



SEABIRD PROTECTION NETWORK



Program Goal



Improve the survival of California's seabirds by reducing human disturbances at their breeding and roosting colonies on the Central California coast.



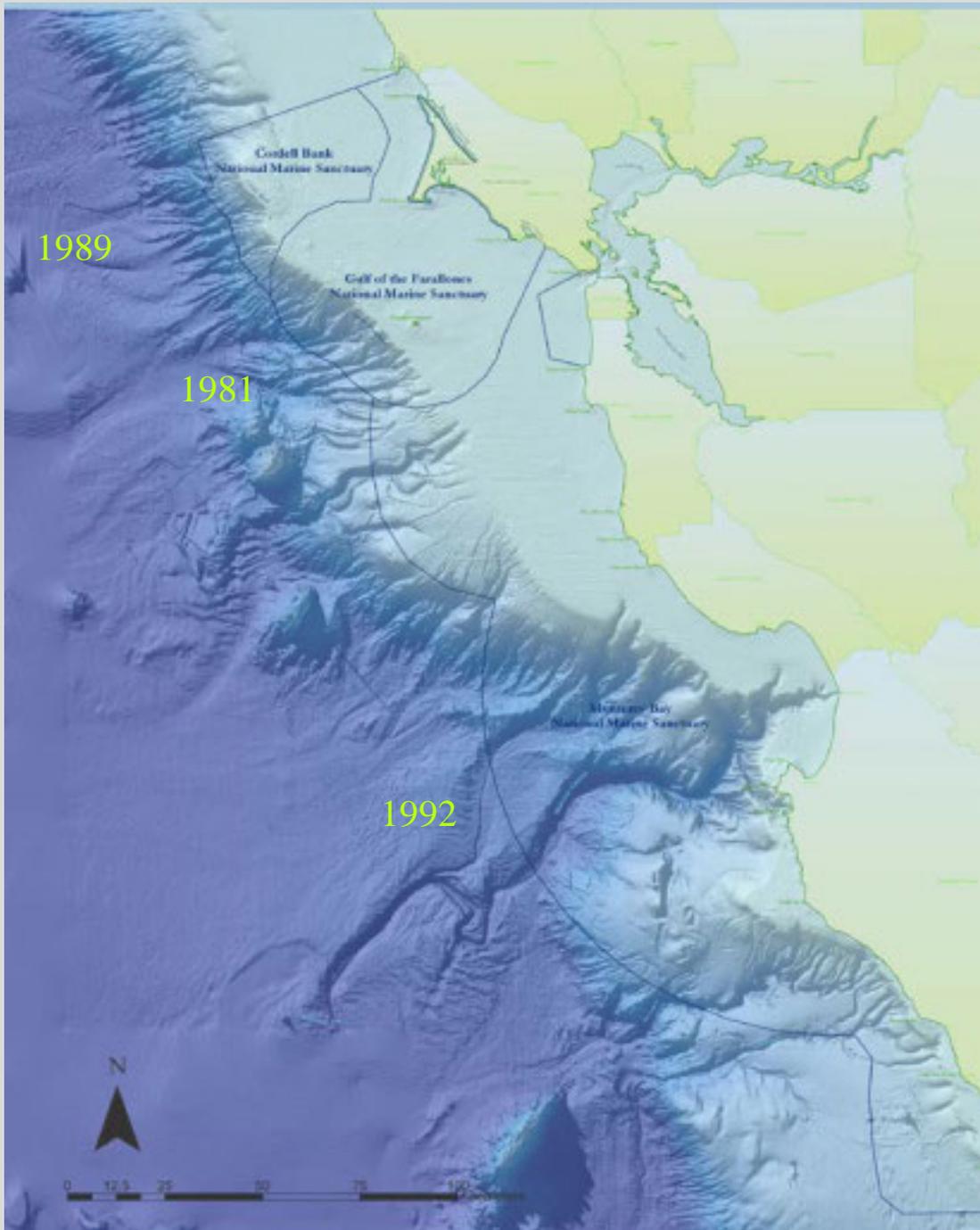
Our National Marine Sanctuaries

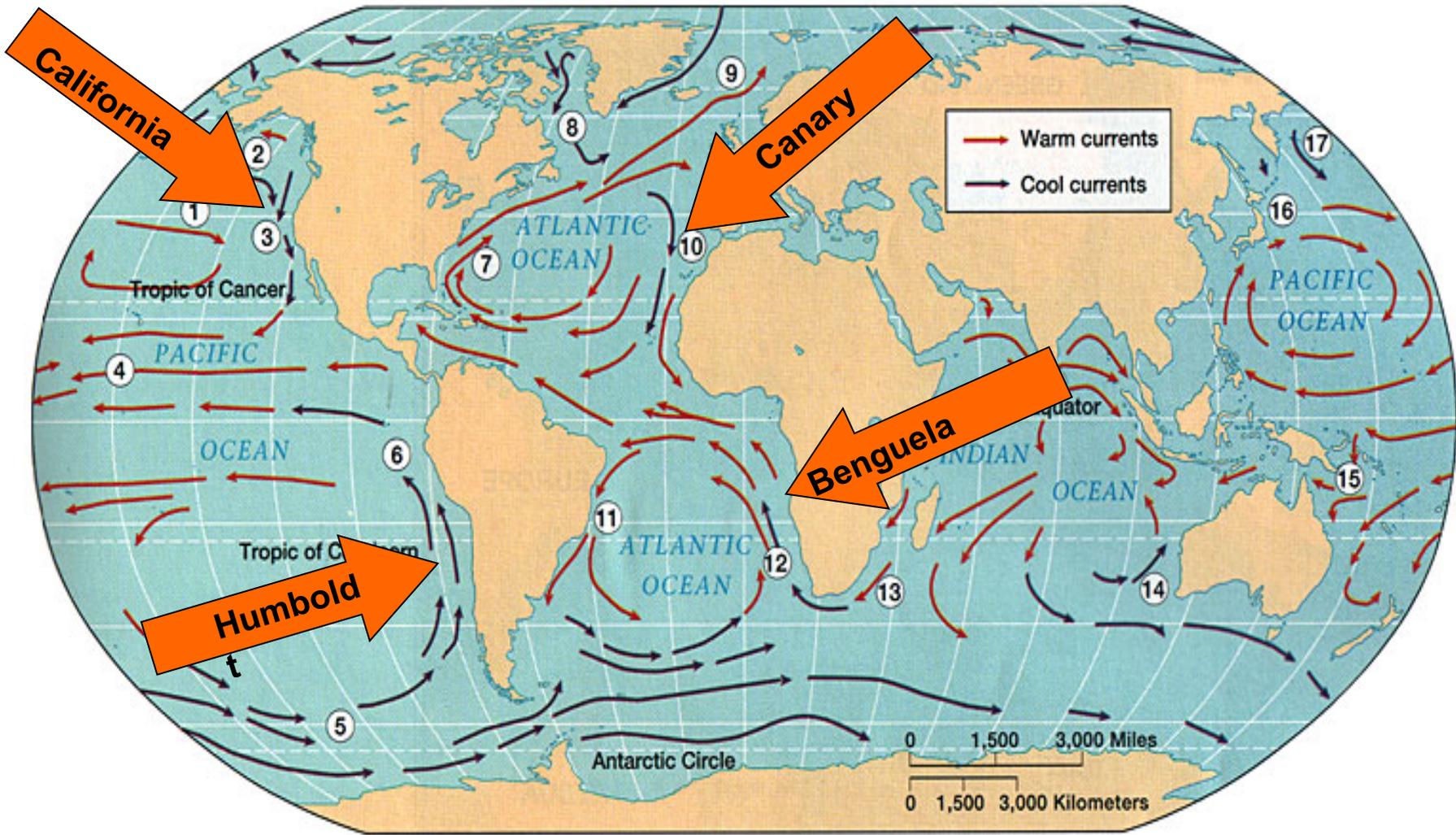


● National Marine Sanctuary

★ Marine National Monument

Cordell Bank, Gulf of the Farallones, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries



