

## Notification of Change in Restoration Project for Kure and Stuyvesant Oil Spills

The Kure and Stuyvesant Trustee Council (Trustees) comprised of representatives from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, are the natural resource trustees responsible for implementing the restoration plans addressing the injuries to natural resources resulting from the Kure oil spill in Humboldt Bay in 1997 and the Stuyvesant oil spill along the Humboldt Coast in 1999. The Redding Rock Murre Re-colonization project was selected in both the 2007 Stuyvesant/Humboldt Coast Oil Spill Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan/Environmental Assessment (DARP/EA) and the 2008 Kure/Humboldt Bay Oil Spill DARP/EA to compensate for injuries to Common Murres, other Alcids and Procellariids. As certain elements of the Redding Rock project were not feasible, the Trustees are funding a previously non-preferred project that encompasses the education and outreach components of the Redding Rock project. The North Coast Seabird Protection Network project will address human disturbance to breeding seabird colonies and enhance the recovery of seabird populations injured by spills along the North coast.

As described in the DARP/EAs, the Redding Rock restoration project included a) cooperation between State and federal agencies to prevent human disturbance of murres during the nesting season and development of a site specific restoration plan to address protection from overflights and on-water disturbance using an adaptive approach relying primarily on education and voluntary compliance; b) installation of small barriers to keep California Sea Lions off the top areas of the rock; and c) use of social attraction techniques to attract murres to Redding Rock. The education and outreach regarding disturbance potentially included other murre breeding rocks in the vicinity. To guide project implementation, specific restoration actions relative to sea lion barriers, artificial breeding ledges and disturbance reduction to protect breeding murres on Redding Rock were assessed (Thibault et al. 2010). Short-term structures were deemed impractical, costly and logistically difficult to maintain. Therefore, the recommendations for sea lion barriers included large (2-3 m), permanent structures covered with natural-appearing material to visually blend into the rock. As installation of such permanent structures on the rock conflicted with other natural and cultural resources, the Trustees determined that the Redding Rock project, as described in the DARP/EAs relative to installation of barriers, was infeasible.

Seeking a replacement project, the Trustees reassessed the non-preferred projects for murres in the DARP/EAs (Parker et al. 2011). Both the Trinidad Seabird Colony (Sea Lion Rock) and Whaler Island projects had considerable obstacles reducing their likelihood of success. The Trustees investigated the acquisition of Rockport Rocks as a potential restoration action; however, there was no willing seller. The remaining project, a human disturbance reduction program in Del Norte and Humboldt counties could provide potential benefits to seabirds with minimal potential concerns and with a high likelihood of success. This project essentially focuses upon the outreach and education component of the original Redding Rock project.

In 2014, the Trustees met with Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to discuss the formation of a Seabird Protection Network chapter for the North Coast to address human disturbance to breeding seabirds. The BLM Arcata Field Office is well positioned to oversee a chapter for the North Coast as the office currently provides the local management of the rocks and islands of the California Coastal National Monument (CCNM) and have partnered successfully with local tribes, government agencies and non-governmental organizations on matters relating to the

CCNM. In December, 2016, the BLM hosted a kick-off workshop with representatives from tribes, federal agencies, state and local governments, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions and local businesses to help develop the North Coast Seabird Protection Network (NCSPN). In March, 2017, BLM hosted a stakeholder meeting to discuss and provide feedback on a draft action plan developed from information gathered at the kick-off workshop. The finalized plan provides a framework program plan for the NCSPN.

The primary goal of the NCSPN is to work in collaboration with federal and state agencies, tribes, non-governmental organizations, stakeholders, and the general public to reduce human disturbance and improve the survival and recruitment of seabirds along the North Coast, with a focus on the Trinidad area. The components of the NCSPN are: 1) Outreach and Education; 2) Enforcement and Coordinated Management; and 3) Monitoring. The BLM Arcata Field Office, in conjunction with staff from the CCNM, will implement the NCSPN, develop the overall program plan, manage the program, and coordinate completion of all priority actions. The NCSPN is consistent with the California Coastal National Monument Resource Management Plan (2005; DOI-BLM-CA-939-2005-0008-EIS). The Trustees funded development of the NCSPN Action Plan. The Trustees will fund five years of project implementation with the remaining project funds.