

# White Shark Stewardship Project



*August 13, 2009*  
*GFNMS Advisory Council Meeting*

Howard Hall

# New White Shark Related Sanctuary Regulations

(effective March 9, 2009)

**Prohibited: Attracting a white shark anywhere in the sanctuary or approaching within 50 m of any white shark within 2 nmi around the Farallon Islands.**

*"The following activities are prohibited and thus are unlawful for any person to conduct or to cause to be conducted within the Sanctuary...(13) Attracting a white shark in the Sanctuary; or approaching within 50 meters of any white shark within the line approximating 2 nmi around the Farallon Islands..."* [note: this includes entire Farallon Island archipelago]

*"Attract or attracting means the conduct of any activity that lures or may lure any animal in the Sanctuary by using food, bait, chum, dyes, decoys (e.g., surfboards or body boards used as decoys), acoustics or any other means, except the mere presence of human beings (e.g., swimmers, divers, boaters, kayakers, surfers)." 15 CFR Part 922.*

# Implementing New Regulations: White Shark Stewardship Project

- Permitting
- Naturalist Training
- Monitoring
- Boater Outreach



# Permitting White Shark Related Activities

Examples of activities that may involve attracting or approaching white sharks and may require a permit	Permit category
Educational Filming for Broadcast Media	Education
Educational Tourism	Education
Science	Research

- *educational permit application for tourism* : applicants asked to provide description of target audience, describe key message(s), will effectiveness of educational messages be measured and if so - how, provide lesson plan, provide naturalists' credentials, etc.

- *educational permit application for filming* : applicants asked to provide description of target audience, describe key message(s), provide treatment, provide professional credentials, etc.

- *research permit application for tagging project*: applicants asked to provide information on why additional tagging necessary, if using different tags - provide information on the benefits of each relative to impact to shark, publication record, describe proposed attractant, etc.

# Permit Special Conditions

Special conditions customized for each project and/or project type (research, education conditions may differ)

Example: Special conditions in **Educational Permits for Tourism** will include but are not limited to the following:

- Acceptable decoys must be made of soft, low profile material like carpet in the shape of an elephant seal, sea lion, or other local marine mammal typically found at the Farallon Islands. Boats may not be underway with decoy deployed.
- Shark may not be fed at any time.
- The permittee must not interfere with any natural white shark feeding event and must not approach within 50 m (164 feet) of a feeding white shark.
- Naturalist Training required. At least one naturalist that completed the sanctuary naturalist training on board per trip.
- The permittee must comply with California boating regulations restricting noise and limiting speed to 5 nautical miles per hour within 1000 ft of Farallon Island shorelines (section 630(b)(71), title 14, California Code of Regulations).

# Permit Special Conditions

continued:

- The permittee shall provide conservation messages from Naturalist Training to any broadcast filming operation.
- The permittee may be required to accommodate a GFNMS-designated observer.
- The permittee must comply with CA Department of Fish and Game regulations for Special Closures.
- Detailed daily logs will be required (i.e., number of people reached; number and location of shark encounters).

*Note: NOAA will refine Special Conditions as necessary*

# Naturalist Training

50 Naturalists completed two training workshops offered in summer 2009

## **Objectives:**

- (1) Educate and provide participants with background information on the GFNMS;
- (2) Provide participants with information about research and natural history of white sharks around the Farallon Islands and globally;
- (3) Provide participants with background information and conservation messages about white sharks to inspire white shark stewardship among clients;
- (4) Inform participants how to comply with permitting program and procedures;

## **Training Workshop:**

- Free for 2009
- Approximately 4 hours
- Recommended for all naturalists leading on-the-water wildlife viewing trips
- Required for educational tourism permittees
- Participant feedback/ideas will help shape future trainings

# Conservation Messages

1. The Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary protects the wildlife and habitats of one of the most diverse and bountiful marine environments in the world.
2. White sharks depend on the rich sanctuary ecosystem and as apex predators, play a key role in maintaining a balanced ecosystem.
3. White sharks are considered internationally threatened and they need protection.
4. Common myths have vilified white sharks. Debunk the myth— we are more of a threat to them than they are to us.
5. You can help conserve sharks—the information you share with your passengers plays a critical role in the protection of the species.