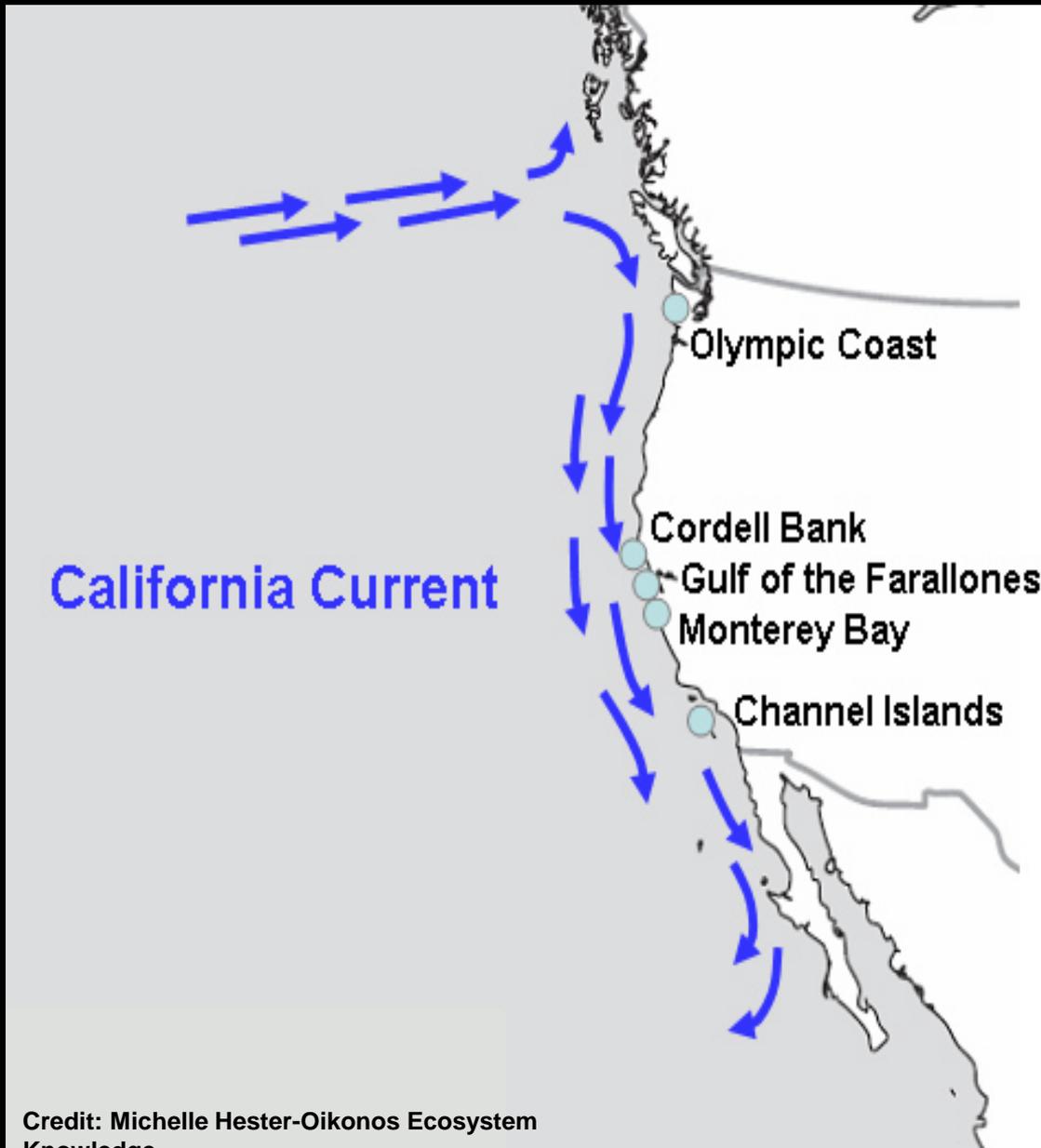


= Eastern Boundary Currents

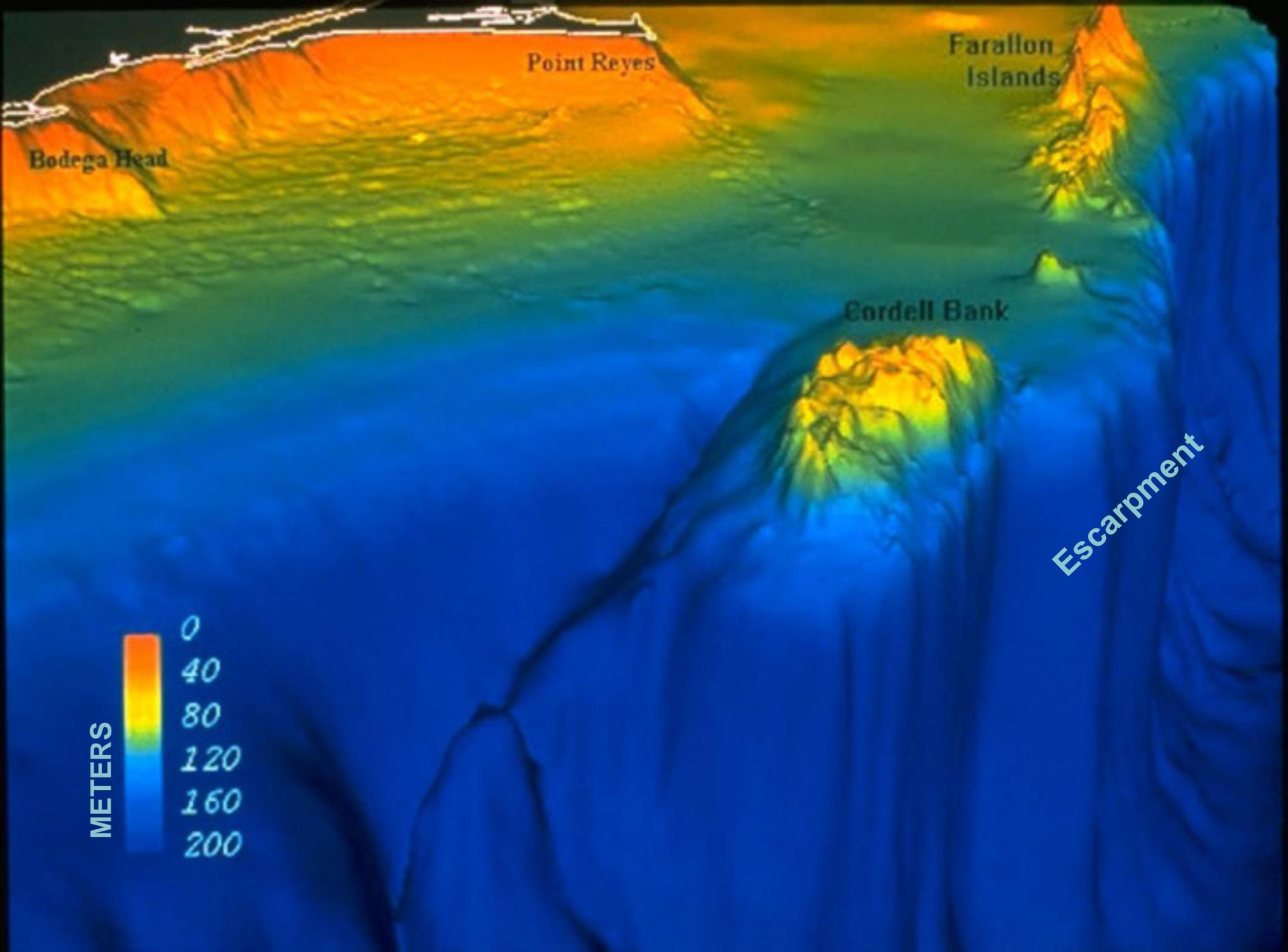


California Current

- One of four eastern boundary currents in the world
- 40% of world's seafood harvest comes from eastern boundary currents



