

Postcards from
the Edge:
International
Restoration
Projects from
California
Trustee Councils



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Sacramento FWO
Steve Hampton, CDFW-OSPR
for California Trustees



Where are CA Trustees Implementing Projects?

- Command: New Zealand
- Luckenbach: New Zealand, Canada, Baja California
- Montrose: Baja California
- Cosco Busan: Canada

Why Consider International Restoration Projects?

- Birds travel, do not recognize borders
 - Allows evaluation of threats throughout species range and life cycle
 - Sometimes the best or only restoration for injured Pacific Coast birds is outside of the United States!
 - *Messaging priority!*
- Provides larger suite of projects to evaluate
- Ancillary benefits
 - Provides for wildlife science internationally
 - Fosters international relationships with wildlife biologists



Considerations

- Do you have Trustee support?
- Will exchange rates affect costs over the life of the project?
 - Weak dollar, costs may go up, strong dollar, costs down
- Who will implement the project?
 - Need NGO to transfer funds and oversee (NRDA funds go to Trustee and Trustee cannot give funds to other gov't)
 - What about site visits and your role? Within budget?

Rakíura Titi
Restoration
Project:
Predator
eradication
in NZ



Sooty Shearwater Restoration
Command Trustees

What to Do About Injury to Sooty Shearwaters?



- Sooty Shearwaters injured during spill in 1998
- Most abundant seabird off Central CA May-Sept.
- Second most abundant species found oiled
- Banded shearwater from NZ oiled and killed during spill
- Draft Restoration plan: no project for shearwaters

Predator Eradication in New Zealand

- Public meeting: Seabird biologist suggests project in NZ
- Introduced predators eat shearwater eggs and chicks at nesting grounds at NZ islands
- Project best suited to benefit birds in CA
- Important to Rakiura Maori (NZ south-indigenous people) and NZ Dept. of Conservation
- NGO equipped to implement



Shearwater Migration Route



Partners

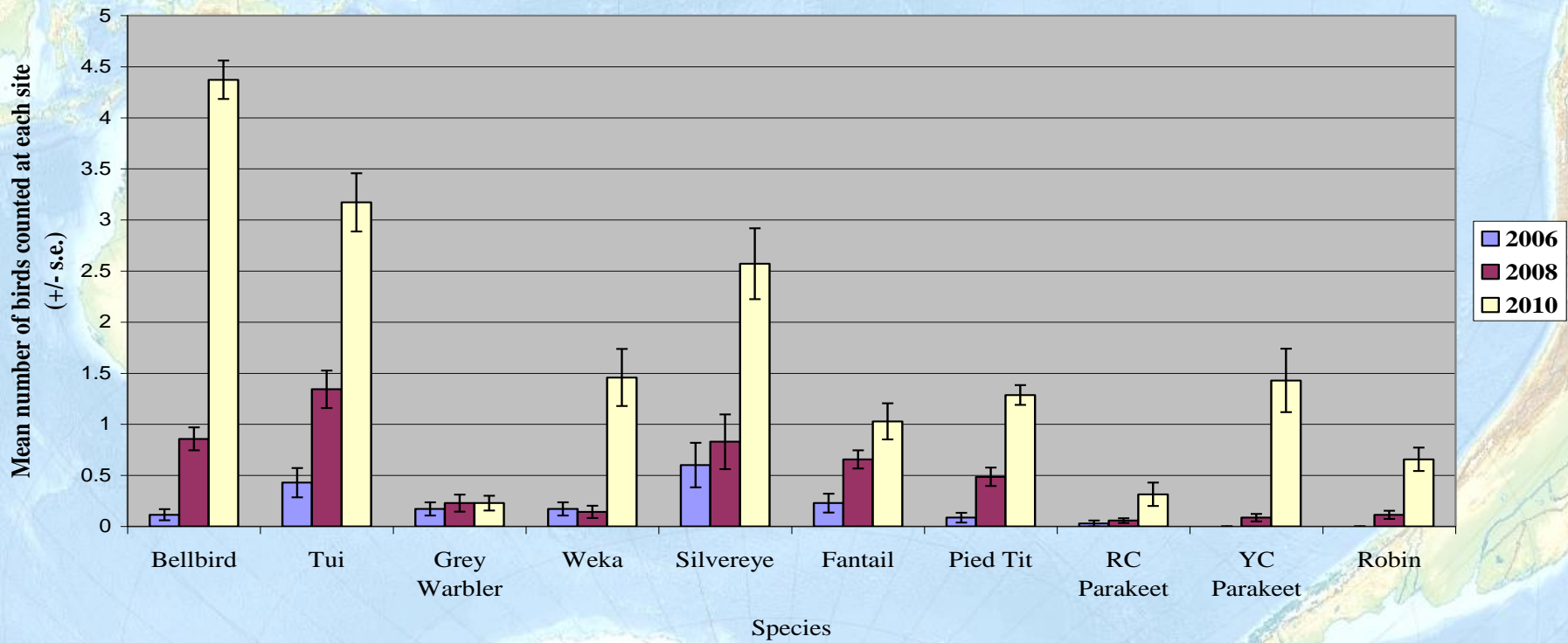
- Cooperative Agreement between USFWS and Oikonos (US NGO)
- Oikonos partnered with
 - Ka Mate Nga Kiore Inc. Society (Maori Environmental Stewards)
 - New Zealand Dept. of Conservation
 - University of Otago



