Greater Farallones NMS Advisory Council Receives Recommendations from Low Overflights Working Group

At its February 1st, 2017 meeting the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council received the final report from the Low Overflights Working Group. To address comment from various overflight processes, Sanctuary staff requested a SAC working group to re-evaluate the locations and dimensions of NOAA regulated overflight zones within GFNMS, including the GFNMS expansion area and northern Monterey Bay. The goals of the Working Group were to provide consensus recommendations, where feasible, that address first and foremost, the almost two decades of public requests to review the location and dimensions (shape and size) of overflight zones within Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary and the Devil’s Slide area of the Northern Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. A secondary goal was to identify outreach, education, resource protection and research/monitoring needs of Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary to address low-flying aircraft. The Advisory Council voted to endorse the Low Overflights Working Group report and forward it and all the recommendations to GFNMS while noting vote tallies and public comments received, orally and written, specifically the comments from the pilots. The working group recommendations were presented and Advisory Council discussion and comments were noted after each recommendation.