

SEABIRD PROTECTION NETWORK



Sanctuary Advisory Council Presentation

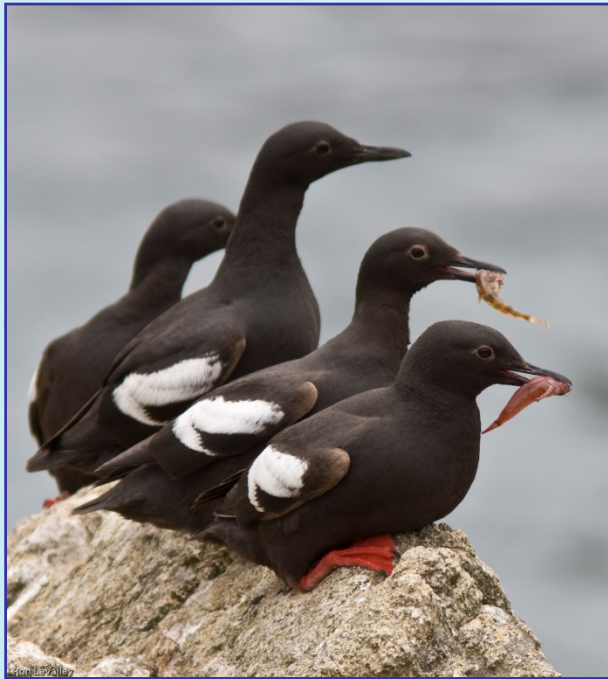
Karen Reyna and Paul Hobi
August 27, 2018



Bodega Bay to Point Sur Chapter

Program Goal:

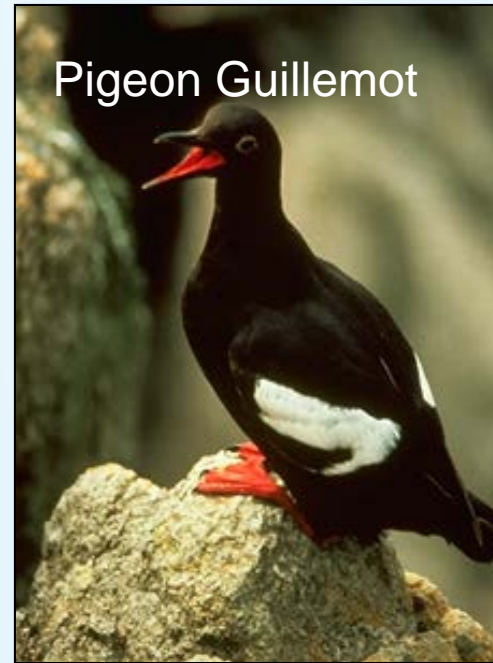
Address human disturbance to breeding seabird colonies to enhance the recovery of seabird populations damaged by oil or other contaminant spills along the central California coast.