Project Implemented 2006

- 4 Islands are rat free: over 2500 acres
- Native and indigenous invertebrates and land birds have rebounded

Changes in the abundance of native birds before and after a rat eradication on
Taukihepa
SW Rakiura/Stewart Island



Shearwater
Colony
Protection at
Taíaroa
Head, NZ

Sooty Shearwater Restoration
Luckenbach Trustees



Taiaroa Head





Otago
Peninsula



Spotted Shag colony

**SHEARWATER
NESTING AREA**

F E D C B

Public Parking

Royal Albatross
Colony

Fence boundary

REID PROPERTY

Pilot's Beach
Little Blue Penguin
colony



**SHEARWATER COLONY
(NW EDGE)**



**FREE PUBLIC
ACCESS**



SHAG COLONY

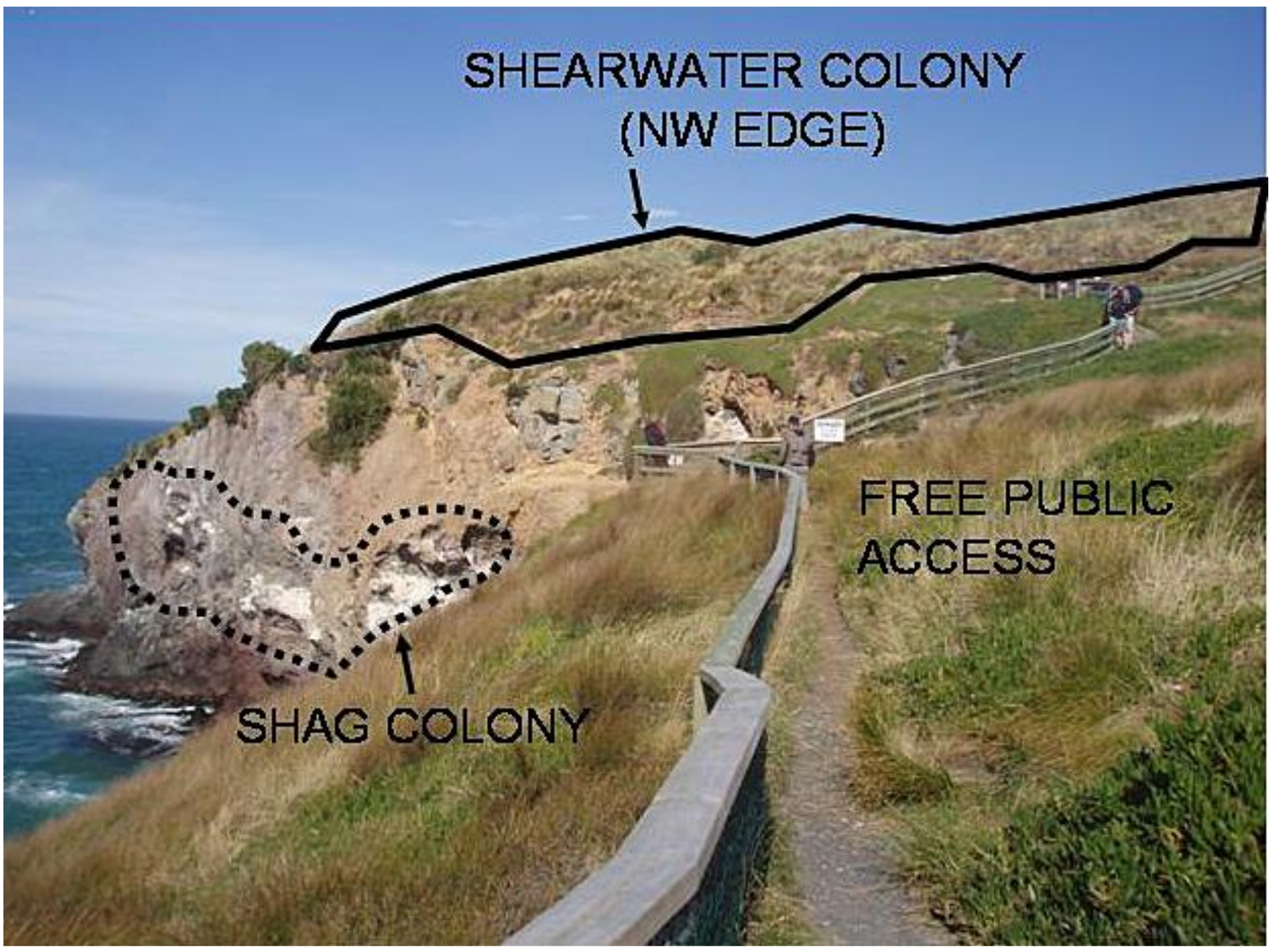




Photo by Jaime Newman



Photo by Jaime Newman

- Predator-proof fence completed in 2012
- Landowner began small mammal control in 2012
- Occupied burrows increased from 900 in 2011/12 to 1,200 in 2012/13
- No rabbits seen
- Increases in shearwaters at extremities of main colony suggests expansion

