



SEABIRD PROTECTION NETWORK



Program Goal



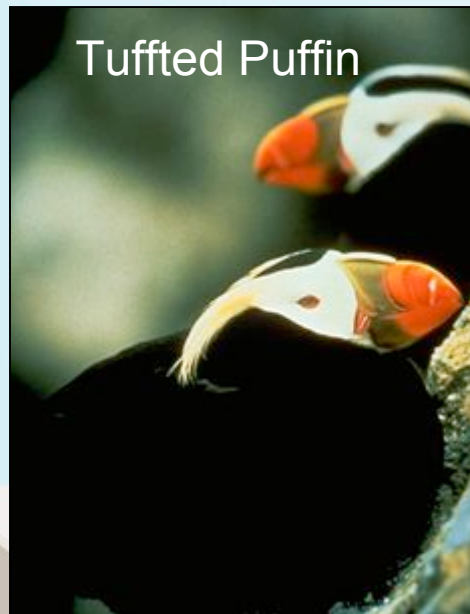
Improve the survival of California's seabirds by reducing human disturbances at their breeding and roosting colonies on the Central California coast.



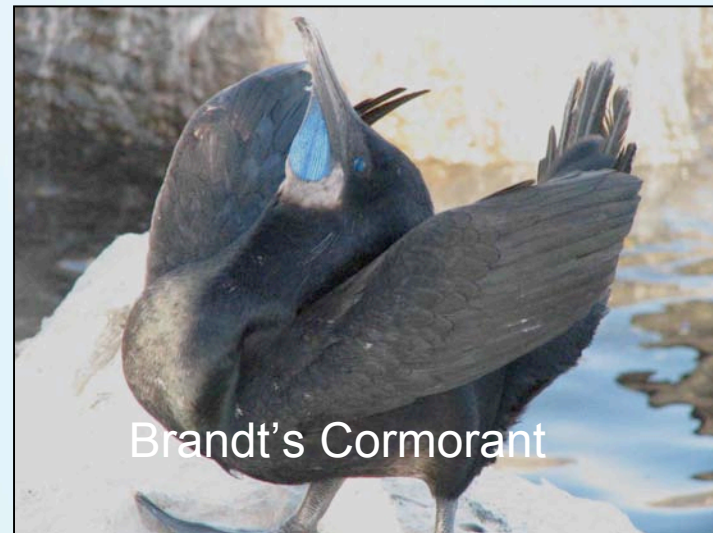
Common Murre



Pigeon Guillemot



Tufted Puffin



Brandt's Cormorant

Seabird populations are not safe yet!

Some species are still in decline!

Disturbance comes from 3 main sources



1. Low flying aircraft



2. Close approaching boats, kayaks, personal watercraft



3. Humans on Foot

Action Plan



- **Education & Outreach**
- **Enforcement & Coordinated Management**
- **Monitoring**