Credit: Michelle Hester-Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge





**WHAT'S OUT
THERE?**



Photo: Joe Hoyt/CBNMS/NOAA

Bottom Dwellers: Mobile & Structure-forming Organisms



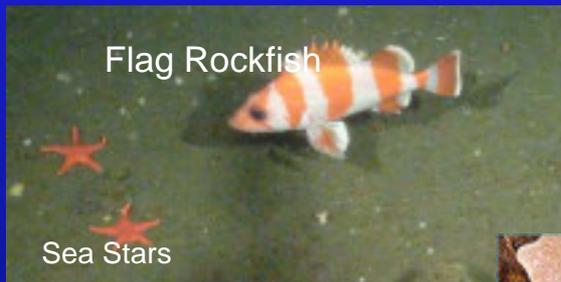
Rockfish & Perch



Filetail Catshark



Rockfish



Flag Rockfish

Sea Stars



Rex Sole



Brittle Stars



Black Eel Pout



Sea Lilies



Tubeworm



Sea Pen

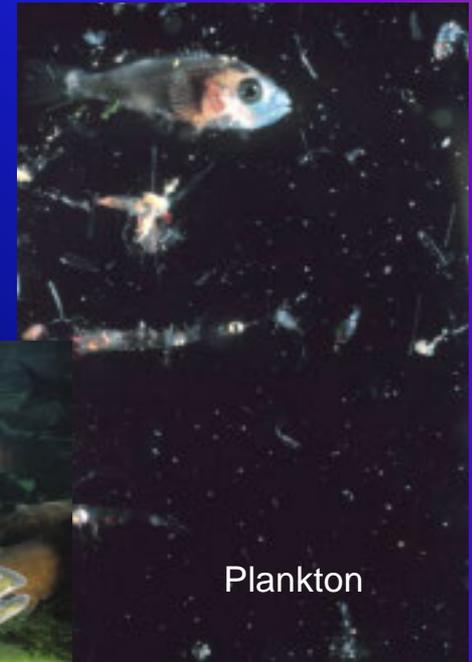


Sea Fan

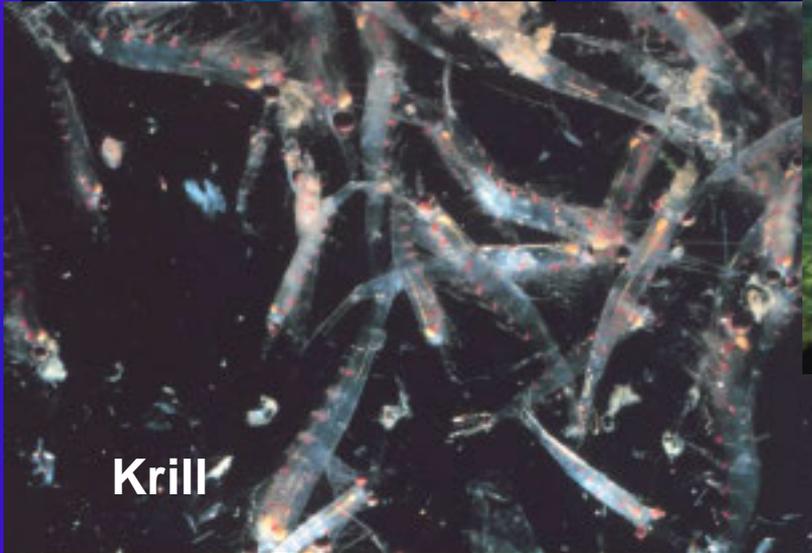
Mid-Water Organisms



Ocean Sunfish



Plankton



Krill



Salmon



White Shark



36 Species of Marine Mammals in GFNMS



Stellar Sea Lion



Pacific White Sided Dolphin



Harbor Seal



Northern Right Whale Dolphins



Humpback Whale



Blue Whales

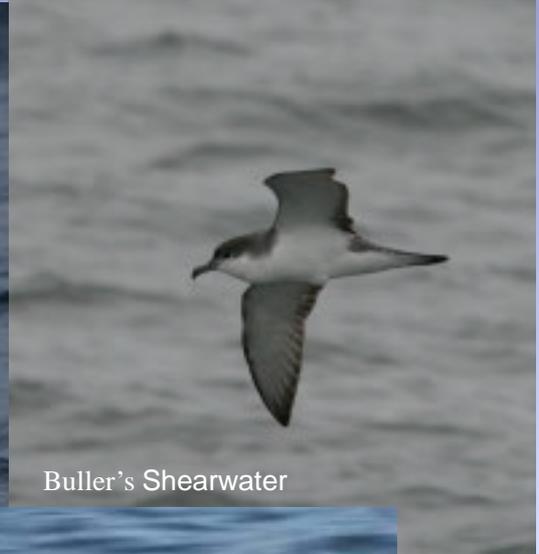
Seabirds



Tufted Puffin



Cassin's Auklet



Buller's Shearwater



Sooty Shearwater



Northern Fulmar

Photos: Steve Howell, JStock/CBNMS



Common Seabirds of our Sanctuary



Common Murre



Pigeon Guillemot



Tufted Puffin



Brandt's Cormorant

Common Murre



Range:

- Alaska to California
- Most southern colony at Hurricane Point Rocks, Big Sur

Breeding:

- Colonial in dense associations of birds
- Returning to the same site year after year
- Lay one or two eggs, if lost don't usually lay another
- Nesting success can be affected by availability of food