Rat
Eradication at
Haída Gwaíi
(Queen
Charlotte
Islands,
CANADA)



Ancient Murrelet Restoration
Luckenbach Trustees



- Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve, Haida Gwaii is important habitat for a variety of marine birds during the breeding and non-breeding seasons
- Significant declines in native species attributed to non-native rats
- Rats documented on at least 20 islands

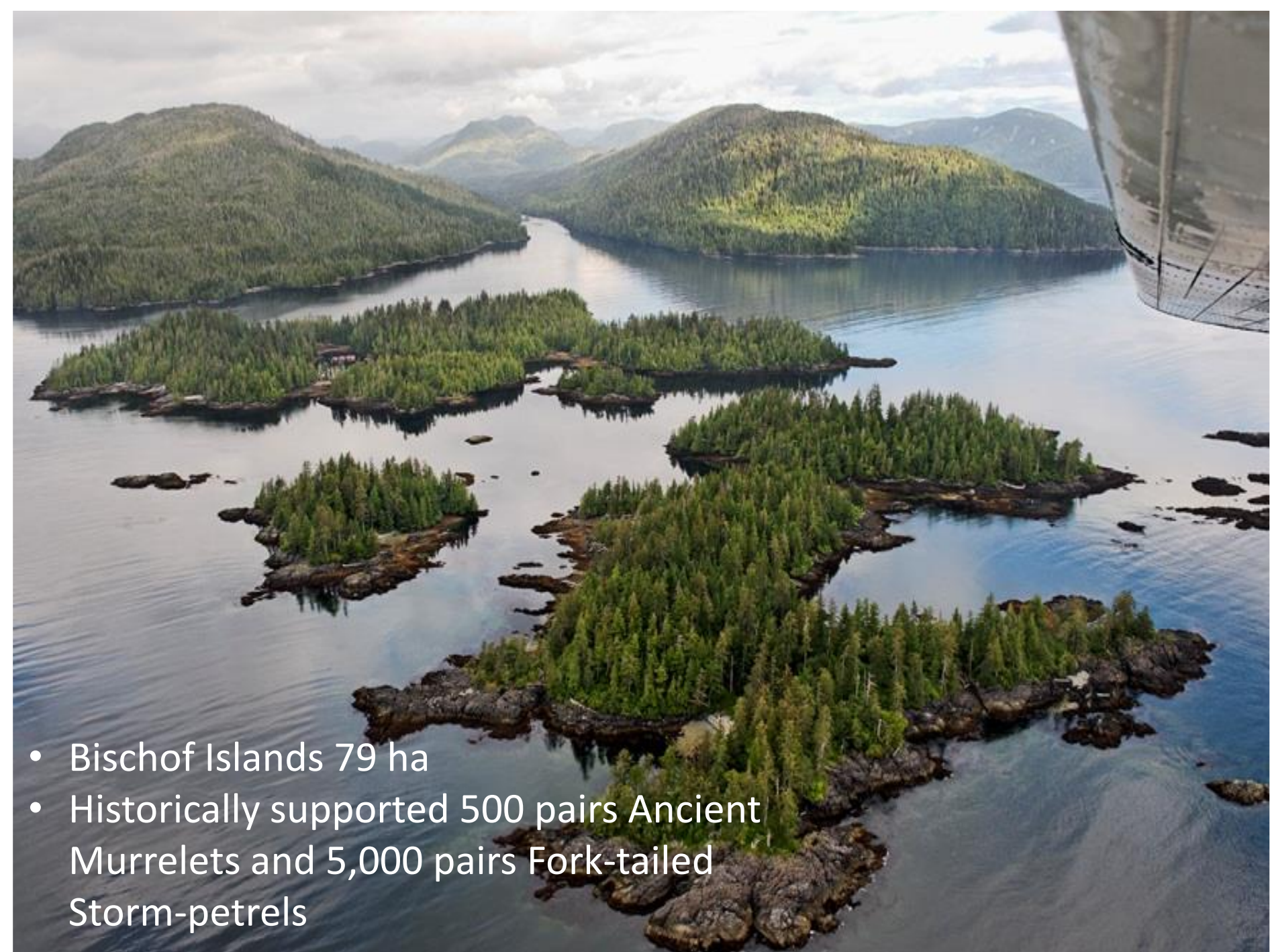
SGin Xaana Sdiihlt'Ixa: Night Birds Returning

- Parks Canada
- Haida Nation
- Archipelago Management Board
- Island Conservation
- Coastal Conservation