Technical Advisory Committee

3 Annual Meetings

- NOAA -Maria Brown

- Robert Yerena

- Bureau of Land Management

- US Fish and Wildlife Service

- National Park Service

- CA Dept. of Fish and Game

- CA Coastal Commission

- CA Boating and Waterways

- CA State Lands Commission

- CA State Parks

- US Coast Guard



Working Groups

Education and Outreach

Annual Meetings

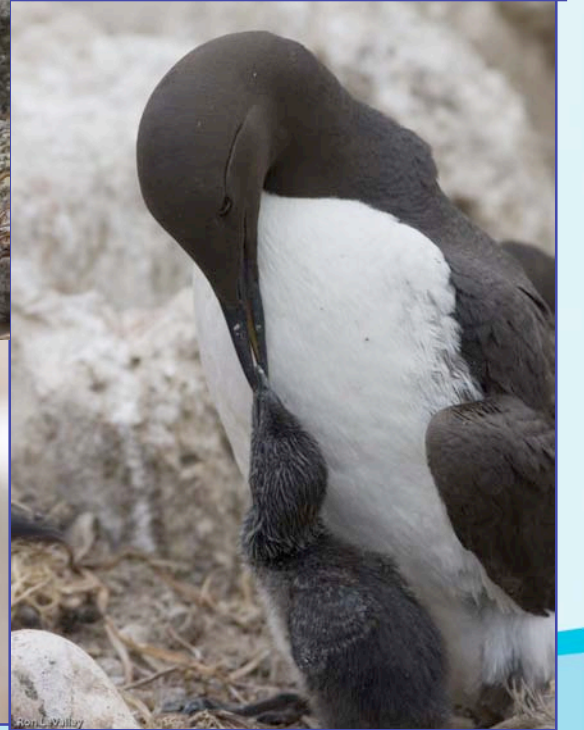
- **SAC Rep: Bob Breen**
- MBNMS: Lisa Uttal
- USFWS
- California Boating and Waterways
- PRBO Conservation Science
- NPS
- Stakeholders (2 pilots and a recreational boater)

Enforcement and Coordinated Management

Next Meeting: March 19

- **SAC Rep: Bob Wilson**
- MBNMS: Scott Kathey
- NOAA Office of Law Enforcement
- USFWS
- BLM
- NPS
- Department of Fish and Game
- California Boating and Waterways
- Stakeholders