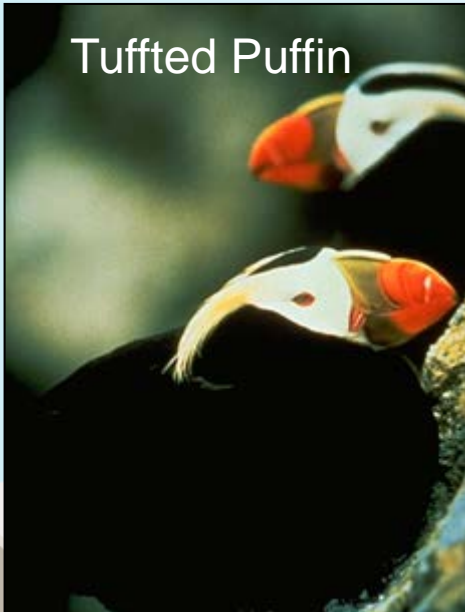
Common Murre



Pigeon Guillemot

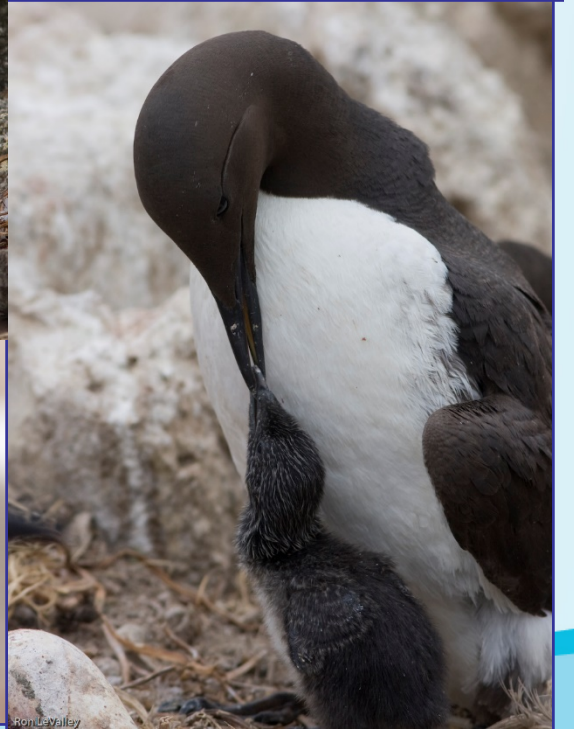


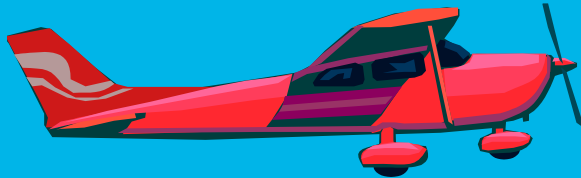
Tufted Puffin



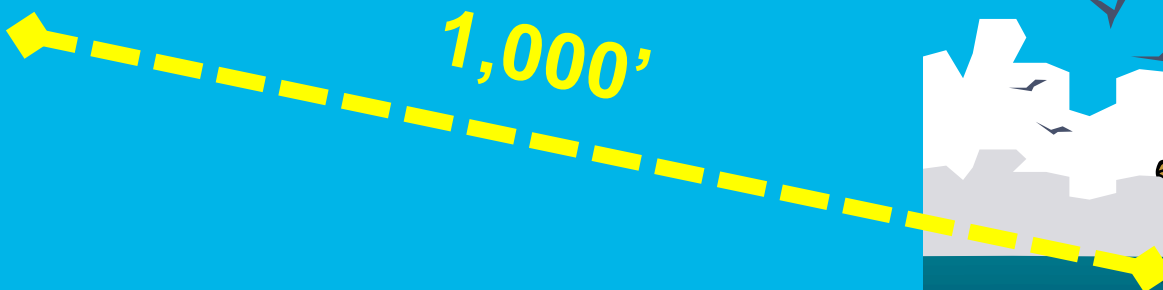
Brandt's Cormorant







1,000'



1,000'