- Arichika Island 15 ha
- Historically supported 500 pairs
Ancient Murrelets, Cassin's Auklets
and Fork-tailed Storm-petrels





- Bischof Islands 79 ha
- Historically supported 500 pairs Ancient Murrelets and 5,000 pairs Fork-tailed Storm-petrels



- Installed unbaited stations in 2010
- 50 x 50 m grid spacing
- Baited stations with rodenticide in August 2011
- Efficacy monitoring
- Mitigation measures
- Biodiversity & Non-target surveys
- Monitoring continues to Oct 2014



Seabird
Colony
Protection on
Baja
California
Islands,
Mexico

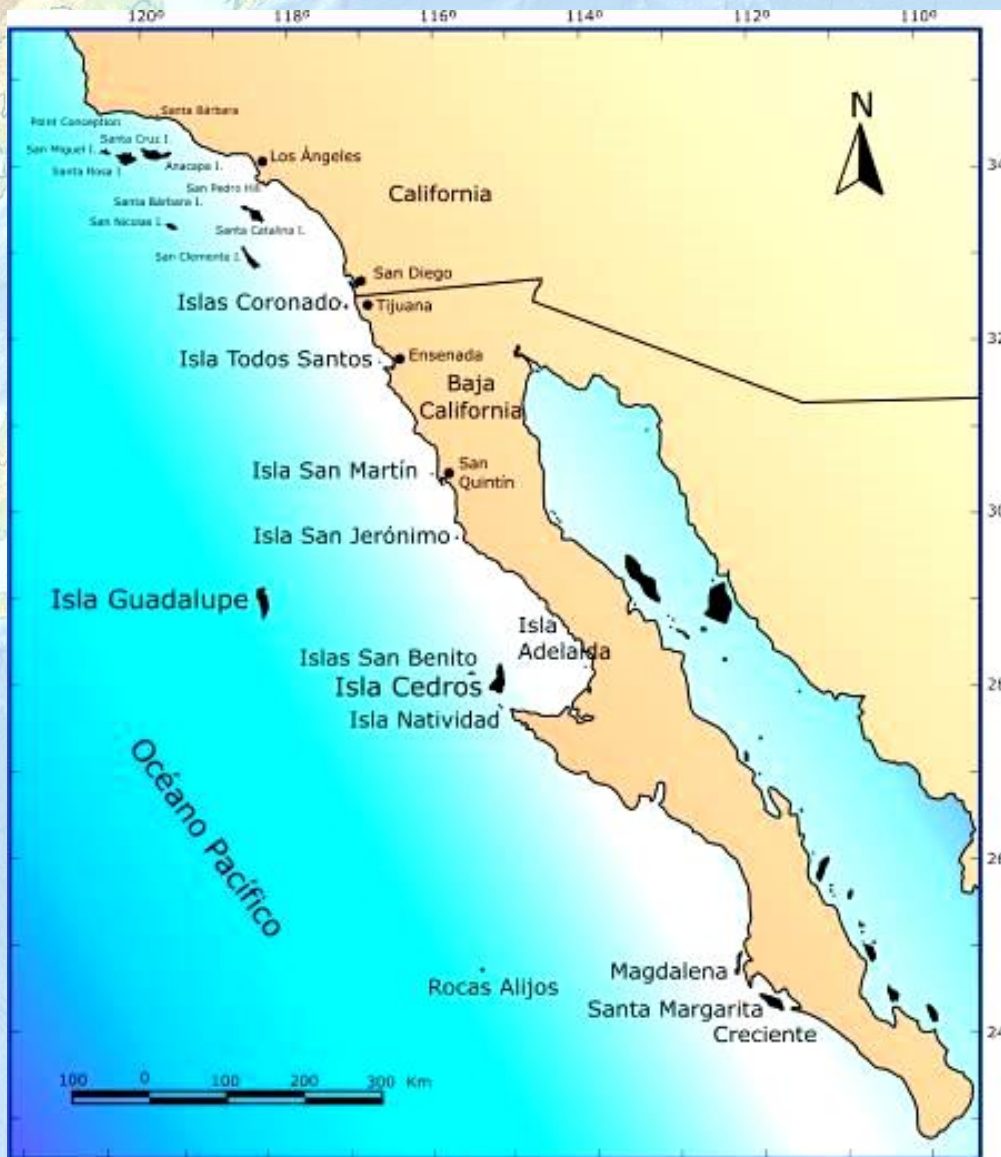


Seabird Restoration
Montrose Trustees
Luckenbach Trustees

Mexico: 55 Successful Eradications on 35 Islands in 15 years



Baja California Pacific Islands

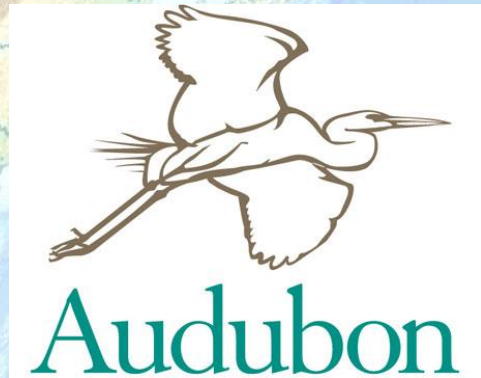


- Globally recognized as Important Bird Areas
- 7 target islands
 - Coronados
 - Todos Santos
 - San Martín
 - San Jerónimo
 - Natividad
 - Asunción
 - San Roque

