Consideration of Special Closures for Seabird and Marine Mammal Disturbance

North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group Meeting
February 21, 2008 • San Rafael, CA
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Background

• Nationally significant seabird colonies in NCCSR (e.g. Colony at South Farallon Islands largest in contiguous U.S.)

• Inter-agency Seabird Protection Program addressing education, regulation, and monitoring

• Request by NCCRSG members to consider protections through MLPA planning process

• Disturbance Subcommittee of the NCCRSG formed

Department Memo – Special Closures

• Department memo prepared Oct 19, 2007: “Special Closures as they apply to the Marine Life Protection Act.”
  ➢ Special Closures – Marine area-based access restrictions
  ➢ Provision in same regulatory subsection as the MLPA (Section 632, Title 14, CCR)
  ➢ Consider separately but along with MPA proposals
  ➢ Use sparingly

Disturbance Work Group Activities to Date

• Two January workshops
  ➢ Interested NCCRSG members
  ➢ Non-RSG members
  ➢ SAT members

• Reviewed history of previous planning efforts

• Reviewed “hot spots” in NCCSR (based on species diversity and abundance
  ➢ Disturbance threats
  ➢ Hot spot overlap with proposed MPAs
  ➢ Human use constraints and considerations
  ➢ Goal: identify options to address disturbance (“options menu” rather than reaching agreement)
Workshop Follow-Up

- Validation of workshop information
- Report back from participants to NCCRSG at Feb 21 meeting
  - Options identified
  - Human needs and constraints identified

Options Identified

- 13 locations with range of options
  - Enhanced public education only (no special closure)
  - Closure options from 300 ft to ¼ mile
  - Seasonality options
- 2 locations had broad support for a special closure option
- Templates and maps created for each option

Marine Bird and Mammal Hot spots NCC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>&quot;Hot Spot&quot; Name</th>
<th>&quot;Hot Spot&quot; Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North Farallon Island (B,M)</td>
<td>Point Reyes (B,M)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South East Farallon Island (B,M)</td>
<td>Drakes Estero (M)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fish Rocks (B,M)</td>
<td>Point Resistance (B)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gualala Point Island (B)</td>
<td>Miller’s Rock (B)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stewart Point (M)</td>
<td>Double Point (B)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fort Ross Reef (M)</td>
<td>Bolinas Lagoon (M)</td>
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<td>Russian River Rocks (B,M)</td>
<td>Fitzgerald (M)</td>
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<td>Bodega Rock (B,M)</td>
<td>Devil’s Slide (B)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bird Rock/Tomales Point (B,M)</td>
<td>Cowell Ranch Pescadero (M)</td>
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</tbody>
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Example of special closure option
### Human Use Needs Identified

- Ecotourism – birdwatching, shark tours
- Safe transit
- Safe anchorage
- Surfing
- Coastal kayaking
- Others

### Next steps

- Clarify SAT evaluation of options
- NCCRSG consider options during MPA proposal revisions process
- Evaluate next steps