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**



Monitoring Drives Enforcement / Coordinated Management



SPN Data leads to Special Closures

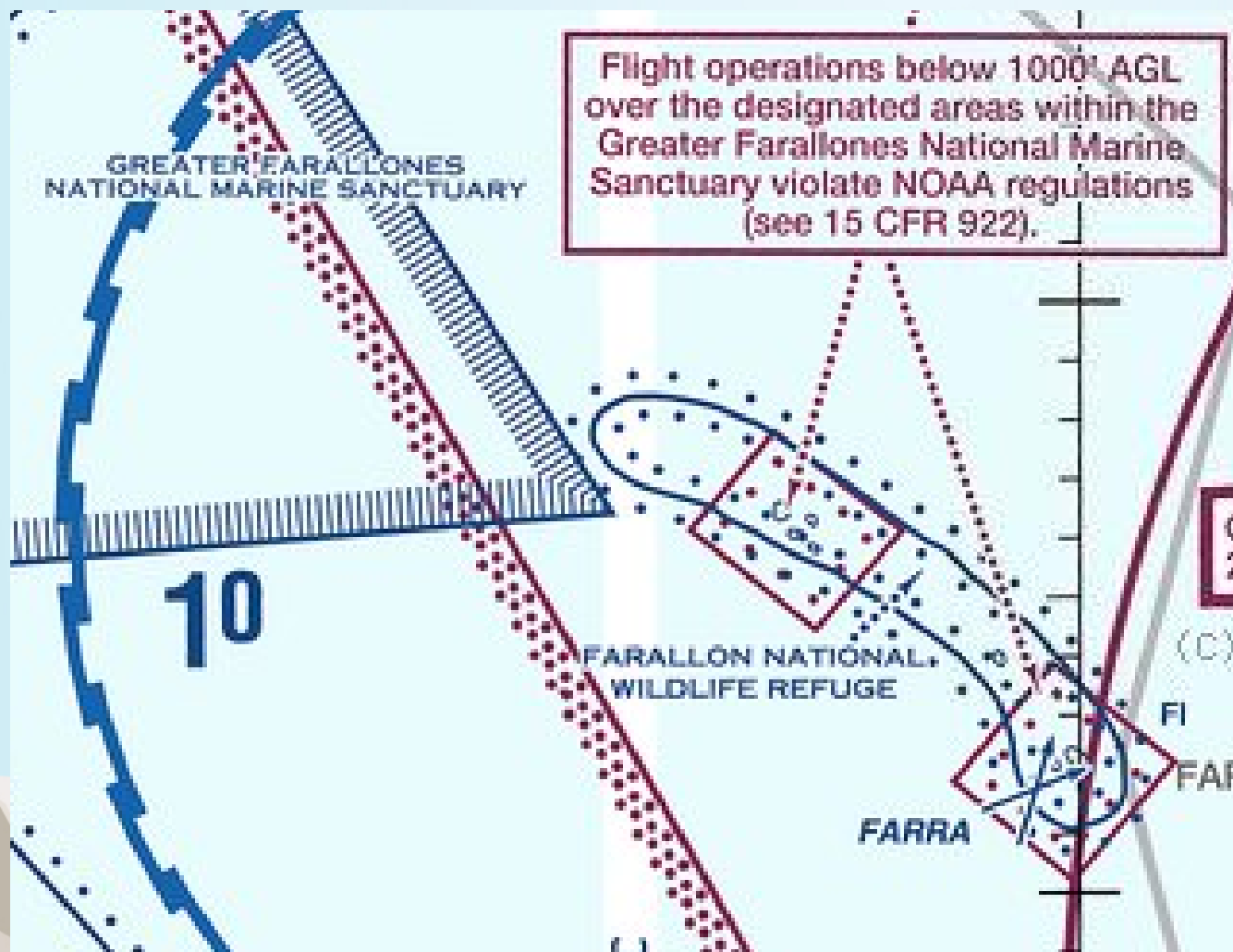
Implemented 2010 – North Central Coast MPAs

6 Special Closures

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



Data Supported FAA Sectional Charts Update in 2012



Region-wide Coordination

- Coordinated Wildlife Disturbance Reporting**

- Chapters Developed at**
 - Channel Islands
 - Pt. Mugu to Point Sur
 - Bodega Head to Gualala
 - Trinidad

- Coordinated Enforcement of Wildlife Protection Laws**



Monitoring Drives Outreach



Disturbance data tells us where to focus outreach and education efforts (geographically and audience – wise)

Building Relationships with Stakeholders



Presentations to Pilots: 'Flying Seabird Safe'



Presentations:

Since 2007, **70 presentations** to clubs & associations reached **over 1400 pilots in person**; in 2017 began presenting with FAA Safety Team

Outreach to Pilots: Events

18 Pilot Events Attended

- Dream Machines 2007 - 2018
- Experimental Aircraft Association Fly-ins
- Calpilots Airfest 2017
- Bay Flight 2018



Outreach to Pilots: Newsletters

Monthly E-Newsletter

- 588 pilots strong
- Open rates >25%
- Engaging content



SEABIRD PROTECTION NETWORK
Monthly Aviator
The Seabird Protection Network Newsletter

Flying in for the Big Show?