Seabird Restoration on the Baja California Pacific Islands

- 2005- Identified in Montrose Restoration Plan
- 2006- Identified in Luckenbach Restoration Plan
- 2010- Luckenbach Council's claims approved
- 2011- Joint Request for Proposals, award selection
- 2012- Contracting
- 2013- Project Initiation – Year 1 of 5

Bi-National Partnership



Conservación
de Islas



FRIENDS OF THE
MEXICAN FUND
FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF
NATURE

The **Cornell** Lab
of Ornithology 

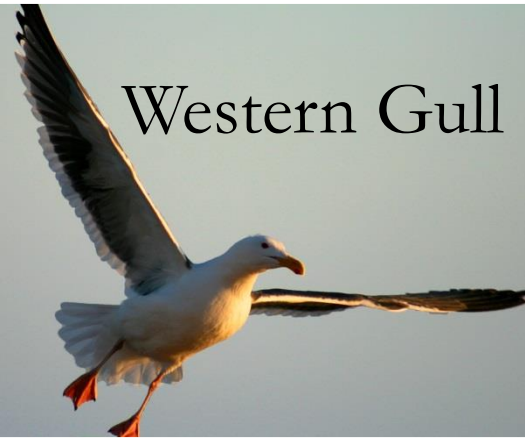
Target Species



California Brown Pelican



Western Gull



Ashy Storm-Petrel



Scripps's Murrelet



Cassin's Auklet



Project Goal: Restore and Protect Seabird Populations on the Baja California Pacific Islands

- 
- Habitat restoration
 - Social attraction
 - Disturbance reduction
 - Educational outreach
 - Monitoring

Habitat Restoration

- Assessment of vegetation communities
- Removal of exotic plant species
- 2013: Iceplant cleared on Todos Santos (17 ac) and Coronado Islands (16 ac)



Social Attraction to Encourage Recolonization

- Decoys
- Nest boxes
- Replica eggs
- Mirrors
- Sound



Disturbance Reduction Measures

- Design and establish trails to avoid nesting areas (San Martín)
- Construct boardwalks to avoid crushing burrows (San Jerónimo)
- Restrict access during nesting season
- Install signage

Outreach & Education



Light Shielding



- San Benito Island Pilot Program: reduce timing and intensity of lights
- Similar efforts planned for all 7 target islands

Monitoring

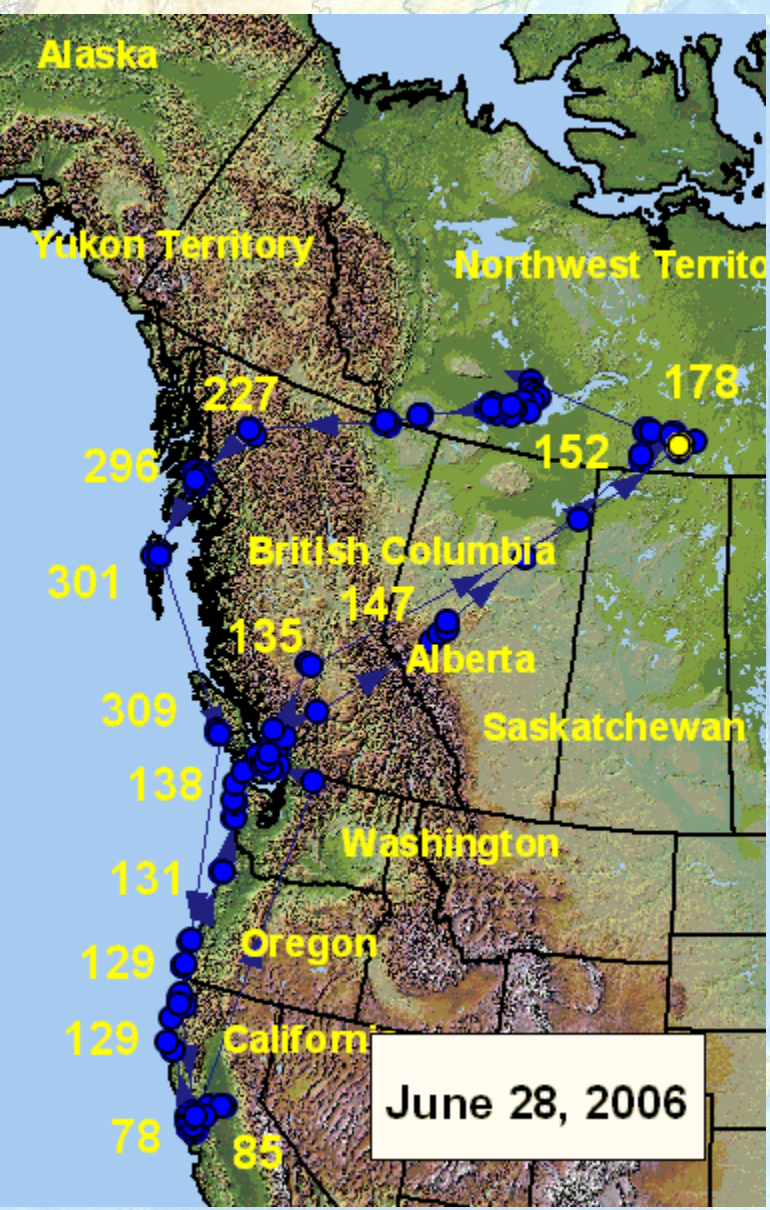
- Acoustical recording devices for nocturnal seabirds that are difficult to detect
- Effectiveness of social attraction efforts
- Monitoring at nesting colonies and at-sea
- Biosecurity



