

Committee Staff Summary for May 16, 2024

6. Plastic Pollution from Shotgun Wads**Today's Item**Information ☐Action ☒

Discuss and potentially make a recommendation regarding plastic pollution from shotgun debris from waterfowl hunting.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

- Initial discussion January 16, 2024
- **Today's discussion and potential recommendation** **May 16, 2024**

Background

With respect to shotgun ammunition, the term “wad” refers to a shotgun shell component that is used to separate the shot from the powder, contain the shotgun shot, and provide a seal that prevents gas from blowing through the shot rather than propelling the shot out of the shotgun. The shotgun shell has a case and, after firing the shotgun, the case remains in the shotgun and is manually discharged by the operator, while the wad leaves the gun along with the shot.

Historically, shotgun wads were made from plant fiber, but modern shells employ plastic casings and wads to protect gun barrels and improve performance. Often the plastic wad is ejected 20-50 yards from the hunter and is not retrieved, particularly in wet environments. The plastic waste accumulates in the environment; much of it originates in, or makes its way into, estuaries and other coastal wetlands and, ultimately, into the ocean.

At its January 2024 meeting, WRC received a presentation (Exhibit 1) and explored the scope of the problem regarding estuary and marine pollution caused by plastic shotgun wads. Today WRC will continue a discussion and potentially make a recommendation on possible avenues to address the matter.

Significant Public Comments (N/A)**Recommendation**

Commission staff: Urge hunting organizations and hunters to work with shotgun ammunition manufacturers to design, test, and eventually deploy improved biodegradable and more environmentally responsible shotgun shell materials.

Exhibits

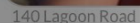
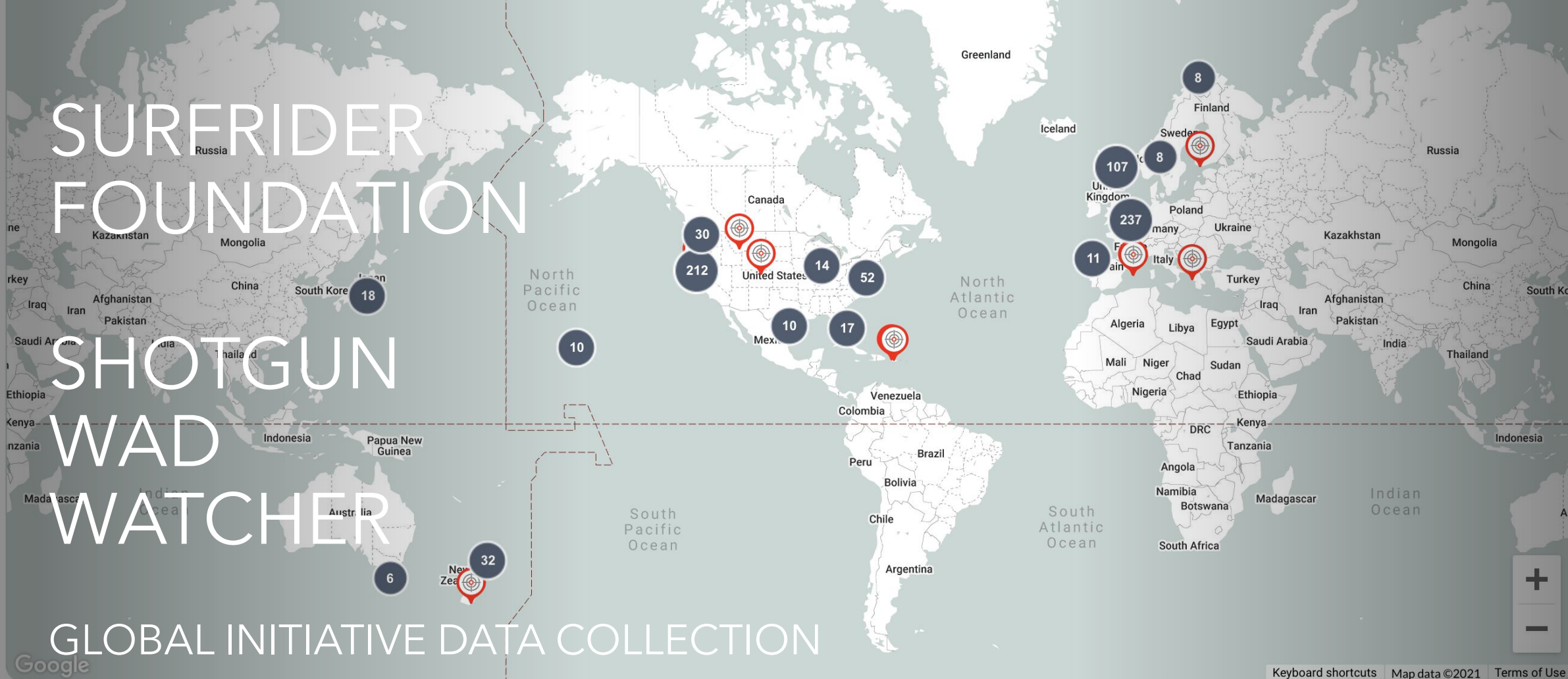
1. [Presentation from Surfrider Foundation, presented at January 2024 WRC meeting](#)