# White Shark Stewardship Project: Monitoring

## Goals:

1. Determine the impacts of human activities on white sharks near the Farallon Islands
2. Assess effectiveness of permit conditions
3. Determine compliance with sanctuary regulations
4. Detect emerging issues to help guide decisions to protect white sharks



# White Shark Stewardship Project: Monitoring

Fall 2009:

1. Continue Vessel Monitoring Project in collaboration with PRBO to determine vessel activity patterns related to white shark encounters
2. Collaborate with PRBO to map historical shark feeding frequencies and locations
3. Utilize permittee daily logs for on-the-water data

Preliminary results from these activities and White Shark research by other groups will be shared at the 2010 Naturalist Training

# White Shark Stewardship Project: Boater Outreach

- Stakeholder meeting (June 17, 2009): Informed wildlife viewing operators, researchers and others working in vicinity of Farallon Islands of new regulations and permitting process
- Naturalist Trainings: Presentation on white shark-related regulation and permit conditions
- Postings specific to white shark regulations in locations most likely to reach boaters who travel to Farallon Islands during shark “season”
- General Public outreach as part of JMP and new regulations release



# Questions?

General Questions:

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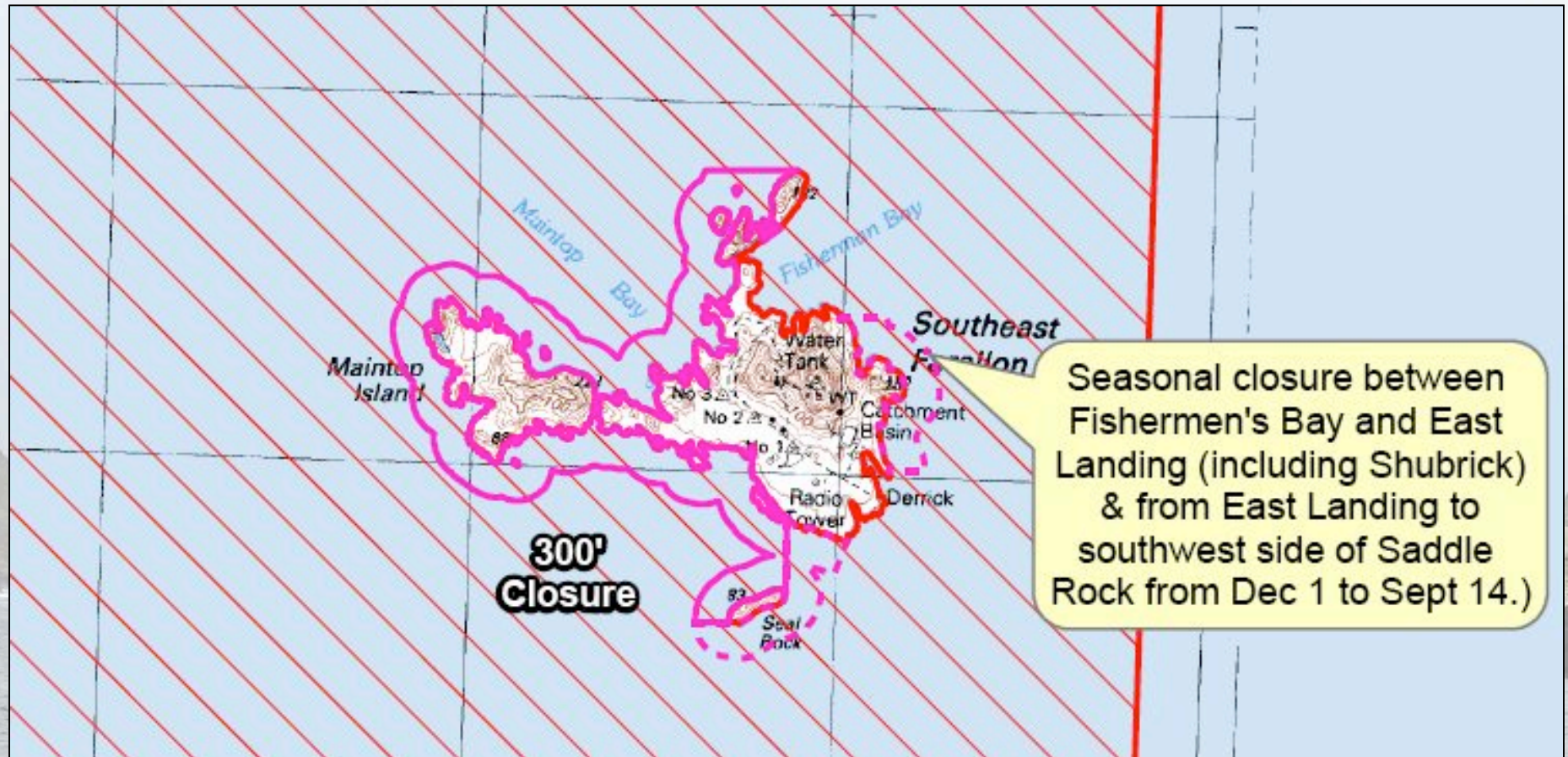
[brad.damitz@noaa.gov](mailto:brad.damitz@noaa.gov)

GFNMS Website (announcements, resources, documents will be posted here)

<http://farallones.noaa.gov/>



# CDFG Special Closure at SE Farallon Island



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

# CDFG Special Closures at N Farallon Islands