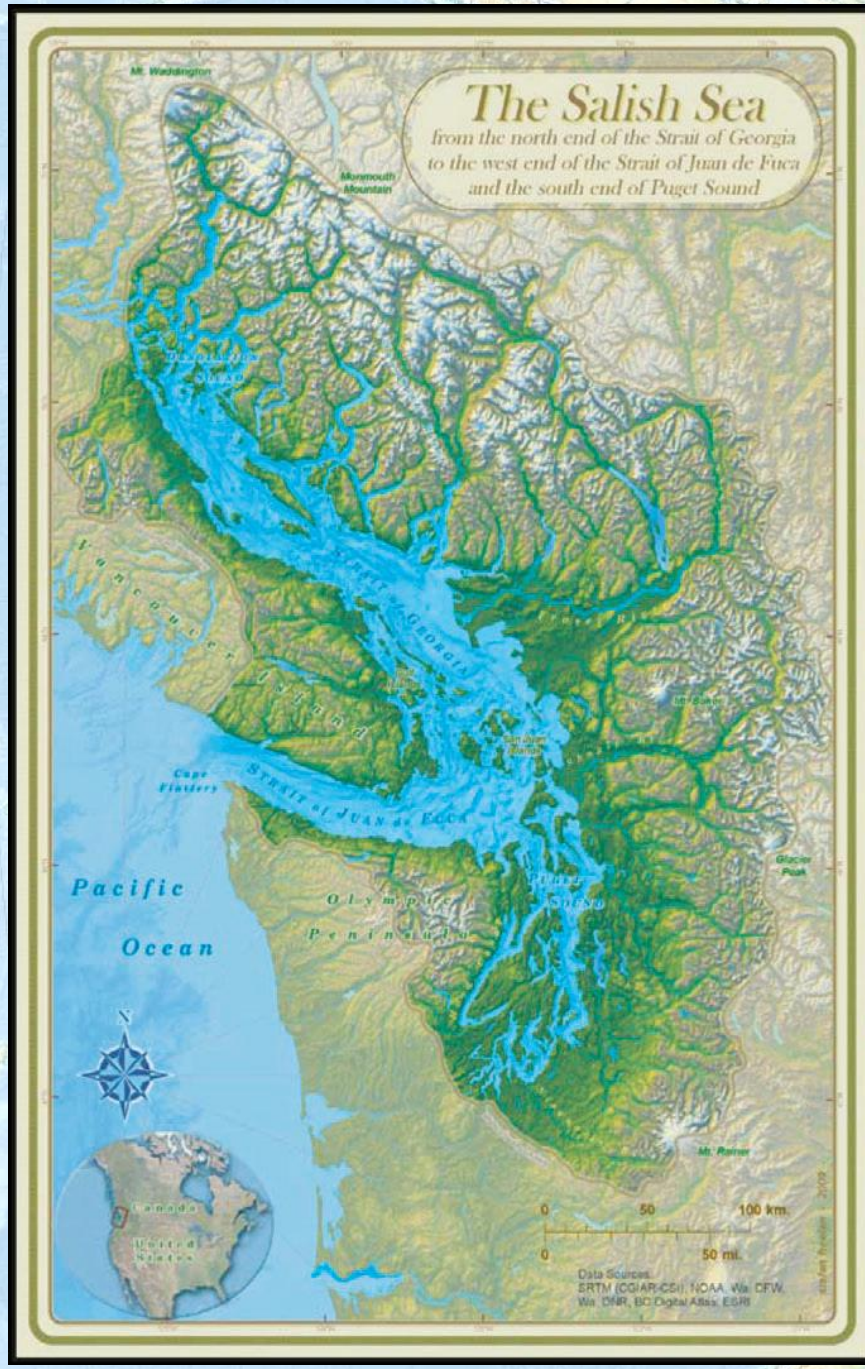
Derelict Net
Removal in
Canadian waters
of Puget Sound
and the Strait of
Georgia



