NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES ACT (NMSA) originally passed in 1972
MISSION: to serve as the trustee for the nation's system of marine protected areas and to conserve, protect, and enhance their biodiversity, ecological integrity and cultural legacy.”
EXPANDED BOUNDARIES
Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary
Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary
March 2015

This map depicts the newly expanded boundaries of Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuaries. These boundaries will take effect after a review period of 45 days of continuous session of Congress.
NOAA
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
What do we do to fulfill our mission?

1. **Research/Conservation Science** - Learn about the ecosystem
2. **Education** - Educate the public, schools, users
3. **Volunteer Programs/Citizen Science programs**
4. **Regulations**
5. **Resource Protection** - Oil Spill Response/Prevention; Policy
6. **Sanctuary Advisory Council** - Advises the Sanctuary Superintendent on management priorities
Wildlife Disturbance Regulatory Setting

Site specific regulations for GFNMS address wildlife disturbance through prohibitions such as:

- Disturbing seabirds or marine mammals by flying motorized aircraft at less than 1,000 feet (location specific);
- Discharging or depositing (with exceptions);
- Altering the seabed (with exceptions);
- Taking any marine mammal, marine turtle, or bird; and
- Attracting or approaching white sharks.
NOAA Regulatory Overflight Zones

- Disturbing marine mammals or seabirds by flying motorized aircraft at less than 1,000 feet AGL
- Failure to maintain a minimum altitude of 1,000 feet above ground level over such waters is presumed to disturb marine mammals or seabirds.
GREATER FARALLONES NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
GREATER FARALLONES NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
NOAA’s primary goal is to ensure pilots flying along the West coast are aware of the long-standing regulations on low overflights within designed zones in west coast national marine sanctuaries.
Questions?
Seabird Protection Network

~ Helping Seabirds Thrive ~
Seabird Protection Network

- 11\textsuperscript{th} year
- Multi-organizations
- Preferred restoration project
  - *M/T Command* Oil Spill
  - *Luckenbach* mystery spill

- Founded by Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary

Help seabirds thrive by informing management and coastal and ocean users how activities, like low-flying aircraft and close-approaching boats can cause nesting seabirds to flee from their nests, leaving eggs or chicks vulnerable to predators, which can lead to a reduction in the long-term survival of affected marine species.
Why is disturbance a problem?
How do we disturb seabirds?
Seabird Protection Network

~ Helping Seabirds Thrive ~
3 Components

- Monitoring
- Outreach
- Coordinated Management & Enforcement
Outreach Strategies

- Online media
- E-Newsletters
- Annual Mailings
- Plexi-glass Displays
- Tide books

www.SeabirdProtectionNetwork.org
Outreach Strategies

• Festivals & Presentations
  – Pilot & Boating Clubs
• Products...
- Gualala Pt. – Bodega Head
- Bodega Head – Pt. Sur
- Pt. Sur – Pt. Mugu
- Channel Islands
Reporting Wildlife Disturbances
Report Wildlife Disturbances

- Why report incidents?
  - Informs educational strategies
  - Tracking repeat offenders
  - Illustrating the need for more enforcement
- Its as Easy as 1, 2, 3...
  - [www.SeabirdProtectionNetwork.org](http://www.SeabirdProtectionNetwork.org)
Why Report a Wildlife Disturbance

- Quantify and describe disturbance incidents along California coast
  - seabird breeding and roosting sites
  - marine mammal haul-outs
What is a Wildlife Disturbance

- Any human-related harassment, flushing, displacement, harm and/or agitation of wildlife, which includes but is not limited to operating a vessel or aircraft or to do any other act that results in the disturbance or molestation of nesting or roosting seabirds or resting marine mammals.
Seabird Disturbance

- A seabird disturbance is defined as any event that results in the following actions:
  - Birds flying off the rock or moving from their nest, resting site or rafting area
  - Any event which causes eggs or chicks to be exposed (adult moves away from the egg or chick), displaced (egg or chick moves from nest site), or taken (egg/chick is depredated).
  - An event that causes birds to be visibly agitated or alerted, including “head-bobbing” in Common Murre (birds moving their heads up and down) and alert postures in cormorants (e.g., heads up and alert, wing-flapping).

- It may not be necessary to complete the Wildlife Disturbance Reporting Form for an incident that results in only head-bobbing
A marine mammal disturbance can be defined as any event that results in the following actions:

- **Head-alert** is defined as a pinniped raising its head from a resting position. The animal will turn its head in the direction of potential danger.