Don't get all in the hangar! Pacific Coast Ocean Machines is April 29 at the Half Moon Bay Airport (HMB). It's our favorite event of the year! And we can't wait to meet all the magnificent aviators.

Pilot Mailings

- 4401 sent
- Includes map of NOAA Overflight Zones



SEABIRD PROTECTION NETWORK

Welcome to the Seabird Protection Network!

It's seabird breeding season and we need your help to protect California's seabirds! Low overflights can be very hazardous to pilots. 1 cause seabirds to panic and fly, increasing # seabirds - Maintain 2000' AGL while flying all

Seabirds rest and nest in colonies or large or overflight or repeated disturbances during th

- Scare birds off their nests;
- Dislodge eggs or chicks from nest sites;
- Allow predators access to eggs and chick
- Lead to deaths when eggs and chicks ar

Seabird restoration efforts have been underw have been a factor impeding recovery at, son seeks to provide information to the flying cor have on breeding seabirds along the Califor of state, federal, and non-profit agencies ves

Enclosed is a letter outlining the impacts of i you can reduce these impacts. Also enclose:

- 1) An updated pilot guide for your California Thrive.

We would like to give your airport the opport website and sign the SPIN pledge. The cardi or business on the SPN website, 2) An invita and 3) Recognition of your environmental av survival of California's seabird species.

Thank you,
Sarah Ratzberger, Sage Tezak, and Karen!

For more information on the Seabird Prote or visit our webs

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex
950 Thomas Ave., Newark, CA 94588**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary
981 Marine Dr., The Presidio, San Francisco, CA 94129**

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 repeat disturbance can cause colony abandonment.
- In an ongoing U.S. Fish and Wildlife study off the California coast more than 9 out 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 19.11, punishable by a \$10,000 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 airmen 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 Gulf of the Farallones Sanctuary; 2) Flying motorized aircraft at less than 1000 feet over designated zones within the Monterey Bay Sanctuary; or 3) 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's Guide Insert" for specific zones and regulations.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US PROTECT OUR WILDLIFE!