Program Goal

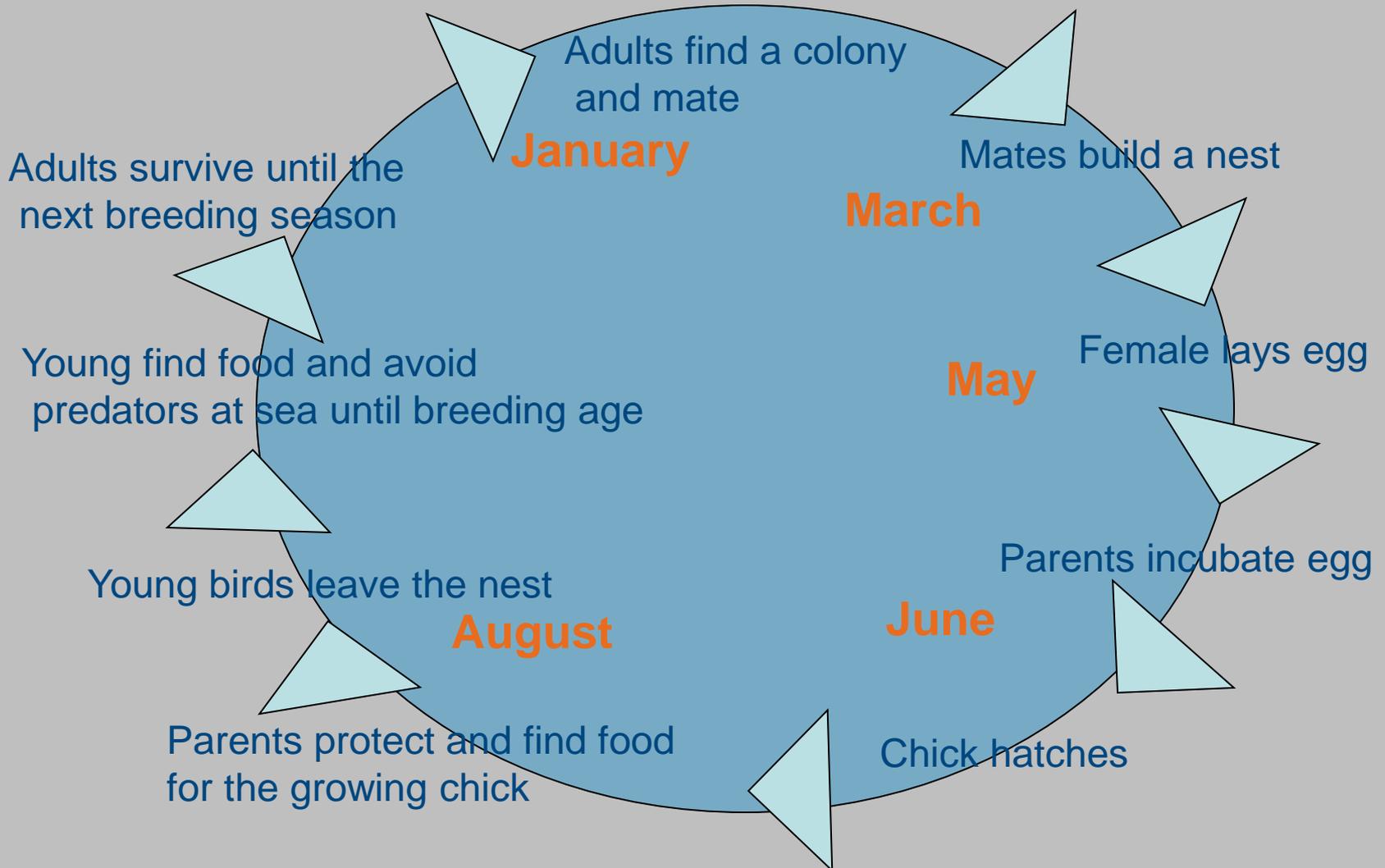


Improve the survival of California's seabirds by reducing human disturbances at their breeding and roosting colonies on the Central California coast.

Life Cycle of Seabirds

(Common Murre example)

Seabirds need safe places to breed and rest.



The Plight of the Seabirds

Seabird populations have declined greatly from historic population levels

Case Study: Common Murre

Early 1800s: a million Common Murre on Southeast Farallon

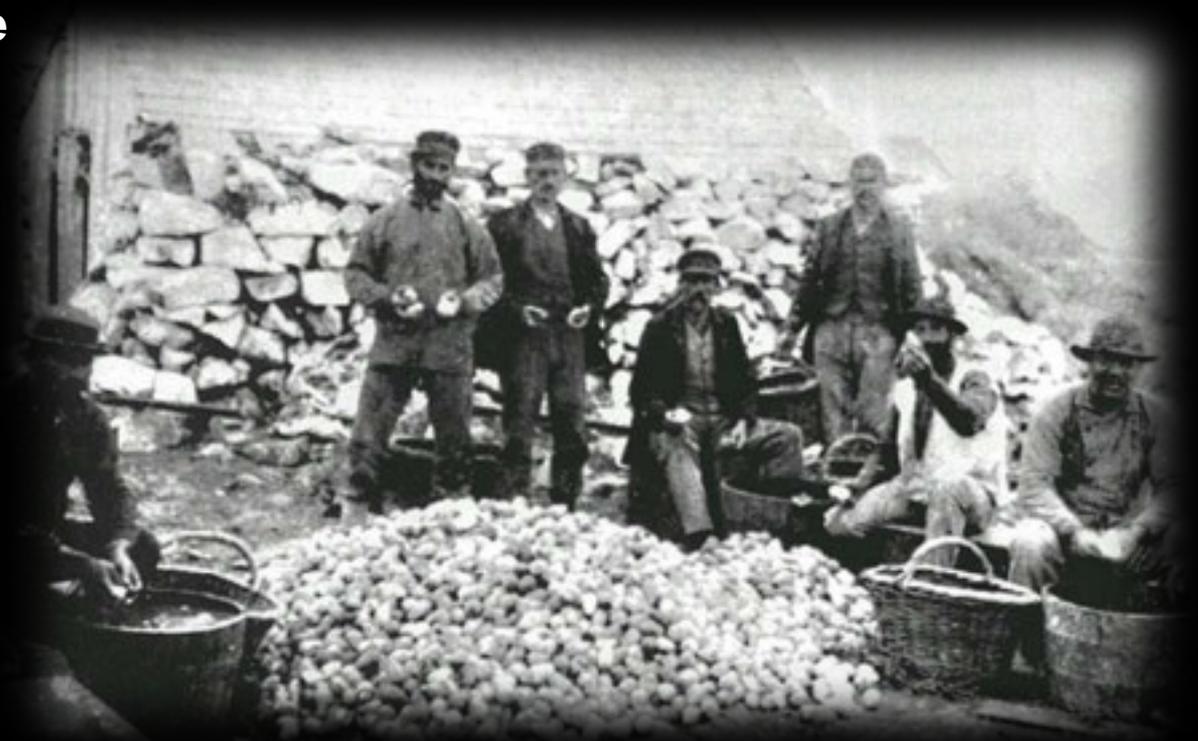
1827: Egging started

1849: commercial egg collecting
→ 12-14 million collected!

1904: end of egging

1909: Refuge established

1912: only 20,000 Common Murres!



1969: Southeast Farallon island added to refuge

1975: population rebuilt to ~ 60,000

1982-1989: Murres decline 50%!

The Plight of the Seabirds

Seabird populations have declined greatly from historic population levels



Oil Spills & Seabird Mortality



Cosco Busan

2007

~7,000 dead

Luckenback 1953-2003
~51,800 dead



Apex Houston 1989
~9,000 dead



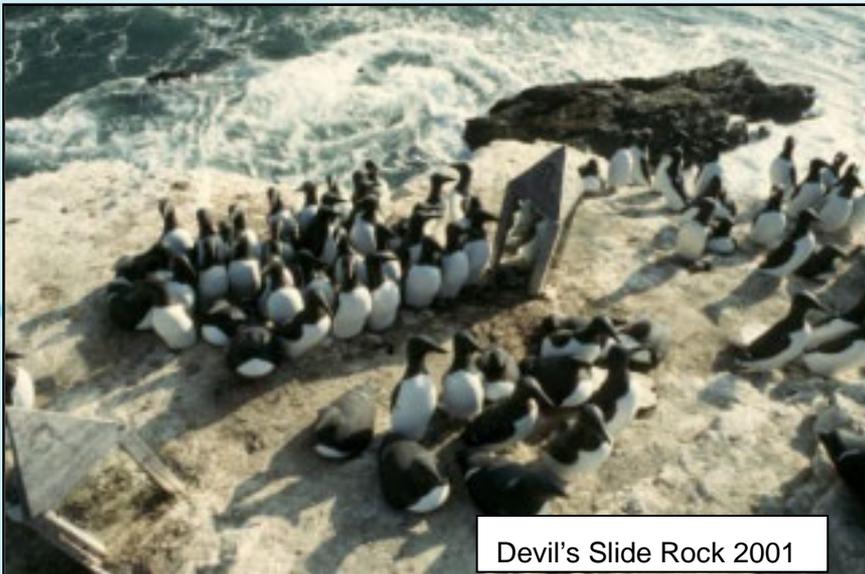
Command 1998,

~1,500 dead

From Tragedy comes Hope:

Prosecution of oil tankers leads to restoration efforts!

Common Murre Restoration Project at Devil's Slide Rock, Pacifica



**More work to do:
Looking to reach historical colony size of 3,000.**

Seabird breeding can be disrupted by our actions:

Disturbance comes from 3 main sources



1. Low flying aircraft



2. Close approaching boats, kayaks, personal watercraft



3. Humans on foot

Seabird Reactions to Disturbance



The Fear Factor:

- Seabirds won't stay to nest in places that they are disturbed
- When numbers on one colony get too low, new seabirds will not come, which can lead to colony abandonment.

