• Update on NOAA Partnership with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

• Proposed timeline for GFNMS to address next steps.
FAA Partnership: Updating the Aeronautical Charts

Sanctuary overflight restrictions have been in place for many years, and in February 2012 a Final Rule standardized the application of existing regulations, allowing publication on the aeronautical sectionals.

All pilots are required to possess up-to-date aeronautical charts.
Over the next three months the FAA will release updated aeronautical sectionals that include West Coast Sanctuary overflight regulations.
• Our region is last in the rotation and is scheduled to be added to the San Francisco Sectional Chart on August 23, 2012.

• The Seabird Protection Network will continue to increase outreach to pilots and will maintain website with local information.
Outreach to Pilots: 2012

- One-stop shop website with links to all the west coast sanctuaries

Pilots: Know Before You Go!

Overflight regulations within Olympic Coast, Gulf of the Farallones, Monterey Bay and Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuaries require that motorized aircraft maintain minimum altitudes above specified locations. Failure to comply with these minimum altitude restrictions is presumed to disturb marine mammals and seabirds and is a violation of federal regulations for the sanctuaries.

Overflight restrictions have been in place for many years, and in February 2012 a Final Rule standardized NOAA regulations across the sanctuaries to reflect a consistent and clear regulatory approach. The regulatory modifications were required by the FAA in order to post a clear notice to pilots on aeronautical charts about low overflight restrictions in national marine sanctuaries along the west coast. Full text of the amendment to the Overflight Regulations for the Channel Islands, Monterey Bay, Gulf of the Farallones and Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuaries is posted in the Federal Register (Vol 77, No.17; Jan. 26, 2012) as the Final Rule (PDF, 160KB) effective Feb. 27, 2012.

FAA to Release Updated Aeronautical Sectionals

Over the next three months, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) will release updated aeronautical sectionals that include West Coast sanctuary overflight regulations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Sectional</th>
<th>Displays Overflight Regulations of</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 31, 2012</td>
<td>Seattle Sectional</td>
<td>Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 28, 2012</td>
<td>Los Angeles Sectional Chart &amp; Los Angeles Terminal Area</td>
<td>Channel Islands &amp; Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 23, 2012</td>
<td>San Francisco Sectional Chart &amp; San Francisco Terminal Area</td>
<td>Monterey Bay &amp; Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuaries</td>
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http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/flight/welcome.html
Local Outreach

• **Throughout 2012, we will present information to pilots at association meetings, fly-ins and flight schools**

• **We will mail updated information to almost 300 airports, clubs, associations, and private pilots**

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Low overflights cause seabirds to panic and fly, increasing the likelihood of a bird strike!

What happens when aircraft fly too close to seabird breeding colonies?

One low overflight or repeated disturbances during the seabird breeding season can:

- Frighten birds into the air and increase the chance of bird strikes;
- Be very hazardous to pilots. Bird strikes can cause severe plane damage;
- Scare birds off their nests, allowing predators access to eggs and chicks;
- Force eggs and chicks to be abandoned or exposed to adverse weather, which may cause death; or
- Dislodge eggs or chicks from their nest sites.

What YOU can do to prevent seabird disturbances?

- The recommended best operating practice is to ALWAYS fly at least 2000 feet AGL over ALL National Marine Sanctuaries, coastal areas, and other sensitive environments. This protects both pilots and wildlife.
- Avoid sudden changes in direction, altitude and speed over sensitive wildlife areas.

It’s the LAW!

- Disturbance of wildlife by aircraft can be a violation of 50 CFR 39.11, punishable by a $1,000 citation or a mandatory court appearance that could result in a fine up to $10,000, one year in jail, aircraft forfeiture, and/or revocation of your airmen’s certificate.

The following can be a violation under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act:
1) Flying motorized aircraft at less than 1000 feet over designated zones within Monterey Bay Sanctuary
   and Gulf of the Farallones Sanctuary. Failure to maintain a minimum altitude of 1,000 feet above ground level in these areas is presumed to disturb avian moulting, or seabirds.
2) Taking any marine mammal, sea turtle or bird in or above the Sanctuary (15 CFR, Part 922, Subpart H, 912.82 or 15 CFR, Part 922, Subpart M, 912.132). See enclosed “Pilots Guide Insert” for specific zones and regulations.

For more information or to request additional maps, Pilot Guide inserts, or to schedule presentations contact the Seabird Protection Network at (415) 970-5844 or email California.Seabirds@noaa.gov.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING CALIFORNIA’S COASTAL WILDLIFE!

Sincerely,

[Signatures]

G. Mardel Stewart
Manager
San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge

Maria Brown
Superintendent
Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary
Local Outreach

Maintain website with local information and update maps to reflect the new aeronautical charts

http://farallones.noaa.gov/eco/seabird/seabird_pilots.html
## Addressing the Request for New Zones

### 2011
- Public comments received requesting new overflight restriction zones

### 2012
- Final Rule published standardizing application of overflight zones.
- Presentation to SAC
- Overflight zones placed on the aeronautical charts
- Outreach to pilots

### 2013
- Scoping
  - Seabird Technical Advisory Committee meeting
  - Sanctuary Advisory Council

### 2014
- Environmental Review
- Possibly linked to Management Plan Review
Scope of Review

1) Assessing the known information about disturbance to wildlife by aircraft
2) Zone locations
3) Size of zones
4) Shape of zones
5) Addressing new information on wildlife hotspots
Scenario for Seeking Advisory Council Input

Seabird Technical Advisory Committee
- Provides information and makes recommendations to the GFNMS Superintendent
  - Ano Nuevo State Reserve
  - Bureau of Land Management
  - CA Dept. of Fish and Game
  - CA State Parks
  - Federal Aviation Administration (invited)
  - Fitzgerald Marine Reserve
  - Golden Gate National Recreational Area
  - US Fish and Wildlife Service
  - NOAA Office of Law Enforcement
  - Point Reyes National Seashore
  - NOAA (GFNMS Superintendent)

GFNMS Advisory Council

Gulf of the Farallones Sanctuary Superintendent

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

Environmental Review Process
The Environmental Review Process

1. Scoping
2. Conduct Environmental Assessment
3. Draft Alternatives and Environmental Assessment Released
4. Agency Consultations
5. Public Review
   - Public Hearing only if EIS
6. Revise Draft and Release Final Assessment
Questions?