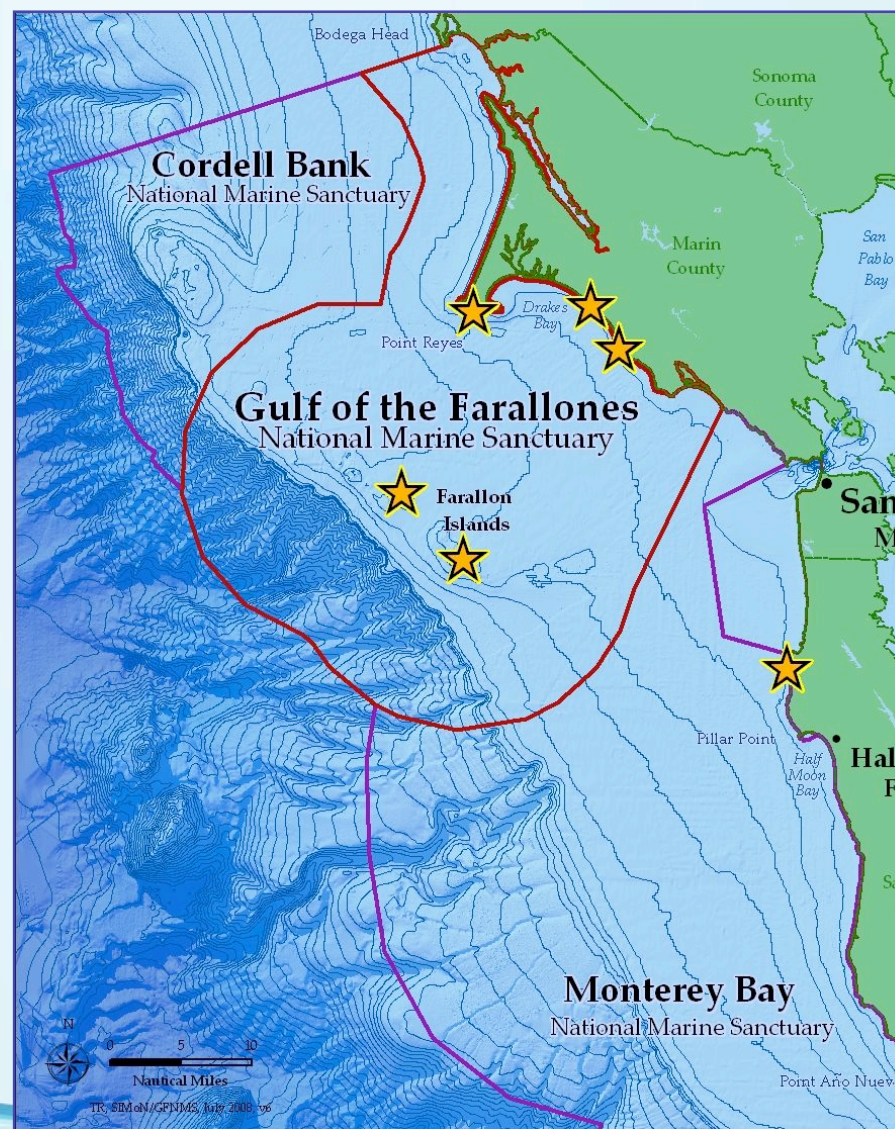


The Marine Life Protection Act and Special Closures

Result: 6 Special Closures (Integrated Preferred Alternative)

