

**Demarcation Buoys,**  
Outreach, Monitoring & Enforcement Activities  
Related to the Marine Life Protection Act

# SEABIRD PROTECTION NETWORK

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# Overview

- Seabird Protection Network
- Demarcation Buoys for Special Closures
- Other Activities Related to the Marine Life Protection Act



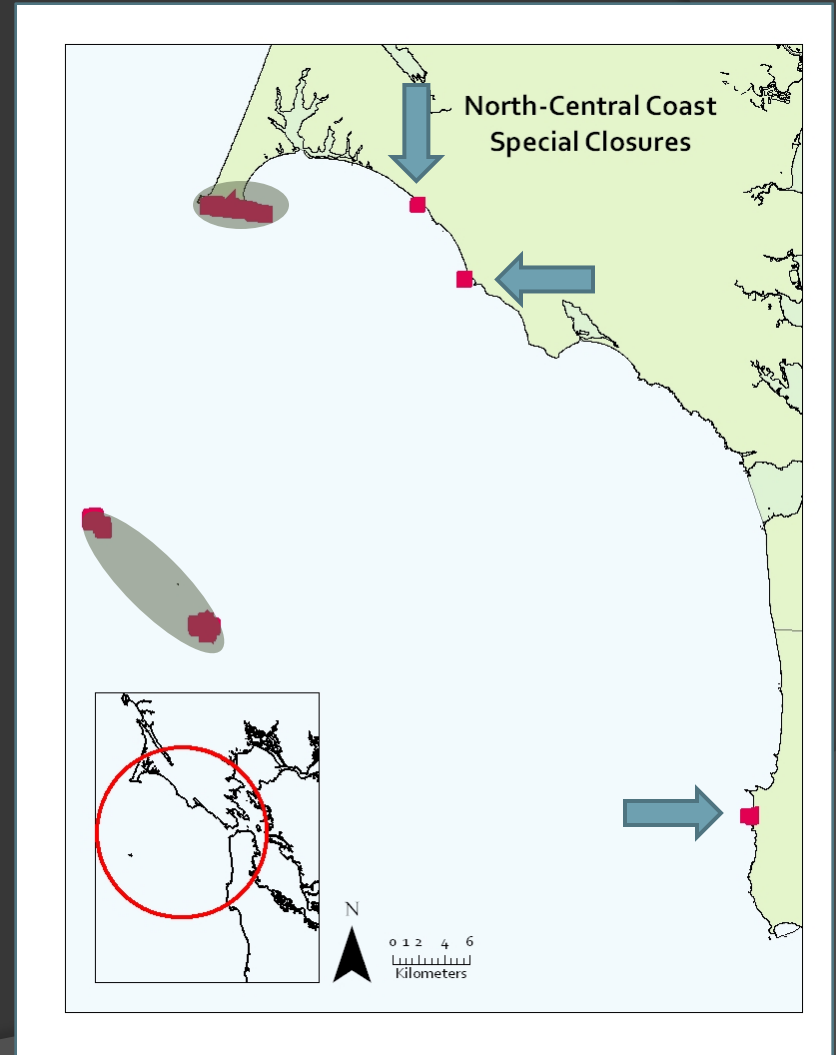
# How our Goals Align

- ◎ Seabird Protection Network
  - Improve survival of California's seabird species by reducing disturbance at their breeding and roosting colonies
- ◎ Marine Life Protection Act's Special Closures
  - Protection for breeding and roosting seabirds; rookeries and haul-out areas for marine mammals
- ◎ A Natural Fit
  - Tasked with installing and maintaining year-round & seasonal buoys used to demarcate Special Closures
  - Additional efforts to help inform boaters about MPAs

# Buoys: Long-term Installation Plan

- ⦿ Devil's Slide Rock (4)
- ⦿ Point Resistance (2)
- ⦿ Double Point (3)
- ⦿ Southeast Farallon Is. (8)
- ⦿ North Farallon Is. (3)
- ⦿ Pt. Reyes (4)