Surf Scoter Restoration
Cosco Busan Trustees



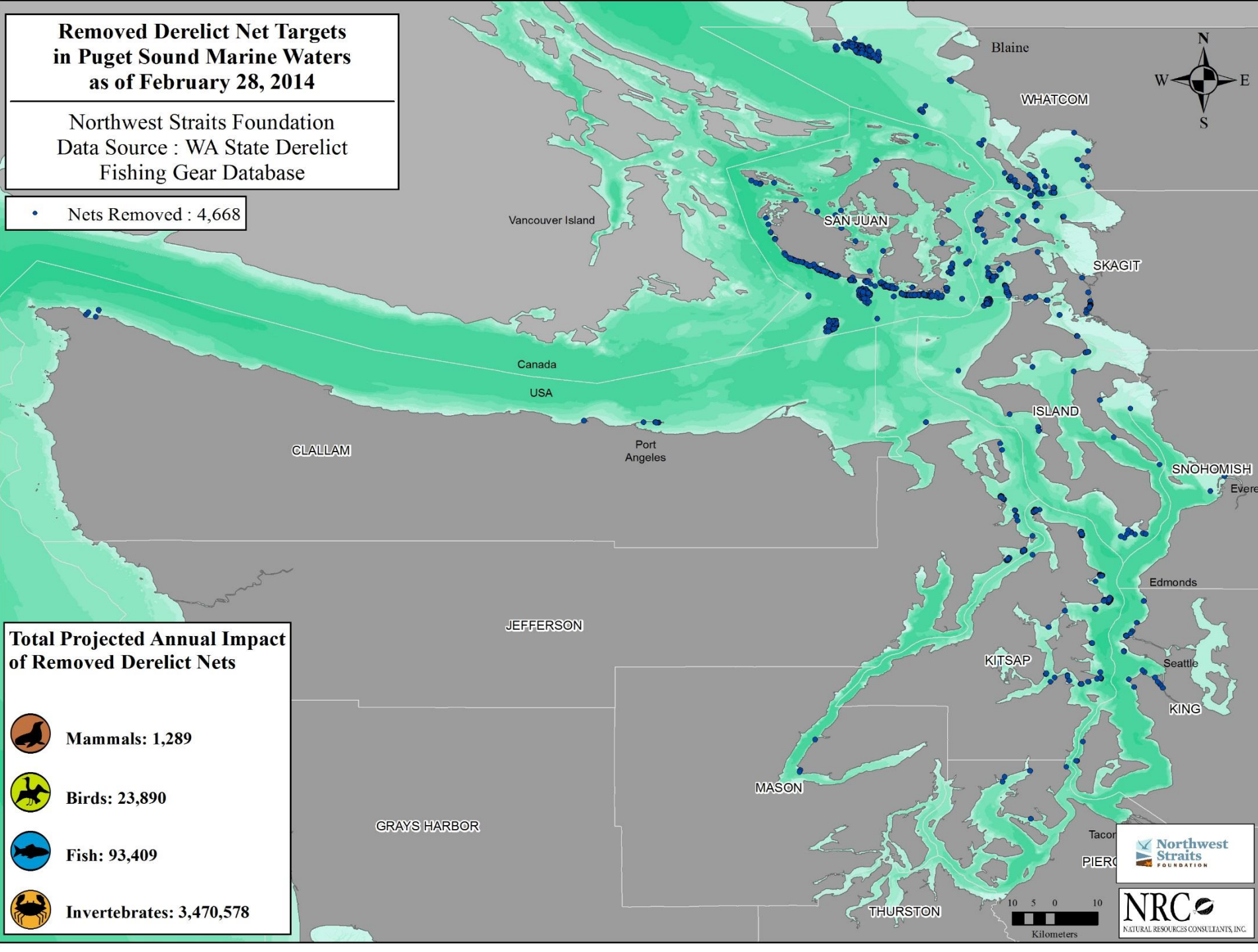
Migration of satellite-tagged Surf Scoters from San Francisco Bay







Removed Derelict Net Targets in Puget Sound Marine Waters as of February 28, 2014

Northwest Straits Foundation
Data Source : WA State Derelict
Fishing Gear Database