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

* *modification of current closure*

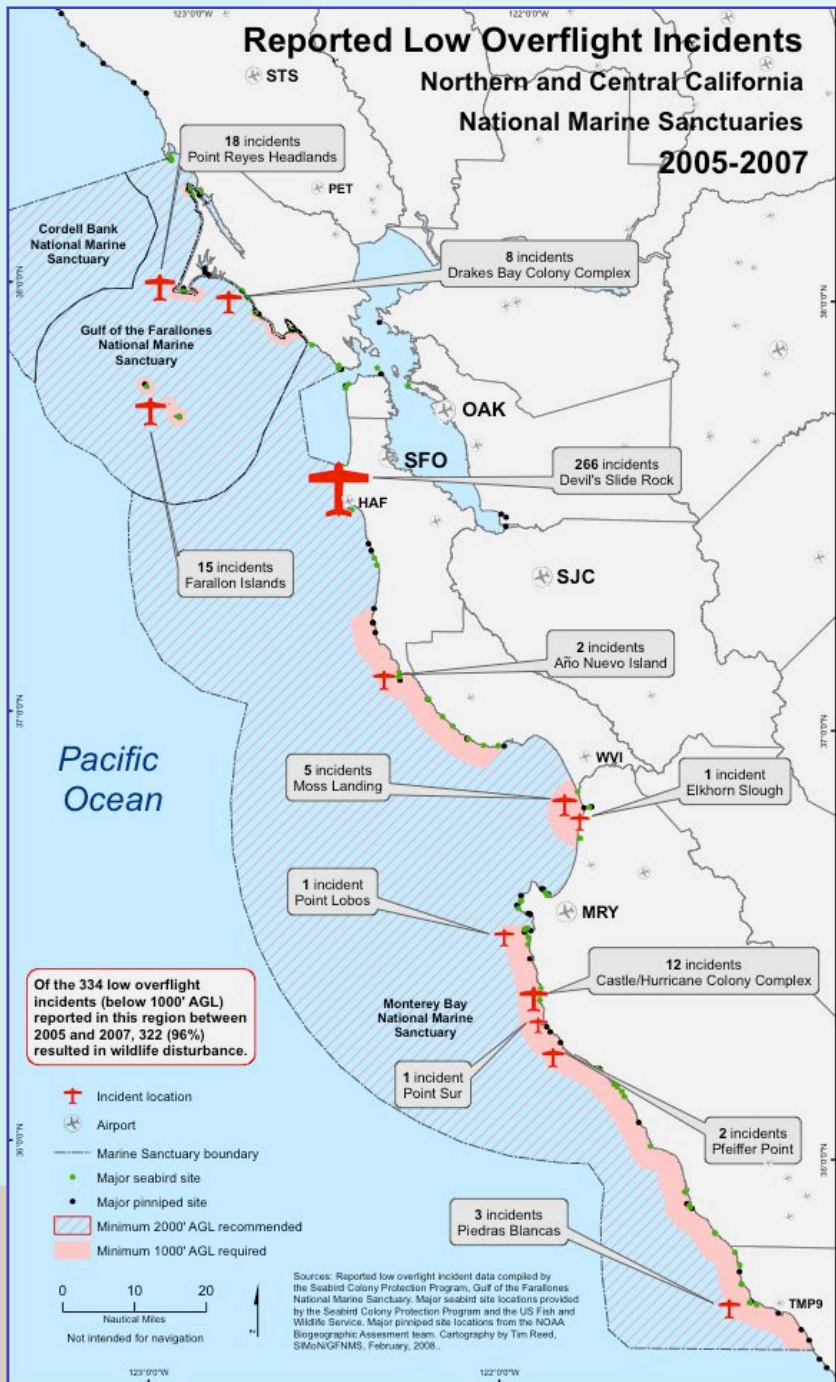


FAA Sectional Charts



NOTICE TO PILOTS
Pilots are requested to maintain a minimum altitude of
2000' AGL over the
CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Of 334 low overflights, flights below 1000', 96% resulted in wildlife disturbance



There is also an increased chance of bird strikes!

Outreach to Pilots 2008

2008 Mailing:

286 Pilots & Flight schools



Welcome to the Seabird Protection Network!

It's seabird breeding season and we need your help to protect overflights can be very hazardous to pilots. The noise and of sound readily be panic and fly, increasing the likelihood of a seabirds - Maintain 2000' AGL, while flying along the coast!

- Seabirds rest and nest in colonies or large groups on offshore overflight or repeated disturbances during the breeding season - Be aware both of their needs:
- Disturbance eggs or chicks from nest sites;
 - Allow predators access to eggs and chicks;
 - Lead to deaths when eggs and chicks are abandoned or

Seabird restoration efforts have been underway for several years have been a factor regarding recovery at some colonies. The noise to provide information to the flying community about I have on breeding seabirds along the California coast. The 50 of state, federal, and non-profit agencies vested in protection

Enclosed is a letter outlining the impacts of low overflights to you can reduce these impacts. Also enclosed are some other 1) An updated pilot guide for your California Guide to Airport 1) How

We would like to give your airport the opportunity to become website and sign the SPN pledge. The certification includes or business on the SPN website, 2) An invitation to our end- and 3) Recognition of your environmental awareness. With y survival of California's seabird species.

Thank you,
Sarah Rutenberger, Gabe Tazaki, and Karen Rayna

For more information on the Seabird Protection Network you can visit our website: <http://seabirds.org>

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex
1970 Tomales Ave., Sausalito, CA 94965

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEANIC SERVICE
Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary
800 Marina Bay, The Pointes, San Francisco, CA 94133

Low overflights cause seabirds to panic and fly, disrupting breeding activities causing the deaths of seabirds for generations to come!

What happens when aircraft fly too close to seabird colonies?

- Aircraft noise disrupts nesting activities, scaring adults off their nests, which allows predators access to eggs and chicks;
- A single aircraft disturbance or high levels of repeated disturbance can cause colony abandonment;
- In an ongoing U.S. Fish and Wildlife study off the California coast more than 9% of 10 flights below 1,000 feet AGL caused disturbance to seabird colonies including deaths of young birds.

What can you do to prevent seabird disturbance?

- Maintain 2000 feet AGL when flying within National Marine Sanctuaries
- Avoid sudden changes in direction, altitude, and speed over seabird colonies and sensitive wildlife areas.

It's the LAW!!!

- Disturbance of wildlife by aircraft can be a violation of 50 CFR 18.11, 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 pilot's annual certificate.
- The following can be a violation under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act: 1) Disturbing seabirds or marine mammals by flying motorized aircraft at less than 1000 feet over designated zones within the Monterey Bay Sanctuary; or 2) Taking any marine mammal, sea turtle or seabird in or above the Monterey Bay Sanctuary (15 CFR, Part 922, Subpart H, and Subpart M, Appendix C, see attached "Pilot Guide Book" for specific laws and regulations).

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US PROTECT OUR WILDLIFE!
PLEASE POST THESE ITEMS TO YOUR BULLETIN BOARD AND DISTRIBUTE TO OTHER PILOTS
For more information, or to request additional maps, flight book inserts, or to schedule presentations to the pilot contact Sarah Rutenberger at 41571 561 4622 ext.230 or email california.seabirds@noaa.gov

Sincerely,
Mandi Stewart Maria Brown
Project Leader Superintendent
San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary



SEABIRD REACTIONS TO LOW FLYING AIRCRAFT

Seabirds rest and nest in colonies or large groups on offshore rocks and ciffs. Numerous disturbances can lead to colony abandonment.