**24** demarcation buoys within the Gulf of Farallones and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries



# Installation Plan: Phased Approach

- ◎ Buoy installation in 3-4 phases
  - **Phase I:** Devil's Slide Rock (4)
    - Completed: April 30, 2011
  - **Phase II:** Pt. Resistance (2) , Double Point (3)
    - Proposed: October 2011
  - **Phase III:** S.E. Farallon Is. (8), N. Farallon Is. (3)
  - **Phase IV:** Point Reyes (4) if sign is not effective

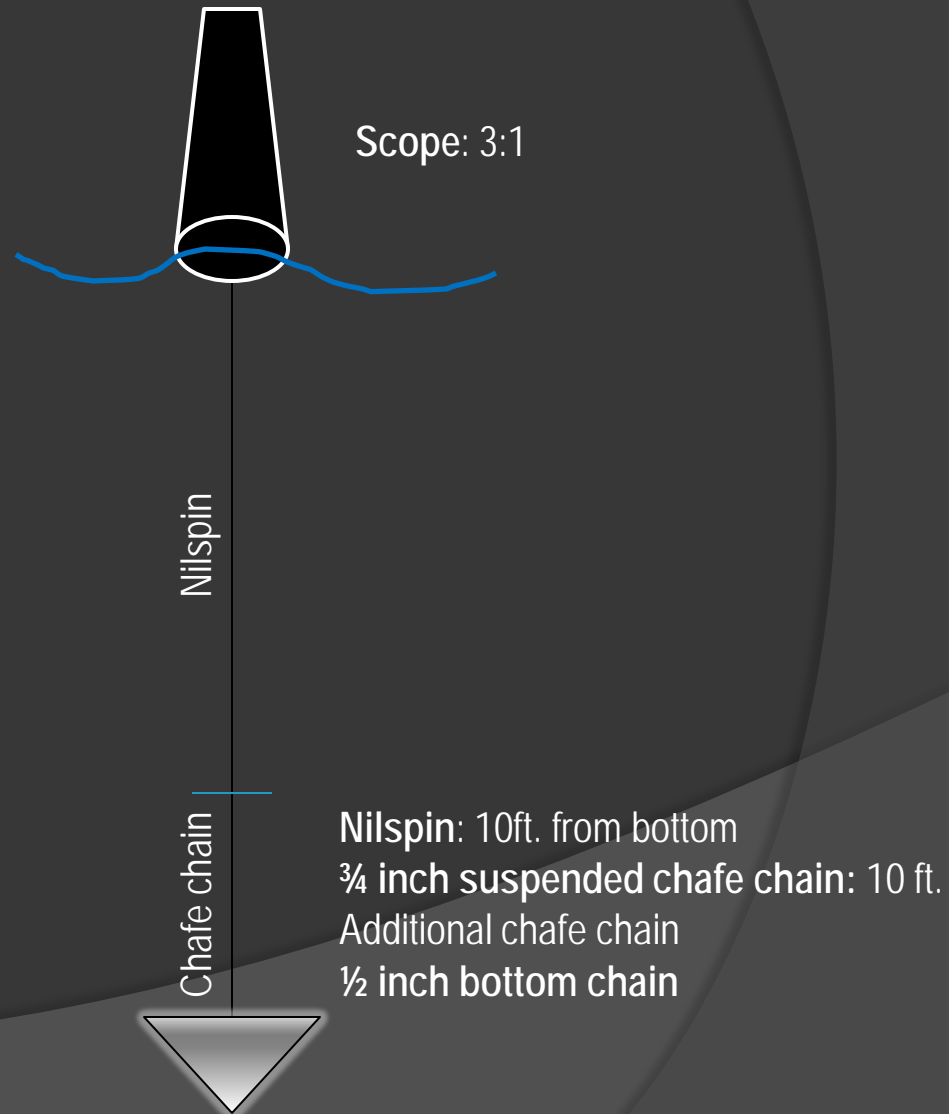
# Buoys: Physical Characteristics

- Rotationally molded UV-stabilized virgin polyethylene
- **Filling:** Closed-cell polyurethane foam
- **Wall thickness:**  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch
- **Ballast:** 40 lbs.
- **Height:**  $57 \frac{1}{8}$  inch
  - Above water:  $45 \frac{5}{8}$  inch
- **Width:**  $25 \frac{2}{3}$  inch
- **Mass:** 73 lbs.
- **Life expectancy:** Up to 12 years
- **Color:** white
- **Reserve buoyancy:** 132 lbs.