Committee Direction/Recommendation

The Wildlife Resources Committee recommends that the Commission urge hunting organizations and hunters to work with shotgun ammunition manufacturers to design, test, and eventually deploy improved biodegradable and more environmentally responsible shotgun shell materials.

SHOTGUN WAD WATCHER

GLOBAL INITIATIVE DATA COLLECTION



140 Lagoon Road

Marine View Drive

Marine View Drive

Brigantine

Fort Funston

Brigantine

Eel River

Nordenskiöldbreen

A Anneli Vestre
July 24, 2021

SAN FRANCISCO BAY

PLASTIC SHOTGUN WADS

PHOTO: RICHMOND, CA





VARIETY OF WADS IN LOCAL WATERWAYS

PT. PINOLE REGIONAL SHORELINE / SAN PABLO BAY

ANATOMY OF A SHOTGUN SHELL

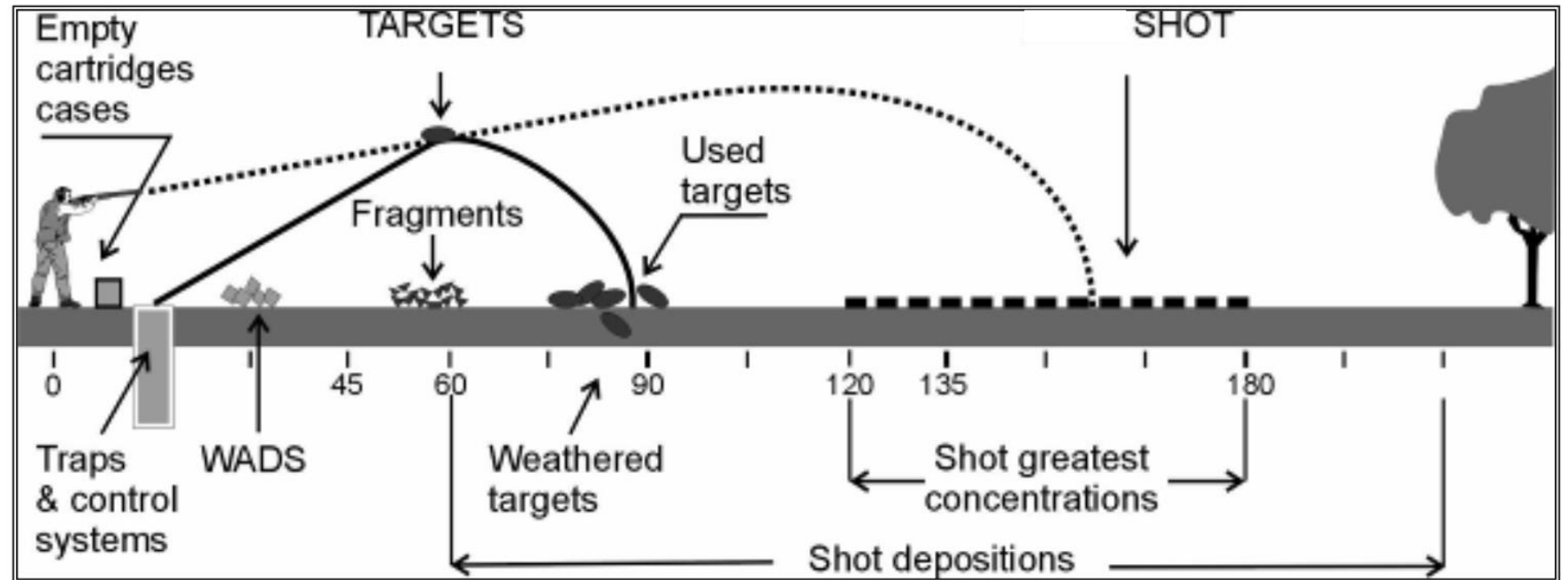
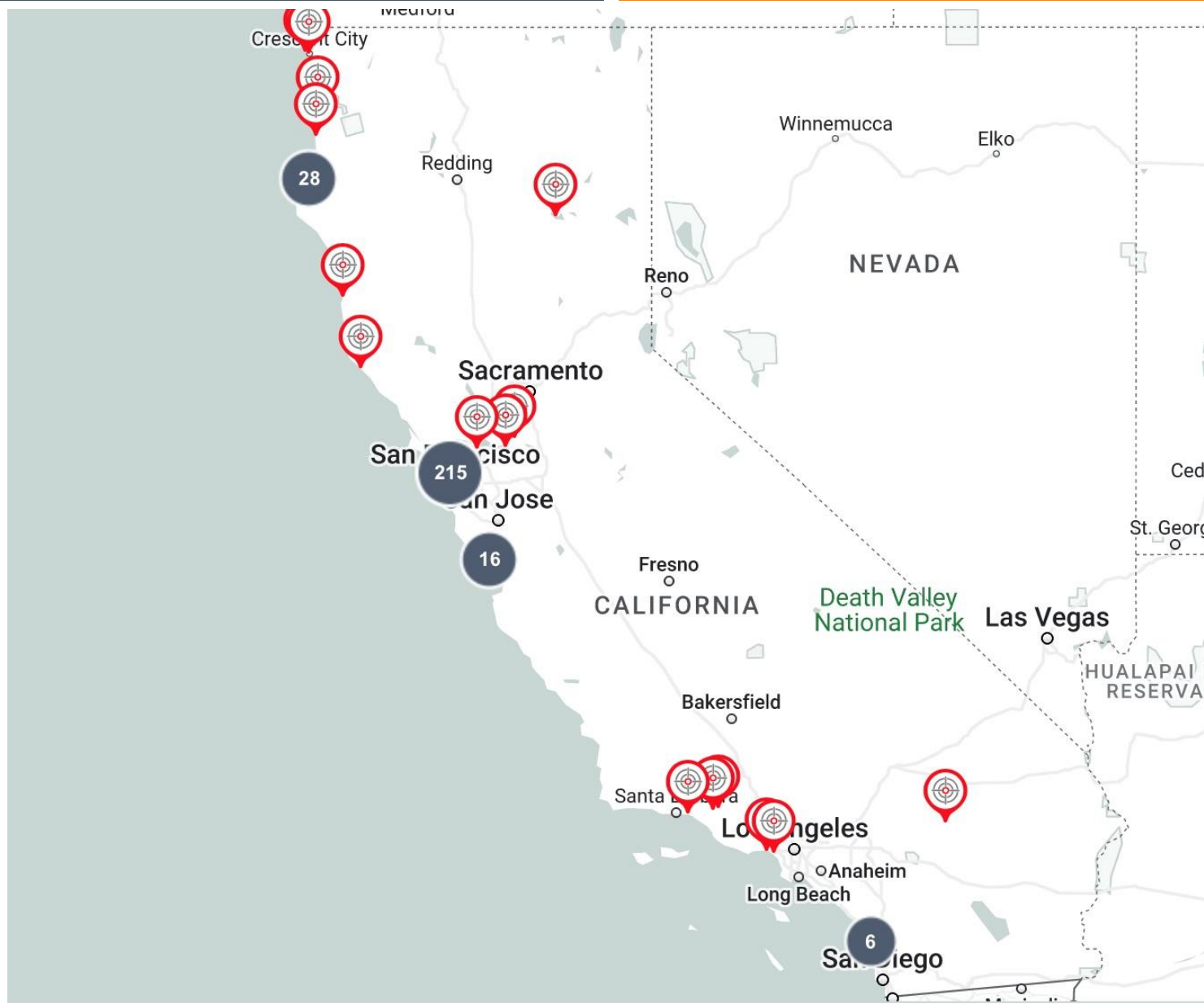