Generations lost:

One low over-flight or repeated boater disturbance during breeding:

- Can dislodge eggs and chicks from nest sites,
- Predators can gain access before parents return, it can be up to a day!
- Eggs and chicks are lost to exposure from heat or cold
- Early fledging of chicks



Published scientific data from a study done between 1997-1999 showed that boats caused the most severe observed impacts to seabird colonies by steering too close. Including documented egg loss and chick deaths.

Rojek, N.A., M.W. Parker, H.R. Carter, and G.J. McChesney. 2007. Aircraft and vessel disturbances to Common Murres *Uria aalge* at breeding colonies in central California, 1997–1999. *Marine Ornithology* 35: 67–75.



MINE!



MINE!

Breeding Colonies





Jan Roletto/GISMS



Mammals of the Sanctuaries



D. Wainthorn



Rich Stallcup/PRBO



Dan Taylor/PRBO



Marine Mammals: At a Safe Distance!



- At haul out sites, resting animals can be frightened into the water, causing stress to animals
- During the pupping season mother and pup can be separated leading to trampling and death

Hot tips for boaters!

- Use your binoculars!
- Let mammals come to you!



Laws and Regulations that Protect Seabirds from Human Disturbance



Regulations of California Sanctuaries- illegal to harass any marine mammal, turtle, or bird within or above Sanctuaries

Endangered Species Act - illegal to kill, harm, harass, possess or remove protected animals from the wild

Marine Mammal Protection Act - prohibits any act of pursuit, torment or annoyance that has the potential to injure a marine mammal in the wild

Migratory Bird Treaty Act - provides protection for migratory birds, makes it illegal to pursue, kill, collect, etc.; fines up to \$250,000 may be levied for individuals in violation

****Marine Life Protection Act**- prohibits access in special closure areas

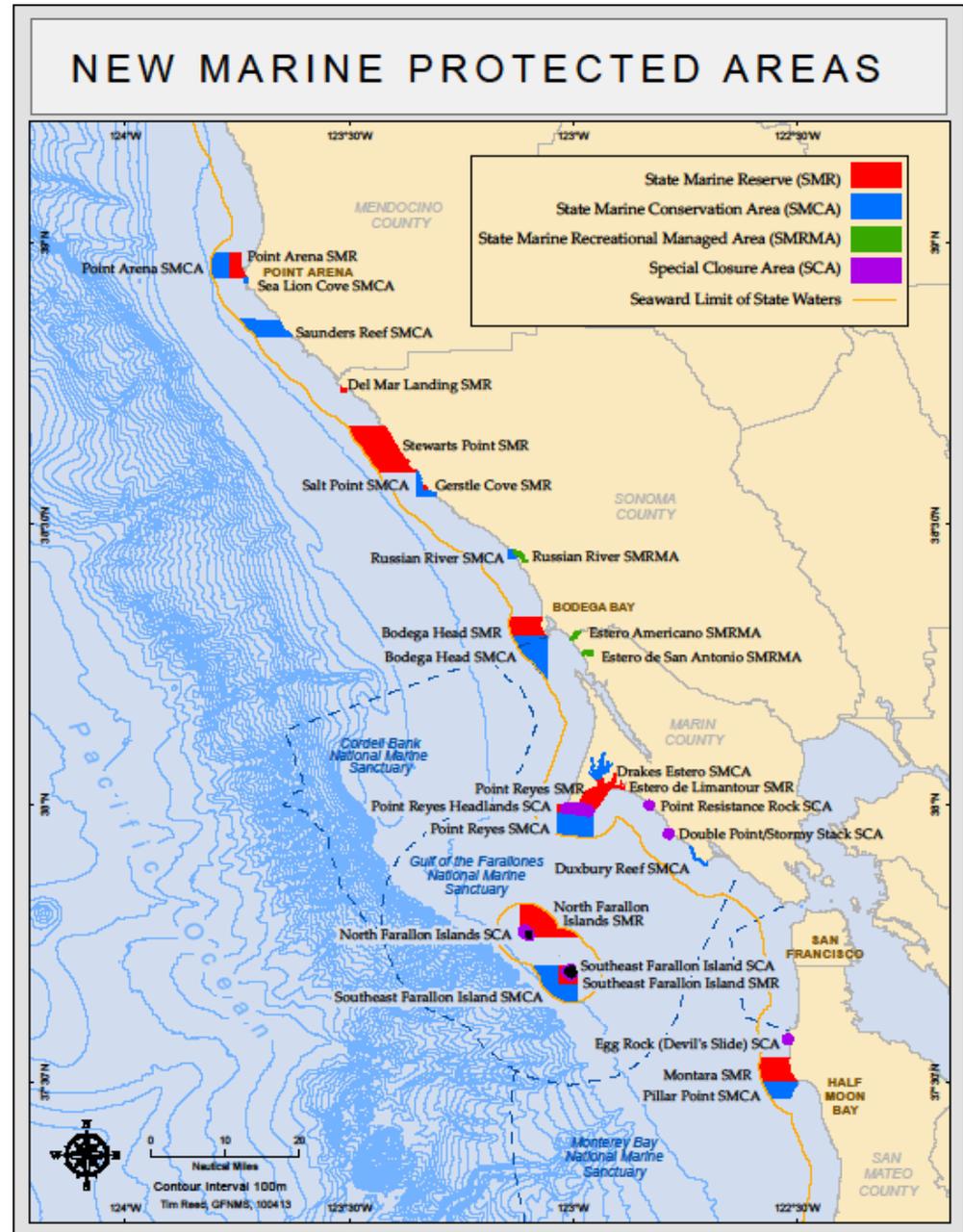
Marine Protected Areas

California
Department of
Fish & Game

Red = no take

Blue, Green = limited
or no take

Purple = Special
Closure (no access)



**Marine Life Protection Act**[Home](#) -> [Marine Life Protection Act](#) -> [North Central Coast Study Region](#)

Marine Life Protection Act North Central Coast Study Region

[The MLPA Initiative](#) | [MLPA Summary](#) | [Memorandum of Understanding](#) PDF

Commission Adopts MPAs for the North Central Coast

[-> North Central Coast Marine Protected Areas to Take Effect May 1](#)

NORTH CENTRAL COAST STUDY REGION (2007-2008)

GENERAL INFORMATION

- > [North Central Coast Study Region](#)
- > [Introduction to the MLPA](#)
- > [Definitions and Acronyms](#)
- > [MPA Literature](#)
- > [Newsroom](#)
- > [Meetings and Events](#)
- > [Document Archives](#)
- > [Get Involved](#)
- > [Contact Us](#)



EXISTING STATE MARINE PROTECTED AREAS (MPAs)

- > [Maps and Coordinates](#)
- > [Regulations](#)
- > [MPA Mobile Website](#)

On August 5, 2009, the Fish and Game Commission (Commission) voted to adopt its preferred alternative proposal, also known as the Integrated Preferred Alternative (IPA), for the MLPA north central coast study region. The IPA establishes 21 marine protected areas (MPAs), three State Marine Recreational Management Areas, and six special closures, in total covering approximately 153 square miles (20.1%) of state waters in the north central coast study region, which extends from Alder Creek, near Pt. Arena in Mendocino County, to Pigeon Point in San Mateo County. Approximately 86 square miles (11%) of the 153 square miles are designated as "no take" state marine reserves, while different take allowances providing varying levels of protection are designated for the rest.

These adopted MPAs went into effect on May 1, 2010.