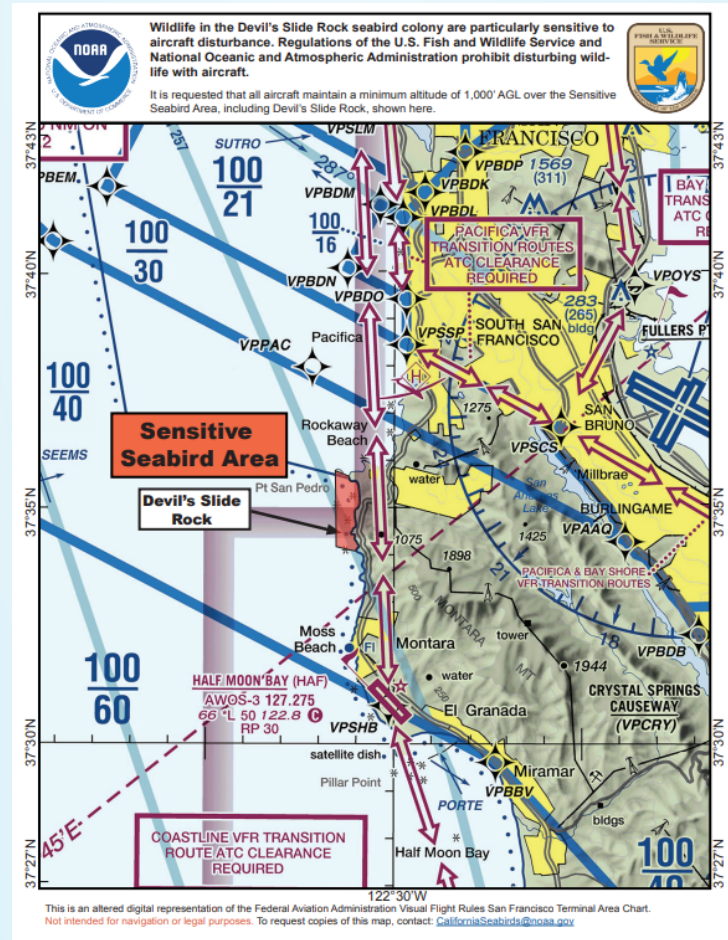
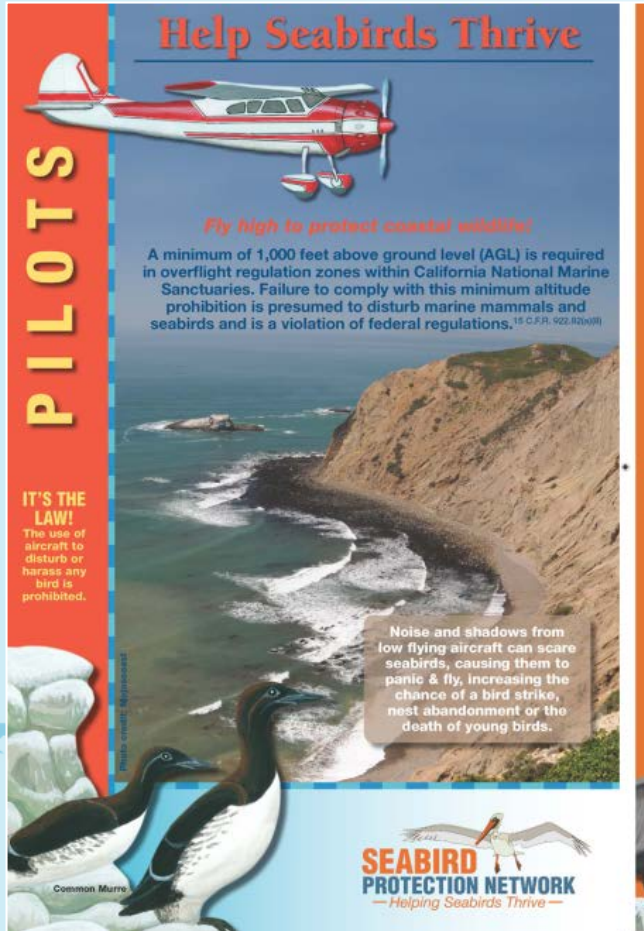
PLEASE POST THESE ITEMS TO YOUR BULLETIN BOARD AND DISTRIBUTE TO OTHER PILOTS
For more information, or to request additional maps, flight book inserts, or to schedule presentations for pilots contact Sarah Ratzberger at (415) 561-6622 ext.200 or email california.seabird@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

Mendel Stewart
Project Leader
San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge

Maria Brown
Superintendent
Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary

Outreach to Pilots: Materials



Poster Displays:
17 placed at airports throughout California

Outreach to Boaters

Signage:

Monterey Bay, Santa Cruz, Pillar Point, Bodega Bay, Moss Landing and Pt. Reyes to name a few

Events:

- Fishermen's Festivals
- Sportsmen's Expos
- Pacific Power and Sail



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.



Follow these tips and help protect seabirds

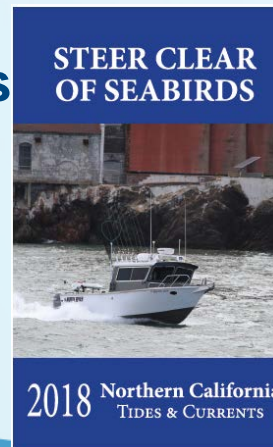
- Avoid rocks, reefs, and islands where seabirds rest, feed and nest.
- Note bird behaviors such as head bobbing, calling, or fluttering. These are signs that you are too close.
- While fishing, keep all food and bait covered. Do not throw fishing line overboard, and use barbless hooks or artificial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

