

Update on SAC Overflight Report and Recommendations

This presentation covers recommendations from the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Report on NOAA Regulated Overflight Zones, dated July 6, 2017. Updates are provided for recommendations currently in implementation by the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary.

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8-29-18



Dan Dawson



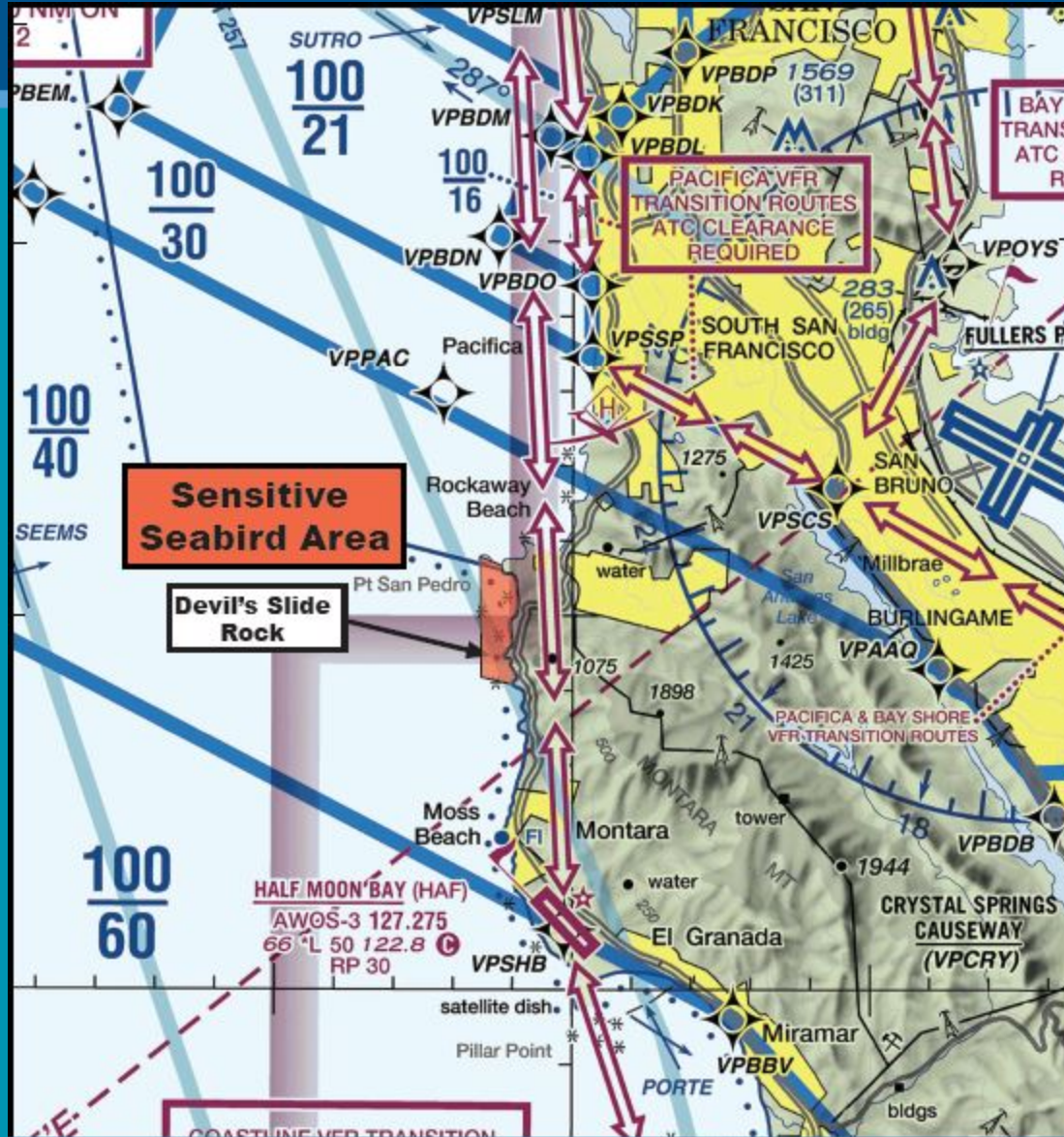
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- **GR-8: Class B Airspace Issues**

- On August 16, New Class B Airspace went into effect surrounding SFO.
- The airspace has been increased in the area of Devil's Slide from 2,500 to 4,000 ft. Outreach maps have already been updated and will be distributed soon.
- New Pilot Training Module on flying Class B airspace “seabird safe” is in the works.