Maps of the adopted MPAs and their associated regulations are available in the [Details, Objectives and Maps for Adopted MPAs in the North Central Coast Study Region](#) PDF (Large file size: 3.2 MB).

The north central coast study region was the second of five statewide study regions to complete the MLPA planning process. As mandated by the MLPA, the north central coast planning process (2007-2009) examined all existing MPAs within the study region and created a suite of new MPAs. The MPAs for the north central coast will become part of a statewide network of MPAs once planning in all study regions is complete.

The north central coast MPAs were designed by members of a [Regional Stakeholder Group](#) in a collaborative public process that included working closely with the [Science Advisory Team](#) (SAT), a [Blue Ribbon Task Force](#) (BRTF) and the Department of Fish and Game.

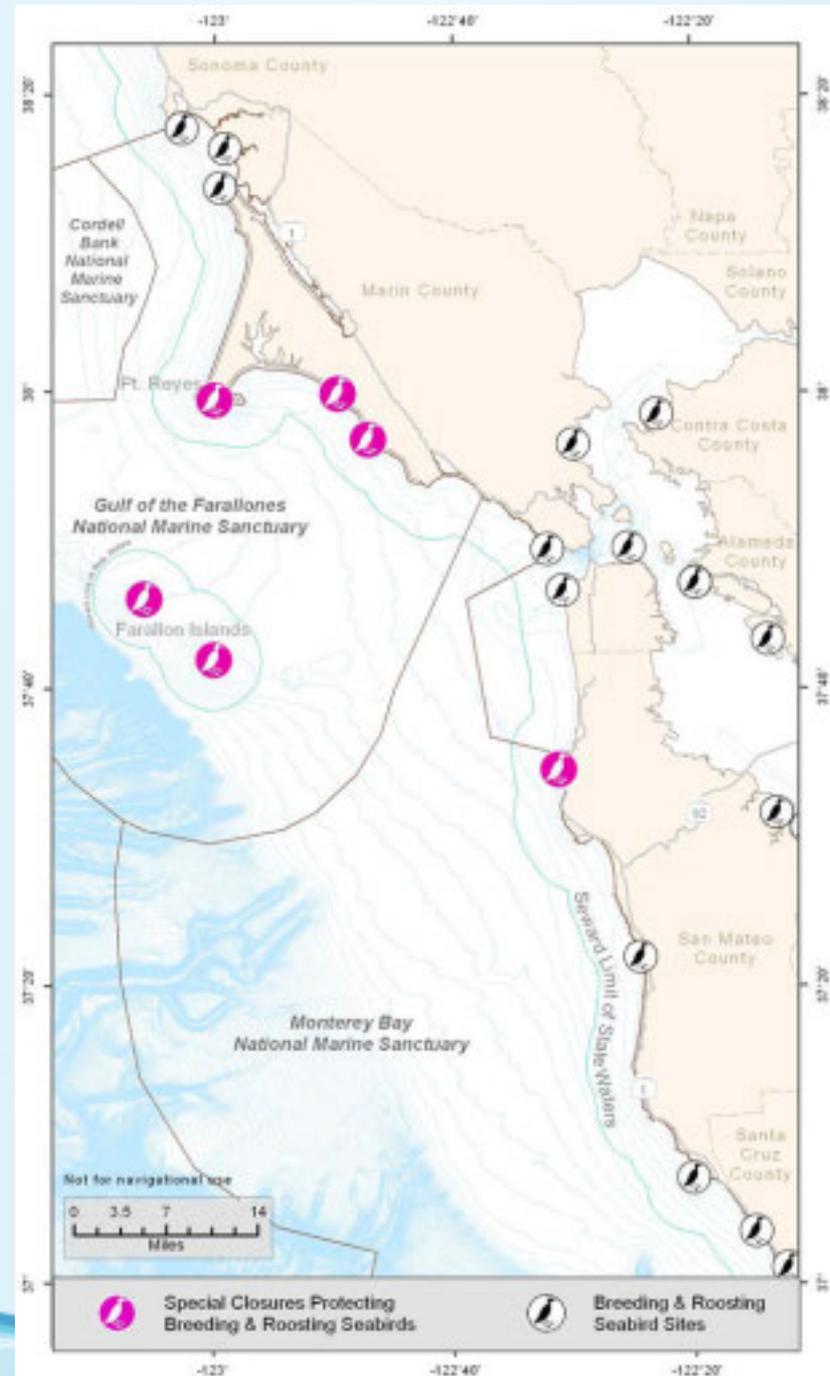
Popular Resources

- > [North Central Coast Marine Protected Areas to Take Effect May 1](#)
(posted April 28, 2010)

**NORTH CENTRAL COAST STUDY
REGION PLANNING GROUPS**

Special Closures

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



Point Reyes Headlands

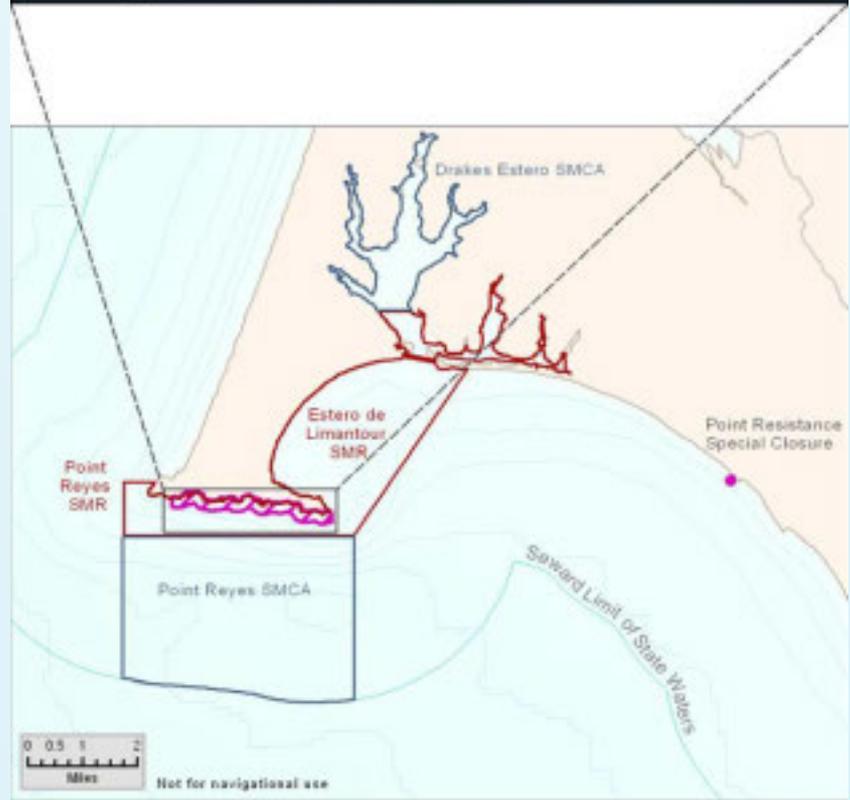
Special Closure

1,000ft No Access Zone

Colony Size: more than
43,000, largest
mainland colony

Sensitive Wildlife:

- Common murres
- Pelagic cormorants
- Brandt's cormorants
- Pigeon guillemots
- Western gulls
- Rhinoceros auklets
- Brown pelicans



Special Closure	SMR - State Marine Reserve Take of all living marine resources is prohibited (see web for details)
	SMCA - State Marine Conservation Area Take of some living marine resources permitted (see web for details)

Point Resistance Special Closure 300 ft No Access Zone

Colony Size: ~16,000

Sensitive Wildlife:

- Common Murre colony
- Brown Pelicans
- Pelagic Cormorants
- Pigeon Guillemots

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/>



Double Point/ Stormy Stack Special Closure 300 ft. No Access Zone

Colony Size: over 16,000

Sensitive Wildlife:

Large and diverse population

- Common Murres
- Brandt's Cormorants
- Pelagic Cormorants
- Pigeon Guillemots
- Ashy Storm Petrels.
- 700-1000 harbor seals haul-out and breed along beach

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/>



Devil's Slide/Egg Rock

Special Closure

500ft & 1,000ft No Access Zone

Colony Size: ~1,000

Sensitive Wildlife:

- Common Murre
- Brandt's Cormorant
- Pelagic Cormorant
- Pigeon Guillemot
- Western Gull
- Black Oystercatcher



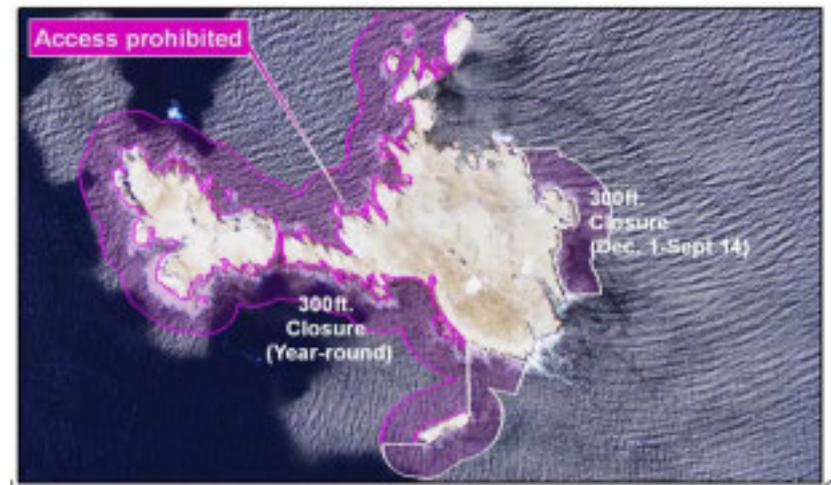
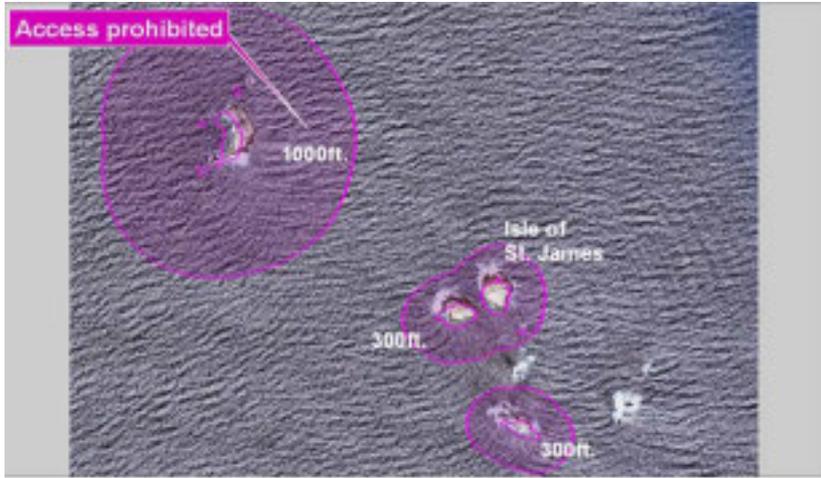
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/>



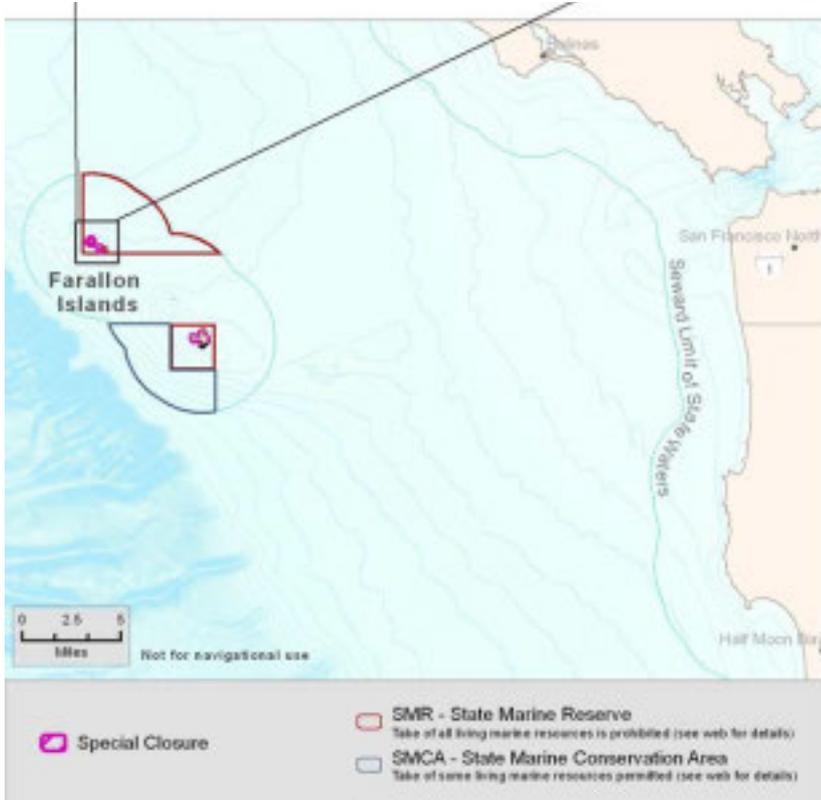
 Special Closure
Year-round Closure

 SMCA - State Marine Conservation Area
Take of some living marine resources permitted

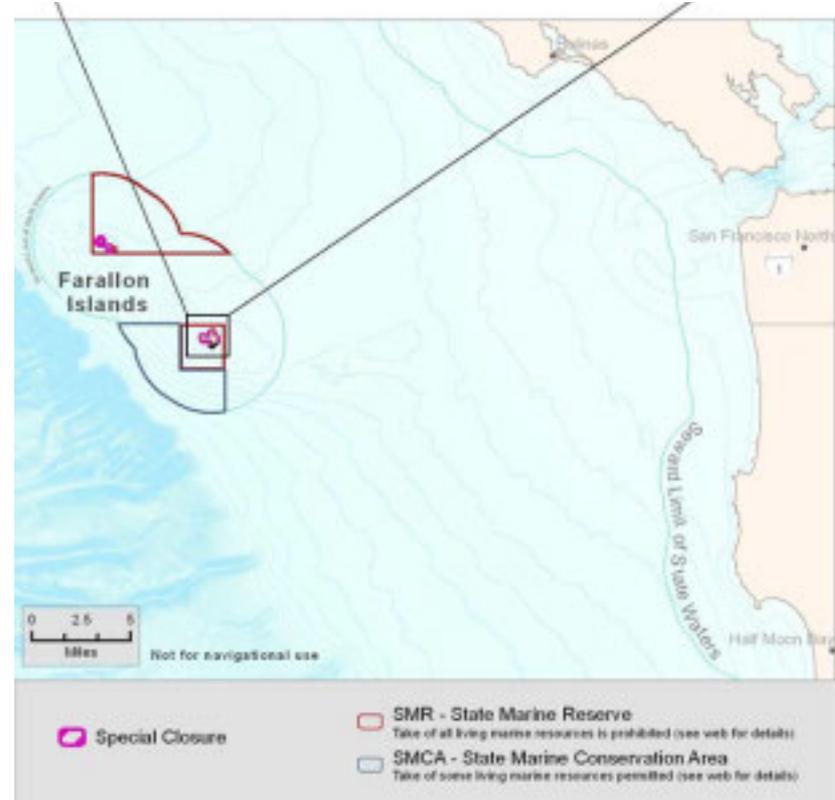
 SMR - State Marine Reserve
Take of all living marine resources is prohibited