• Nets Removed : 4,668

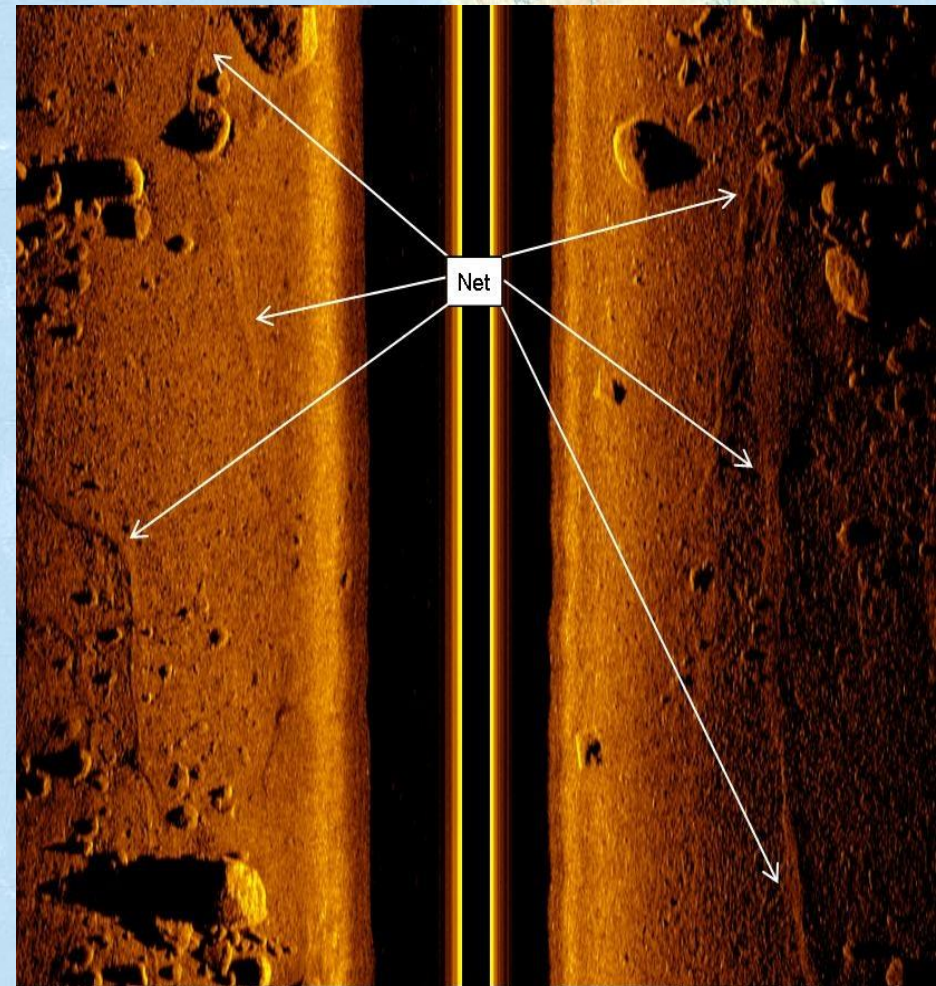


Total Projected Annual Impact of Removed Derelict Nets

-  **Mammals: 1,289**
-  **Birds: 23,890**
-  **Fish: 93,409**
-  **Invertebrates: 3,470,578**

How Do We Find Derelict Fishing Gear?

- Sidescan sonar can cover large areas effectively (2.25 sq. miles/day of 20 linear miles/day)
- Identify and locate pots, nets and underwater obstacles likely to snag nets
- Return with divers to verify and remove nets
- Reports of lost or found nets from the field



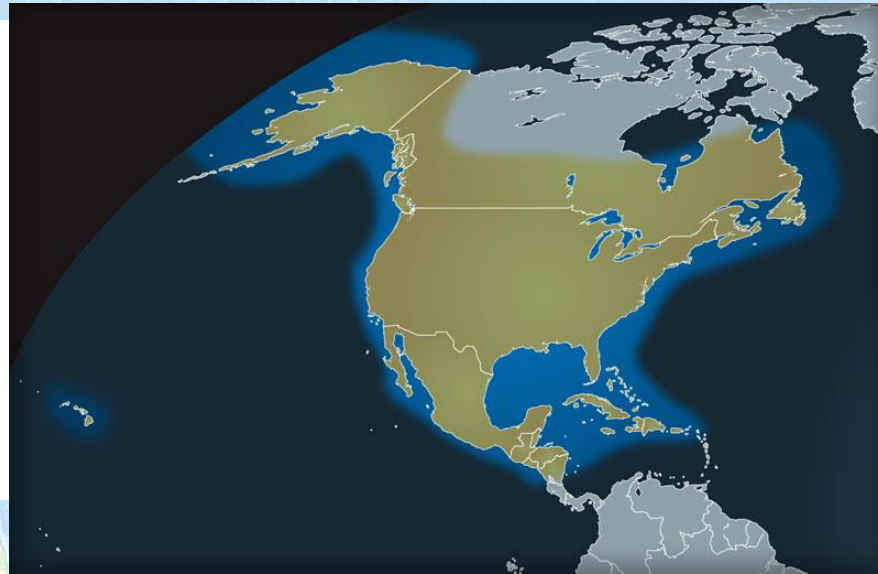


Trilateral Committee's Island Working Group Letter of Intent

- **Endorsed by all three countries**
- **In addition to FWS, 3 additional U.S. agencies are participating agencies (BLM, NOAA, NPS)**
- **Builds long-term capacity and support for island restoration and conservation**
- **Will be signed at upcoming Trilateral Meeting in May in Mexico**

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Conservation and Restoration of the Islands of Canada, U.S., and Mexico



Trilateral Committee Update