DID YOU KNOW?
One low overflight or repeated disturbances during the breeding season can:

- Scare birds off their nests
- Abandon eggs or chicks from nest
- Allow predators access to eggs
- Lead to deaths when eggs and chicks are abandoned, or predators have the nest too soon and drown

MARINE MAMMALS ARE SENSITIVE TO LOW OVERFLIGHT

Seals and sea otters haul out or haul back the disturbances prevent, scare and pup, an to transiting

Circling planes reduce and of rest and feed

FLY SEABIRD SAFE
Low overflights can be very hazardous to pilots!

(Disturbances cause seabird plane damage and death)

SEABIRD PROTECTION NETWORK

FLY SEABIRD SAFE
FOLLOW SAFETY LAWS & GUIDELINES THAT PROTECT SEABIRDS AND PILOTS FROM HARM

- 1 MAINTAIN 2000' AGL**
Follow the recommended altitude and maintain 2000' AGL within National Marine Sanctuaries. Above 2000' and closer to the coast, regulators require 1000' AGL along the coast (see map)
- 2 NO DIRECT FLYOVERS OR MULTIPLE PASSES**
Do not fly directly over or make multiple passes over areas where sensitive wildlife are located, such as seabird colonies and marine mammal haul outs. Disturbing wildlife is against the law.
- 3 REPORT VIOLATIONS TO NOAA HOTLINE**
If you see someone violating the rules and flying too low, record the tail number and call the NOAA enforcement hotline at 1-800-853-1964.
- 4 BECOME SEABIRD SAFE CERTIFIED**
Join the Seabird Protection Network. Pledge to follow the recommendations and receive special course material!
To join, email us: california.seabirds@noaa.gov
Or visit: www.farallones.noaa.gov/seabirds.html

Airshows:

- Dream Machines
- EAA Fly-in
- Wings over Wine County
- California Intl. Airshow

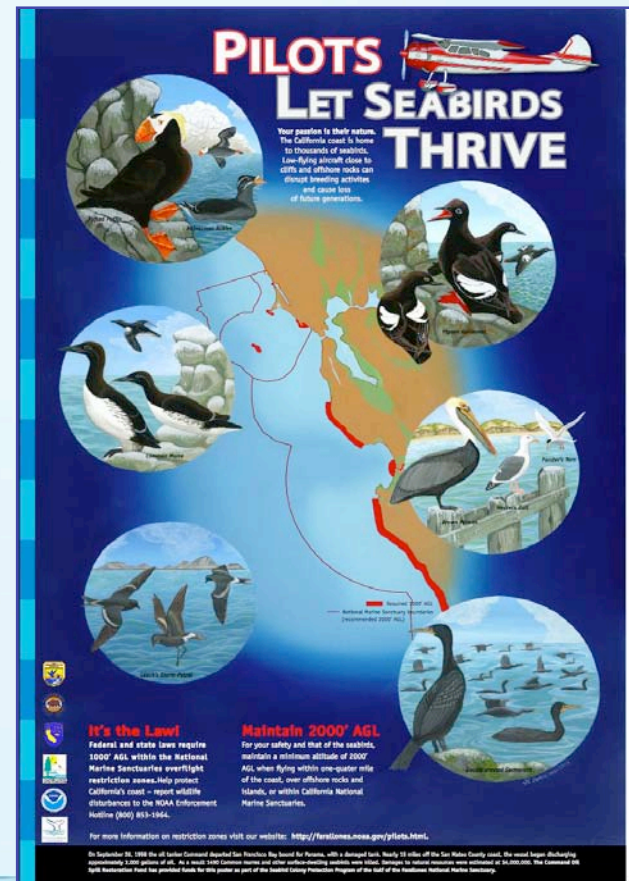
Outreach to Pilots 2008



Presentations:

- 6 Clubs & Associations from Santa Cruz to Petaluma
- Coast Guard Presentation

Poster displays at the
Hayward and Half
Moon Bay Airports



Outreach to Boaters



Signage:

Monterey Bay, Santa Cruz,
Pillar Point, Bodega Bay, Moss
Landing and Pt. Reyes

Events:

Over 1,000 stakeholders directly
reached in 2008!