North Farallon Island



Southeast Farallon Island



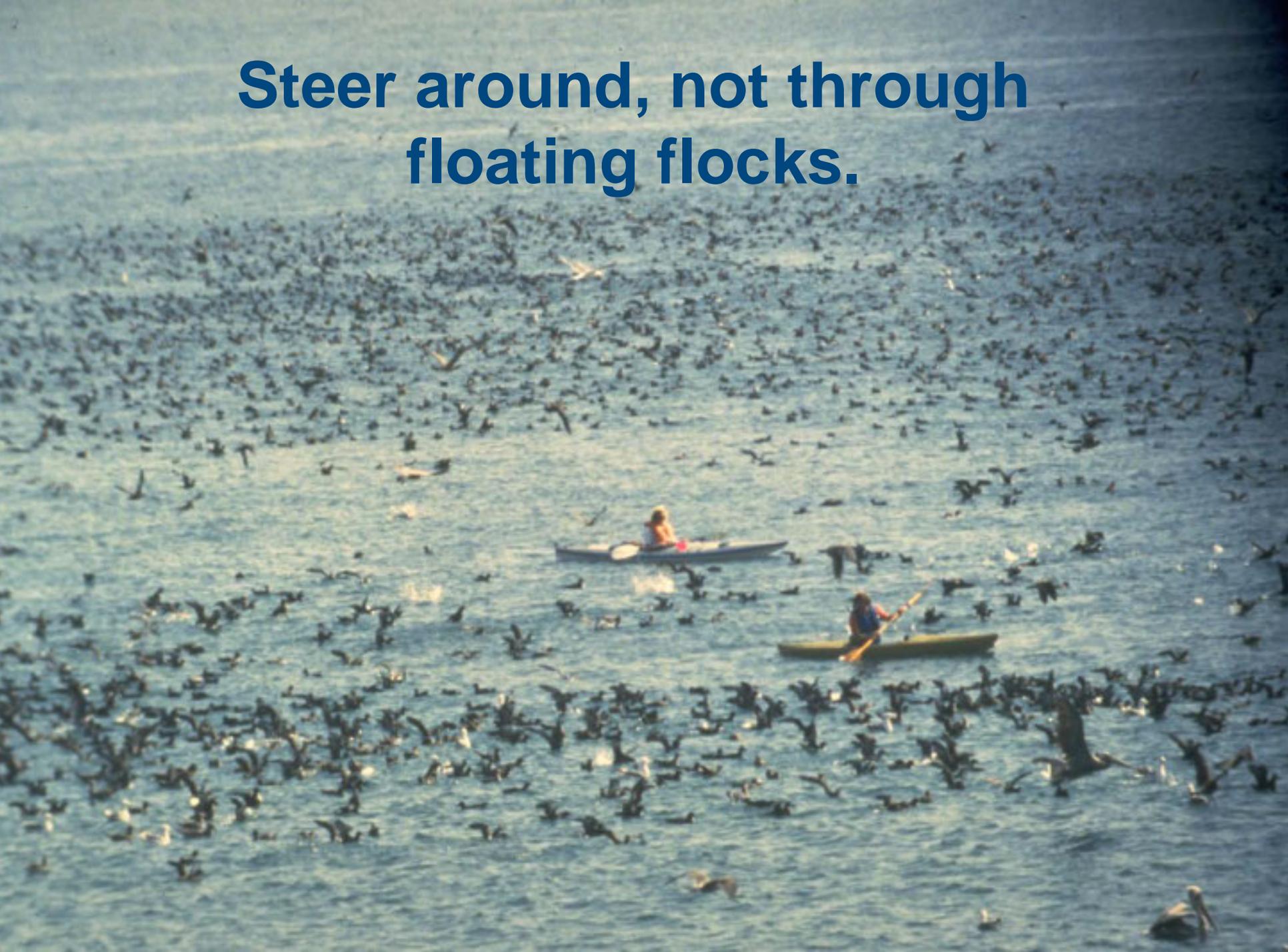
**How can you minimize your
impact to seabirds ?**



Stay 1,000' from rocks and islands with birds



**Steer around, not through
floating flocks.**



**Bring your binoculars to watch seabirds
from a safe distance.**





Watch for signs that you are too close: wing fluttering, head bobbing, calling, and taking flight.

Spread the Word!

Join us in protecting vulnerable coastal wildlife
for our children and future generations!

A group of black and white seabirds, possibly terns, are gathered on a rocky shore. Three speech bubbles are overlaid on the image, each containing a call to action. The background is a clear blue sky.

Get
updates!

Request a
presentation!

Get
Free
Stuff!

Visit us on the web: [Seabird Protection Network](#)



HELPING SEABIRDS THRIVE...

By reducing human disturbance to sensitive seabird breeding colonies

NETWORK HOME

[PILOTS](#)[BOATERS](#)[KAYAKERS](#)[COASTAL VISITORS](#)[ADVISORY GROUPS](#)[NEWS, ARTICLES & LINKS](#)[Report a Disturbance](#)

A Boater's Guide to Seabird Protection

Seabirds are sensitive to your presence - approaching too close to seabird colonies by boats causes chaos resulting in abandoned nests, that could lead to the deaths of eggs and chicks and eventual decreases in populations.

To protect seabirds and other marine life the California Department of Fish and Game designated Marine Protected Areas from the Mexico Border to Point Arena, including Special Closures (no entry zones) along the California central coast. [Learn more](#) about Special Closure locations off San Mateo, San Francisco and Marin Counties.

Join fellow boaters and help protect seabirds by following these tips:

- Stay 1,000 feet (3 football fields) from cliffs, offshore rocks and islands.
- Watch the birds for signs you are too close (head-bobbing or wing-fluttering), if you see these reactions move away.
- Never discard fishing line overboard, cover bait, and use barbless hooks or artificial lures to avoid hooking birds.
- Prevent pollution and follow clean boating habits [San Francisco's Bay Clean Boating map](#) (1.8 MB PDF)

Free Materials

Join us on Facebook to keep informed

The image shows a screenshot of the Facebook page for the Seabird Protection Network. The page header features the Facebook logo and a search bar. Below the header, there is a green 'Sign Up' button and the text 'Facebook helps you connect and share with the people in your life.' The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column contains a large photo of several seabirds on a rocky ledge, a navigation menu with icons for Wall, Info, Photos, Welcome, Links, Events, Sign up for our e-newsletter, SurveyMonkey, and Notes, and an 'About' section. The right column features the page title 'Seabird Protection Network' with a 'Like' button, the location 'Education - San Francisco, California', and a 'Powered by pagemodo' badge. Below this is a large banner with the title 'Seabird Protection Network' and a 'Share' button. The banner contains a 'Seabird News:' section with text about a newsletter and an email address, and a 'SPN Online' button. To the right of the text is a photo of a seabird in flight. Below the banner is another photo of a seabird on a nest, followed by a section titled '- Helping Seabirds Thrive -' with text explaining the organization's mission.

facebook

Keep me logged in

Sign Up Facebook helps you connect and share with the people in your life.

Seabird Protection Network Like

Education - San Francisco, California

Powered by pagemodo

Seabird Protection Network Share

Seabird News:

Our latest newsletter is about to be sent out! Check back Thursday and Friday for more news, or drop us a line to receive it by email: california.seabirds@noaa.gov

SPN Online

- Helping Seabirds Thrive -

SPN was founded to help seabirds by educating people about their effect on seabird breeding colonies - getting too close scares birds and may even harm them. Explore the links to learn more and help protect seabirds!

Wall

Info

Photos

Welcome

Links

Events

Sign up for our e-newsletter

SurveyMonkey

Notes

About

We work to reduce human disturbance to seabirds. Check our our website to l...

More

176 like this

Thank you for helping to protect California's seabirds!



Roy Lowe