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- **GR-9: Disturbance of Wildlife by Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs or Drones) Outside of the NROZs**
 - NOAA Commissioned a Literature Review of the Effects of Unmanned Aircraft Systems on Seabirds and Marine Mammals



Dan Dawson

GR-10: Pilot Outreach and Education Recommendations

- **GR-10-a: NOAA Supported Position(s) for Pilot Outreach (including UAVs)**
 - The Seabird Protection Network has hired Matt Pickett, former pilot Commander in NOAA Corps who is working with the team and NOAA on reaching out to the Military and Airfields and will help roll out messages and actions that resulted from the Program Evaluation.
 - Hiring a contractor to do a pilot training module focused on NOAA Regulated Overflight Zones.



GR-10: Pilot Outreach and Education Recommendations

- **GR-10-c: Correct and Improve the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries Overflight Webpages**
- **DONE**



GR-10: Pilot Outreach and Education Recommendations: Website

GR-10-c



NOAA Regulated Overflight Zones



Flying motorized aircraft below the minimum altitude limits of NOAA immediately presumed to disturb marine mammals and seabirds. For more information about the overflight zones, see "[Pilots: Know Before You Go!](#)"



Pilots: Know Before You Go!

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

Overflight Regulations

Minimum altitude limits have existed within sanctuaries 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 NOAA's regulated overflight zones within national marine sanctuaries.

Full text of the amendments to the Overflight Regulations for the Channel Islands, Monterey Bay, Greater Farallones and Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuaries is posted in the Federal Register (Vol 77, No. 17, published on Jan. 26, 2012) as the Final Rule (PDF, 160KB) effective Feb. 27, 2012. For the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations visit 15 CFR Part 922.

Why Fly Higher?

Direct flyovers or multiple passes over sensitive wildlife areas can harm wildlife and be unsafe for pilots. These NOAA overflight regulations pertain to all aircraft, including both rotary-wing and fixed-wing aircraft.

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 the pilot and the wildlife.



Pigeon Guillemot. Credit: Ron LeValley



Steller sea lion. Credit: Ron LeValley

GR-10: Pilot Outreach and Education Recommendations

- **GR-10-e: Contribute information about the need for wildlife protection from low overflights to existing websites that pilots already utilize**
- **Pilot and aviation focused Seabird Protection Network newsletter with “cross-postings” resulting in a greater than >25% open rate.**



GR-10: Pilot Outreach and Education Recommendations

- **GR-10-f: Target flight schools, FAA certification programs, flight instructors, and pilot education programs: pilot examiners, Flight Standards District Offices and airport managers.**
- **Two FAA Pilot Training Modules on the FAA Website scheduled for January 2019.**
- **Seabird Protection Network partnership established with the Half Moon Bay and San Carlos Airports.**



GR-10: Pilot Outreach and Education Recommendations

- **GR-10-g: Improve written materials and the program of written outreach to pilots, with pilot input as to the text.**
- The Seabird Protection Network Program Evaluation resulted in feedback on current written materials and recommendations for improving messages and clearing up confusion.
- A do's and don'ts regarding messages to pilots is forthcoming.



GR-10: Pilot Outreach and Education Recommendations

- **GR-10-h: Maintain the updates and accuracies of any FAA information on flyers, documents and web sites.**
- All outreach products discussing Class B airspace are updated in accordance with new information that went into effect on August 16, 2018 and should be posted and disseminated starting in September 2018.



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- **Area 2-i: Devil's Slide Rock -1) Request the FAA to change chart markings to make pilots aware of Devil's Slide Rock and risks to resources: Create marking on the chart ... Use a Magenta Circle and insert a text box that explains that it is a "sensitive nesting area" and "request 1000 Ft. AGL."**
 - **NOAA is currently making the right connections at the FAA to scope possible changes to the FAA Aeronautical Charts.**