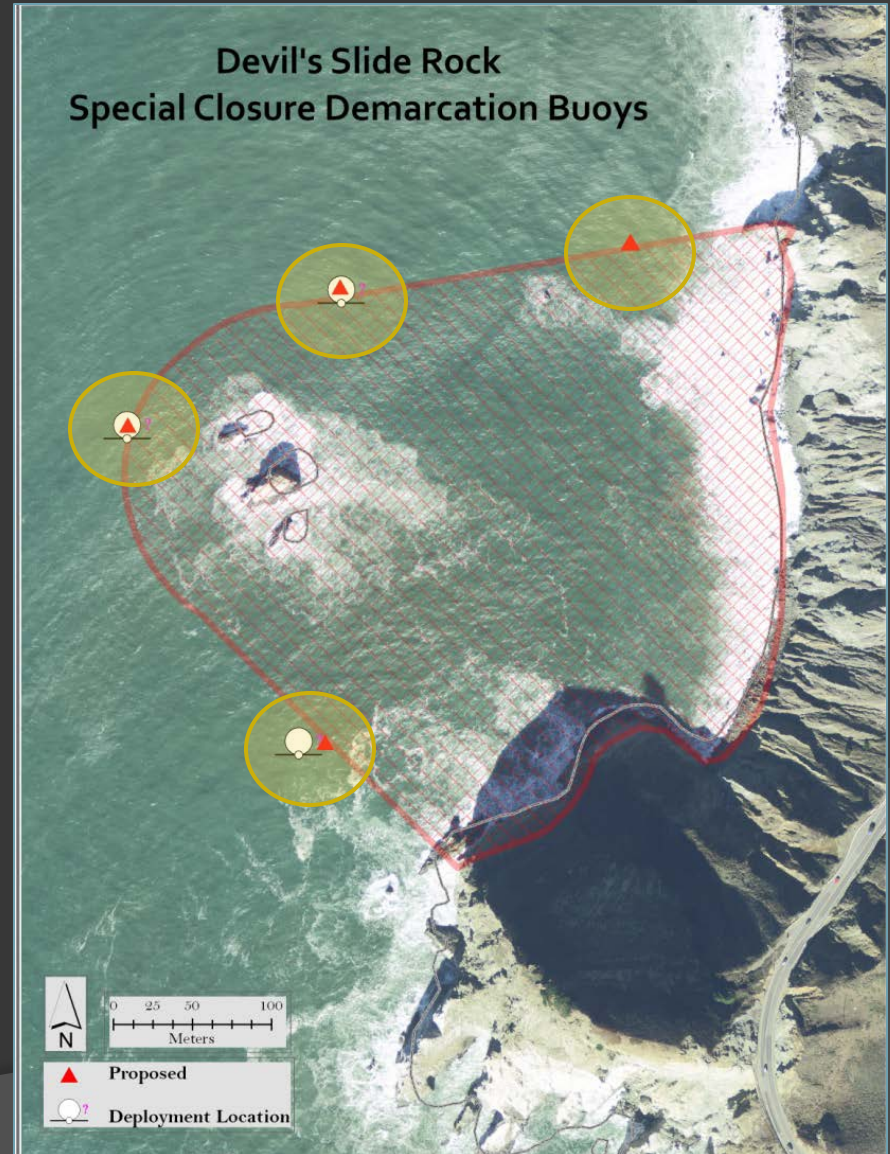
# Buoy System

- **Buoys** (700 mm. dia. Sealite)
- **Anchors** (300 lb. DorMor)
- **Rode:**
  - Oceanographic rope
  - $\frac{3}{4}$ " galvanized steel chain
  - $\frac{1}{2}$ " galvanized steel chain
- **Hardware:** stainless steel thimbles, shackles, swivels, double barrel sleeves



# Phase I: Lessons Learned

- 3 buoys installed:
  - DSR #1:** (360 ft. from shore) not in projected location
  - DSR #2:** Sub-par drop – within 2 ft. – 29.5–52.4ft
  - DSR #3:** Spot on
  - DSR #4:** 308ft. from shore; <~26ft water depth





# Phase I: Lessons Learned



## Challenges

- Limited facilities
- Surf-zone
- Depth (<60 ft.)