- **Presentations:**
Reached over **350 boaters** through **34 in-person presentations**
- **Products:**
Distributed **thousands** of posters, tide books, and seabird aware brochures along the coast, including:
Bolinas, Pt. Reyes, Tomales Bay, Bodega Bay, Stinson Beach, Half Moon Bay and Santa Cruz
- **Partnerships:**
Regular outreach to the Coast Guard
- **Newsletter:**
Monthly e-newsletter to **638 boaters**



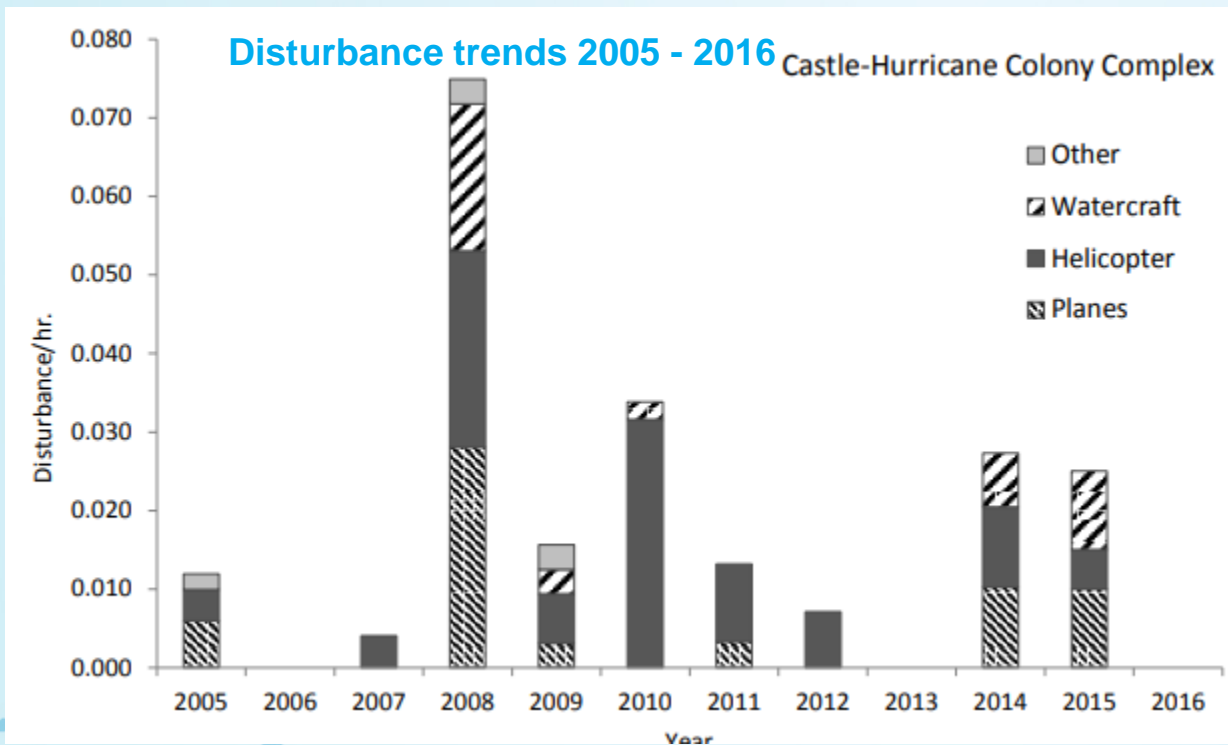
Program Evaluation

- **Ten year materials review including website**
- **Pilot and boater stakeholder interviews and focus groups**
- **Final report and a list of specific recommendations**



Are we reaching our goals?

Yes, but there is more work to do.



In October 2018, we will:

- Evaluate disturbance trends since 2001
- Target problem locations
- Focus on audiences and outreach strategies

The Future

Emerging from A Program Evaluation

- **Learning and communicating the right messages**
- **Identifying new ways to collect data**
- **Establishing the most effective and efficient ways to reach our target audience**



The Future

We want to hear your ideas



Thanks to the *Command & Luckenbach* Natural Resource Trustee Councils