- Bodega Bay Fishermen's Festival
- International Sportsmen's Expo
- Fishermen's Swap Meet
- Petaluma River Festival





Attention

All Boaters & Kayakers

Steer Clear of Seabirds

Seabirds are highly susceptible to human disturbances. Vessels close to cliffs and offshore rocks can disrupt breeding activities and cause adults to permanently abandon their nests. Keep your distance from breeding and resting sights. Steer around rafts and feeding flocks of seabirds.



● Seabird colonies

Follow these tips and help protect seabirds

- Avoid rocks, reefs, and islands where seabirds rest, feed and nest.
- Note bird behaviors such as head bobbing, calling, or fluttering. These are signs that you are too close.
- While fishing, keep all food and bait covered. Do not throw fishing line overboard, and use barbless hooks or artificial lures when possible.

This project is made possible by the **Seabird Colony Protection Program and Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary**
For more information email California.seabirds@noaa.gov or visit our website
<http://farallones.noaa.gov/ecosystemprotection/seabirdprotect.html>

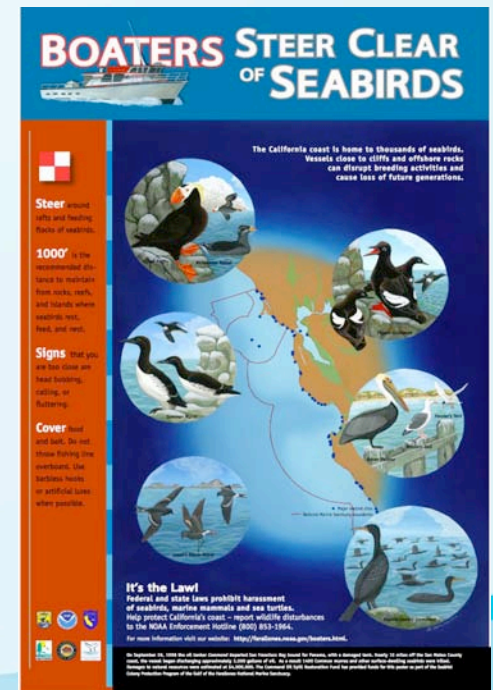
For real-time viewing, visit the Common Murre camera at Devil's Slide Rock.
<http://www.fws.gov/sfbayrefuges/Murre/murrehome.htm>

Outreach to Boaters

- Gave presentation to Bay Area Sea Kayakers (BASK)
- Distributed posters, tide books, and Seabird Aware Brochures along the North Coast, including: Bolinas, Pt. Reyes, Tomales Bay, Bodega Bay, Stinson Beach and in the Santa Cruz Harbor
- Provided Coast Guard Auxiliary with outreach materials at the Jack London Square Fall Boat Show

Hundreds of Tide books,
brochures and posters
disseminated!

Display Poster



The Future

Education and Outreach

- New and Improved Website
- Model a NO Disturbance Airshow
- Perks and Benefits for Joining the Network
- Boater Outreach Intern in Monterey Bay Area
- Pocket Guide for Boaters
- Outreach on Special Closures and State MPAs



Devil's Slide Rock 2001



Devil's Slide Rock 2007: No Decoys!

The Future

Coordinated Management & Enforcement

- ❑ Coordinated Wildlife Disturbance Reporting
- ❑ Presenting at IMCC in May
- ❑ Coordinated Enforcement of Wildlife Protection Laws



Thanks to the *Command* Oil Spill Natural Resource Trustee Council