- **Flushing** behavior constitutes the animal moving towards or into the water. The animal is flushed from the resting position.
How to Report a Disturbance

- Report incident as soon as possible
- Specific information is essential and must be accurately documented
- Photos or video recording a wildlife disturbance incident - confirm details of the incident
How to Report a Disturbance

- Multi-step process
  - Step 1: Access the online form at www.SeabirdProtectionNetwork.org
  - Step 2: Complete the form with as much detail as possible
    - Overview of Wildlife Disturbance Reporting
  - Step 3: SUBMIT form
  - Step 4: You will receive an email with a PDF of your completed form attached
    - Review form thoroughly
    - Return a reply email confirming all information is correct
    - Provide information on any changes or additions to the form in your reply email.
    - Attach any photos, video or maps of the disturbance incident to email
Wildlife Disturbance Reporting Form

Reporter's Personal Information

* Required

First Name *

Last Name *

Email *

Phone *

Continue »

5% completed

Complete your report in 5-7 minutes
Incident Information

Date of Incident *

mm/dd/yyyy

Start Time of Incident *

: -- : --
Example: 11:00 AM

Duration of Incident *

Hrs : Mins : Secs

Weather Condition *
This field also describes ceiling height for aircraft
- Low fog (below 500 feet)
- Medium fog (500 - 1000 feet)
- High fog (> 1000 feet)
- Cloudy (unknown fog)
- Clear (Blue skies)
- Unknown

« Back  Continue »

11% completed
**Location**

**Geographic Region**
- Gualala Pt. to Bodega Head
- Bodega Head to Pt. Sur
- Southeast Farallon Island
- Pt. Sur to Pt. Mugu
- Channel Islands
- Other

**Other Location**

*Required

Describe Location
Provide as much detail as possible.

- Alcatraz Island
Additional Description
Identify observer location

Additional Description
Describe observer location

« Back  Continue »

52% completed
Type & Description of Disturbance

Type of Disturbance *
- Aircraft
- Vessel (Motorized & Non-motorized)
- Land-based
- Other: 

Describe Incident *
Be as specific as possible. Describe details of the incident including person(s) creating disturbance.
Vessel Registration Number *
CF Number
- Yes
- No

If YES, Report CF Number
Example: CF 1234 AB
CF 2345 AB

Name of Vessel *
JoSkinny

Home Port and/or Vessel Nationality *
San Francisco

Characteristics and/or Special Markings *
White with blue trim
Vessel Color *
- Blue
- Brown
- Green
- Maroon
- Purple
- Red
- White
- Yellow
- Other: [ ]

Vessel Type *
- Charter Boat (whale watch, fishing charter, etc.)
- Commercial Fishing Vessel
- Kayak/Canoe
- Jet ski
- Recreational Motoboot
- Sailboat
- Wind or Kite Surfer
- Yacht/Cruiser
- Other: [ ]
**Vessel Length**
Measurements are based on California length classes

- < 16 feet
- 16 - 26 feet
- 26 - 40 feet
- 40 - 65 feet
- >65 feet
- Unknown

**Approximate Vessel Distance to Disturbed Wildlife**
300 feet is approximately the length of a football field

- 0 - 150 feet
- 150 - 300 feet
- 300 - 600 feet
- 600 - 1,200 feet
- > 1,200 feet
- Unknown
- Other: __________

**Landmark and/or Equipment Used to Determine Distance**

**Last Observed Direction of Vessel**
Identify All Species Disturbed *

- Brandt’s Cormorant (BRAC)
- Double-crested Cormorant (DCCO)
- Pelagic Cormorant (PECO)
- Brown Pelican (BRPE)
- Pigeon Gulliemot (PIGU)
- Common Murre (COMU)
- Cassin’s Auklet (CAAU)
- Tufted Puffin (TUPU)
- Western Gull (WEGU)
- Ashy Storm-Petrel (ASSP)
- Leach’s Storm-Petrel (LESP)
- Black Storm-Petrel (BLSP)
- Scripp’s Murrelet (SCMU)
- Black Oystercatcher (BLOY)
- Harbor seal (HASE)
- Northern Elephant seal (NESE)
- California sea lion (CSLI)
- Steller sea lion (SSLI)
- Other: [ ]
Number of Disturbed *
List number of each species disturbed. For example COMU-12, PIGU-49, CSLI-25, etc.
BRAC-200

Disturbance Pattern *
- Single pass
- Multiple passes
- Hovering/Lingering
- Unknown

Describe Disturbance Pattern
List number of passes or length of time source hovered/lingered

Behavior of Any Animal Affected During Incident *
- Alarmed/Agitated
- Flushed
- Eggs or Chicks Lost
- Trampling
- Moved Away from Original Position (Displaced)
- No Reaction Observed
- Other:

Describe Various Behaviors Observed During Incident
Describe which species were flushed versus agitated if two species had different reactions.

Did Affected Animals Return to their Original Behavior After Incident? *
- Yes
- No

If No, Describe How the Behavior Changed

Continue »
Additional Information

Additional Notes

Photos or Video
- YES, photos were taken
- YES, video was captured

If YES, Report Contact Information of Photographer/Videographer

Other Witnesses

Report contact information for all witnesses

Other Witness First Name

Other Witness Last Name

Other Witness Email

Other Witness Phone
Notification

What Other Agencies Were Notified *
- None
- BLM
- CDFW
- NOAA
- State Parks
- USFWS
- Other: [Text Box]

Contact

If Contact was Made with Suspected Violator, Please Explain

[Text Box]

« Back Submit

Never submit passwords through Google Forms.

100%: You made it.
Thank you for your help!

QUESTIONS

Sage Tezak
Manager, Seabird Protection Network
Sage.Tezak@noaa.gov
415.970.5243
www.SeabirdProtectionNetwork.org
Special Closures

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