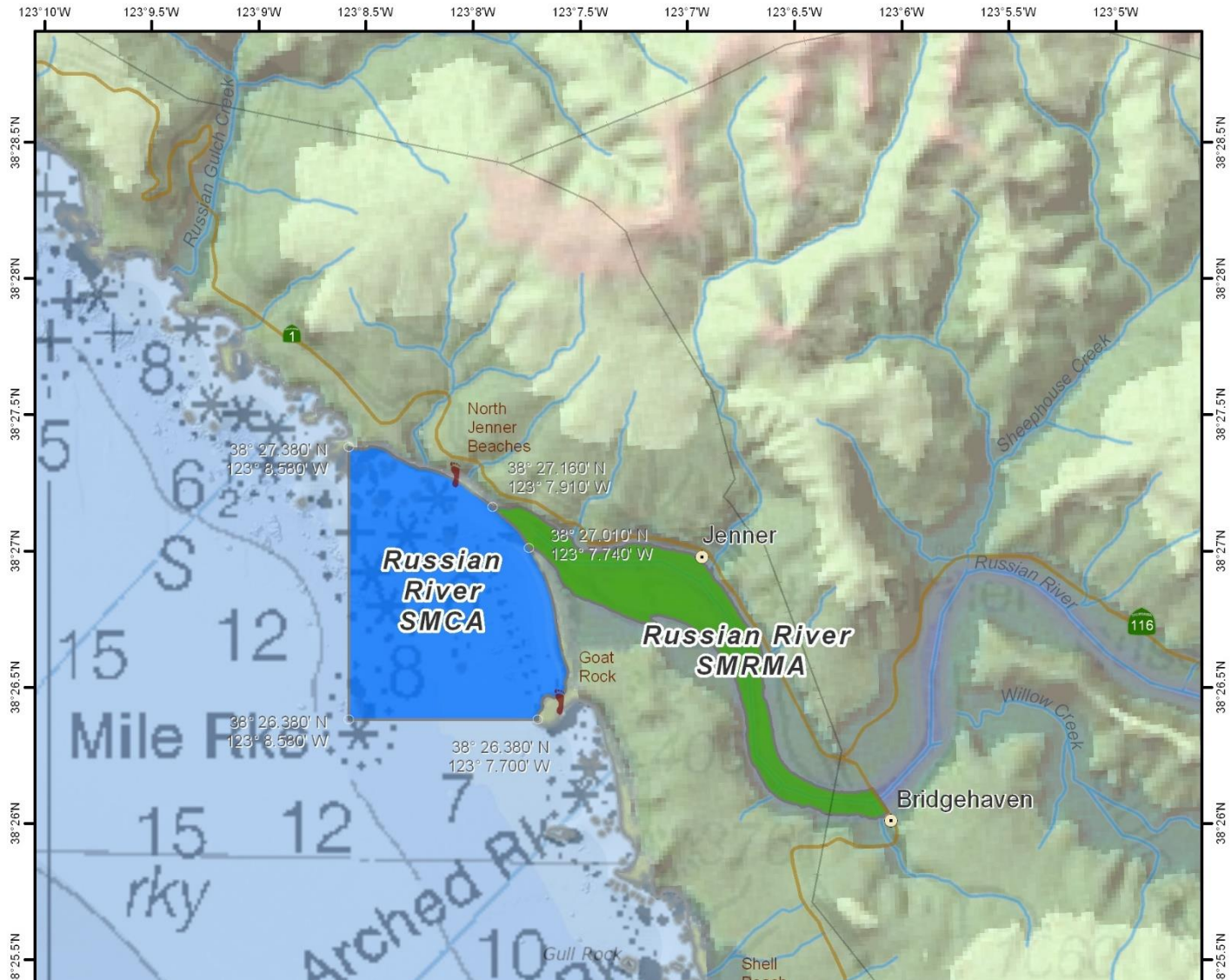


# Know Your MPAs: Bodega Head SMR / SMCA



# Russian River

## California Marine Protected Areas



# Reporting Violations: State Warden Force



**tip** 411

Sonoma Coast CDFW Ward  
Tiffany Wolvek  
**707-575-5045**

- 1-888-334-CalTIP
- Text to tip: 847-411
- Tip411: Web app
- What to report: **poaching, MPA violations, illegal dumping**

# Reporting Violations: State Parks



- Sonoma Coast Ranger Station  
**707-875-3483**
- What to report:  
**Seal violations at Russian Rivermouth**



# Reporting Violations: NOAA Enforcement



- NOAA Law Enforcement Hotline
- (800) 853-1964
- What to report:
  - Seabird and Marine Mammal Violations**
  - Overflight Violations**

# When Reporting Violations, Remember:

- Log or photograph any vehicle, CF or N numbers
- Photograph the incident in progress
- Give a full account of the incident: where and when it occurred; individuals involved

# Wildlife Disturbance Reporting Form

[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!

Enter your email address to subscribe to this blog. New posts will be delivered to your inbox.

## 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

# 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 of nesting or roosting seabirds or resting marine mammals.

# Why Report a Wildlife Disturbance

- Quantify and describe disturbance incidents along California coast
  - seabird breeding and roosting sites
  - marine mammal haul-outs
- Help inform educational / enforcement response



# When to Report a Wildlife Disturbance

- You clearly observed an egregious disturbance at a marine mammal or seabird colony by a boater or pilot (flushing/trampling, egg or chick loss)
- You have photographic evidence; or identifying information (CF or N number; specific description of vessel or aircraft)



# 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
    - 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 »

5% completed

Complete your  
report in 5-7 minutes

## 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



# Report Wildlife Crimes

## **Marine Protected Area Violations or Poaching:**

California Dept of Fish and Wildlife - *CalTIP*

**1-888-334-CalTIP or Tip411 Web App**

## **Wildlife Harassment:**

Sonoma Coast Ranger Station

**707-875-3483**

## **NOAA Overflight Zone Violations:**

NOAA Enforcement Hotline

**800-853-1964**

## **For Egregious Cases with Clear Evidence:**

Fill Out Wildlife Disturbance Reporting Form

**SeabirdProtectionNetwork.org**

# How You Can Help



1. Advise people to keep distance from wildlife on the coast
2. Know your MPAs and Special Closures
3. Report Violations

# Discussion: Approaching Violators



# Thank You

**Paul Hobi**  
Seabird Protection Network Program  
Manager

[paul.hobi@noaa.gov](mailto:paul.hobi@noaa.gov)  
415-970-5242