## Equipment

- Buoys (700 mm. dia.)
  - Larger size
  - Mold-in graphics
- Rode:
  - Oceanographic rope (MBARI)
  - Rubber cord (CDIP)

# Vessel Activity: Special Closures

Number of boats recorded in special closure areas			
	2008	2009	2010
Devil's Slide Rock Special Closure	14	16	2
Point Reyes Headlands Special Closure	3	1	1
Point Resistance Rock Special Closure	0	0	2
Double Point/Stormy Stack Special Closure	2	1	5

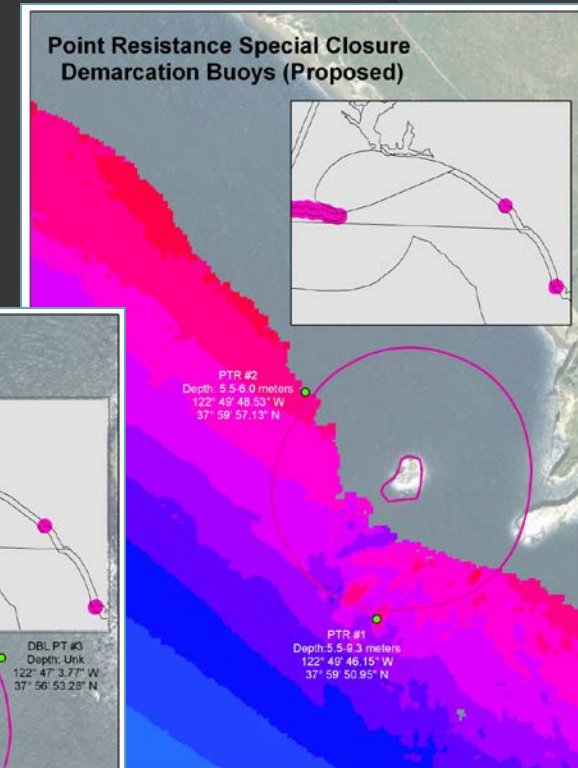
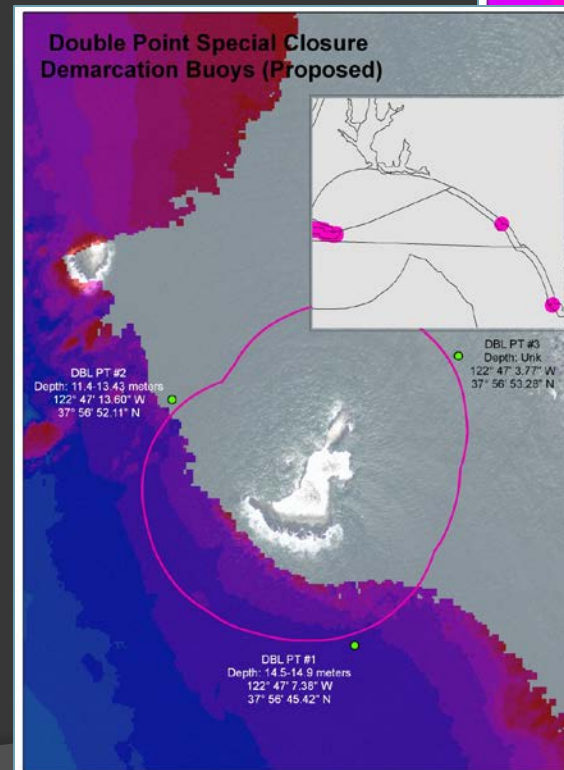
## ○ Reported in 2011

- 3 incidents at Devil's Slide Rock (2 involved same vessel)
- 2 incidents at Stormy Stack

One disturbance can destroy an entire colony!

# Looking into the Future

- Phase II scheduled to begin in October
- Next week
  - Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
  - Provide guidance on the best way forward



# Activities to Inform Boaters about Marine Protected Areas

- Comprehensive Boater Education Program
- Mailing to over 350 boating facilities, interest groups
- Way-side interpretive signage

Point Reyes National Seashore

## Protecting Our Marine Life



**Why are marine protected areas important?**  
They are designed to function as an integrated network of special ocean and coastal zones important to ocean food web protection and restoring the health of our oceans. California passed the Marine Life Protection Act in 1999 to establish marine protected areas, known as MPAs to help sea life survive and thrive.

- **State Marine Conservation Areas (SMCA)**  
Prohibits take (removal, killing or harm) of all living marine resources EXCEPT:
  - In **Point Reyes SMCA**, the recreational and commercial take of salmon by trolling and Dungeness crab by trap is allowed.
  - In **Drakes Estero SMCA**, the recreational take of clams with a valid state permit, and the commercial aquaculture of shellfish is allowed.
- **State Marine Reserves (SMR)**  
Prohibit take of all living marine resources throughout **Point Reyes SMR** and **Estero de Limantour SMR**.
- **Special Closures**  
Restrict all watercraft from designated zones. Access is prohibited within 1,000 feet of the south side of Point Reyes Headlands within 300 feet of Point Resistance Rock and within 300 feet of Double Point/Stormy Stack Rock.

For detailed regulations on Marine Protected Areas visit California Department of Fish and Game [www.dfg.ca.gov/mipa](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mipa)



Breeding Common Murres need high densities of energy rich prey.



MPAs help protect a variety of fish and their habitats, including stone mussels, which live to nearly 80 years, and may remain in the same rocky area their entire lives.



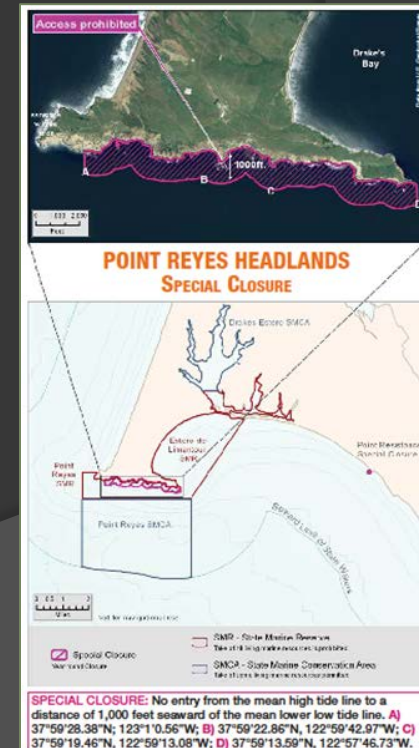
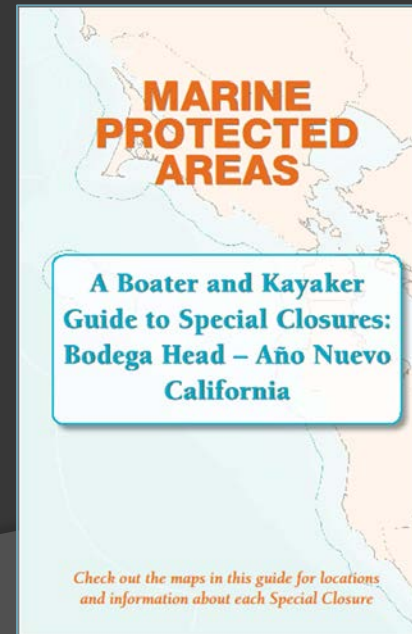
Pigeon Guillemots can be seen fishing here and nesting nearby. Special Closures protect them from disturbance.

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary

SEABIRD PROTECTION NETWORK

# Activities to Inform Boaters about Marine Protected Areas

- Boater & Kayaking Guide
- Assisting with California Department of Fish & Game with interpretive enforcement
- Aerial vessel use surveys





Thank you!

Questions?