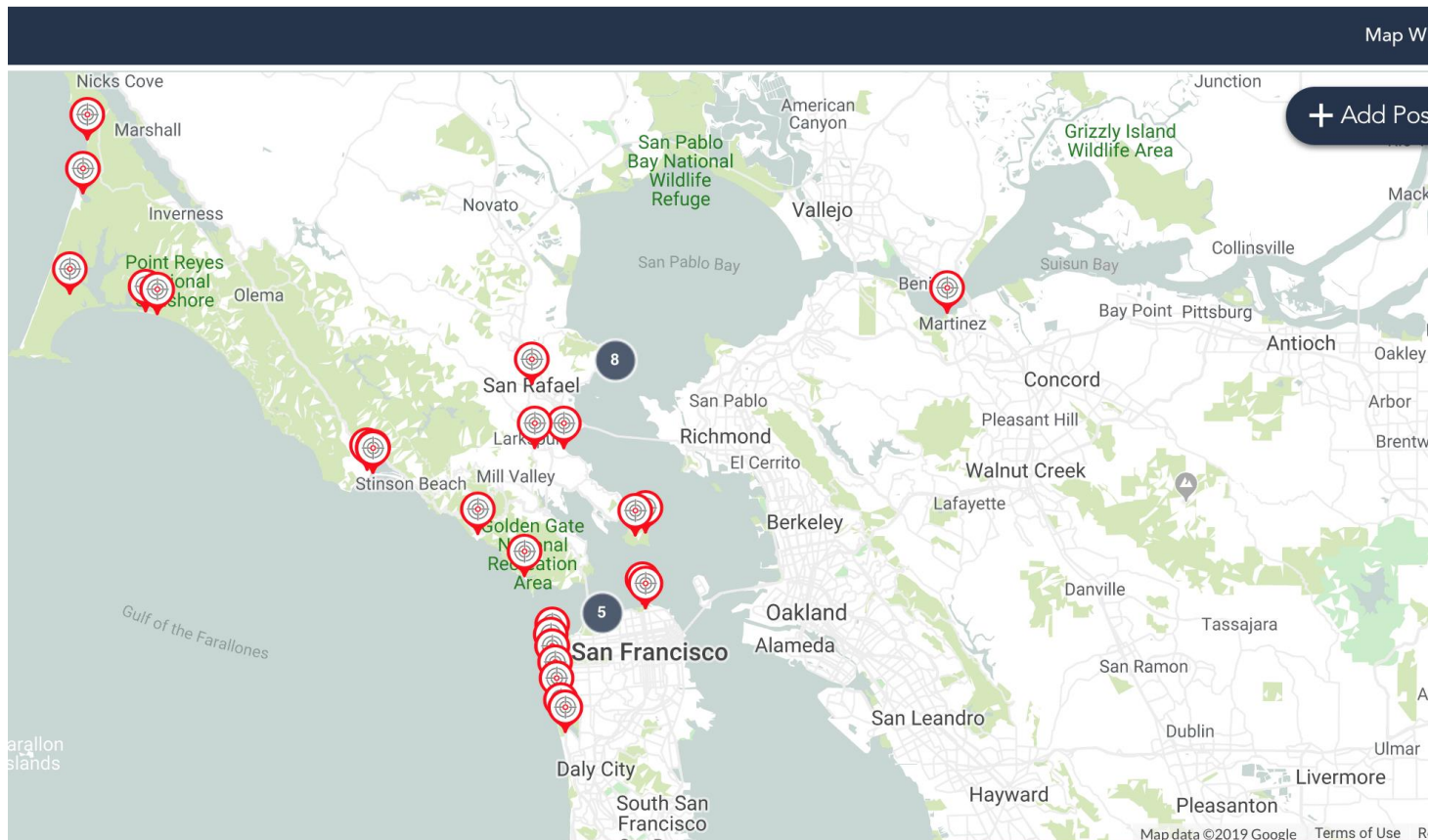
Figure 2-12. Flight paths of different materials resulting from clay target shooting
(in meters, 1 m = 3.28 feet).



PLASTIC SHOTGUN WAD DATA COLLECTION COASTAL CALIFORNIA



PHOTO: SAN FRANCISCO



Coote Point Road
11/22/2019
Libby Wilkinson
November 21, 2019



Crissy Field Ave
11/20/2019
HAY!Straws
November 21, 2019



Kannonzaki park
Found one more yesterday during my beach cleaning.
Hayama mon amour
November 20, 2019



103 Wharf Road
11/18/19
Anna Kauffman
November 19, 2019



3 X Shotgun wad
I found three more shotgun wads on the beach today whil...
Hayama mon amour
November 15, 2019



Lewis Bay, West Yarmouth, MA 02...
11/2/19
Sarah Thornington
November 9, 2019



Great Hwy
11/06/19
Anna Kauffm
November 9,

DATA COLLECTION SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

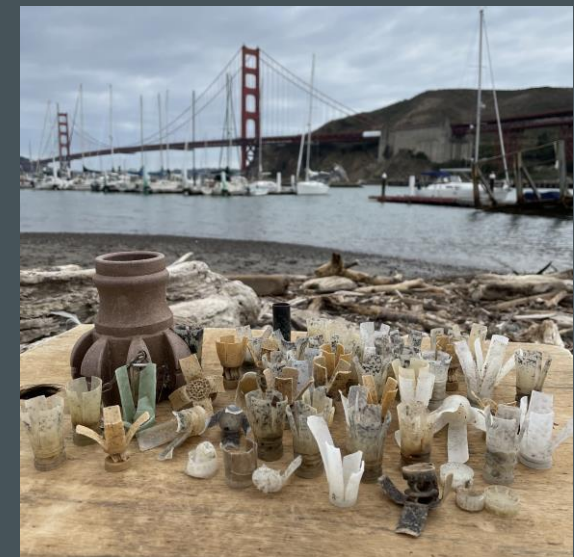
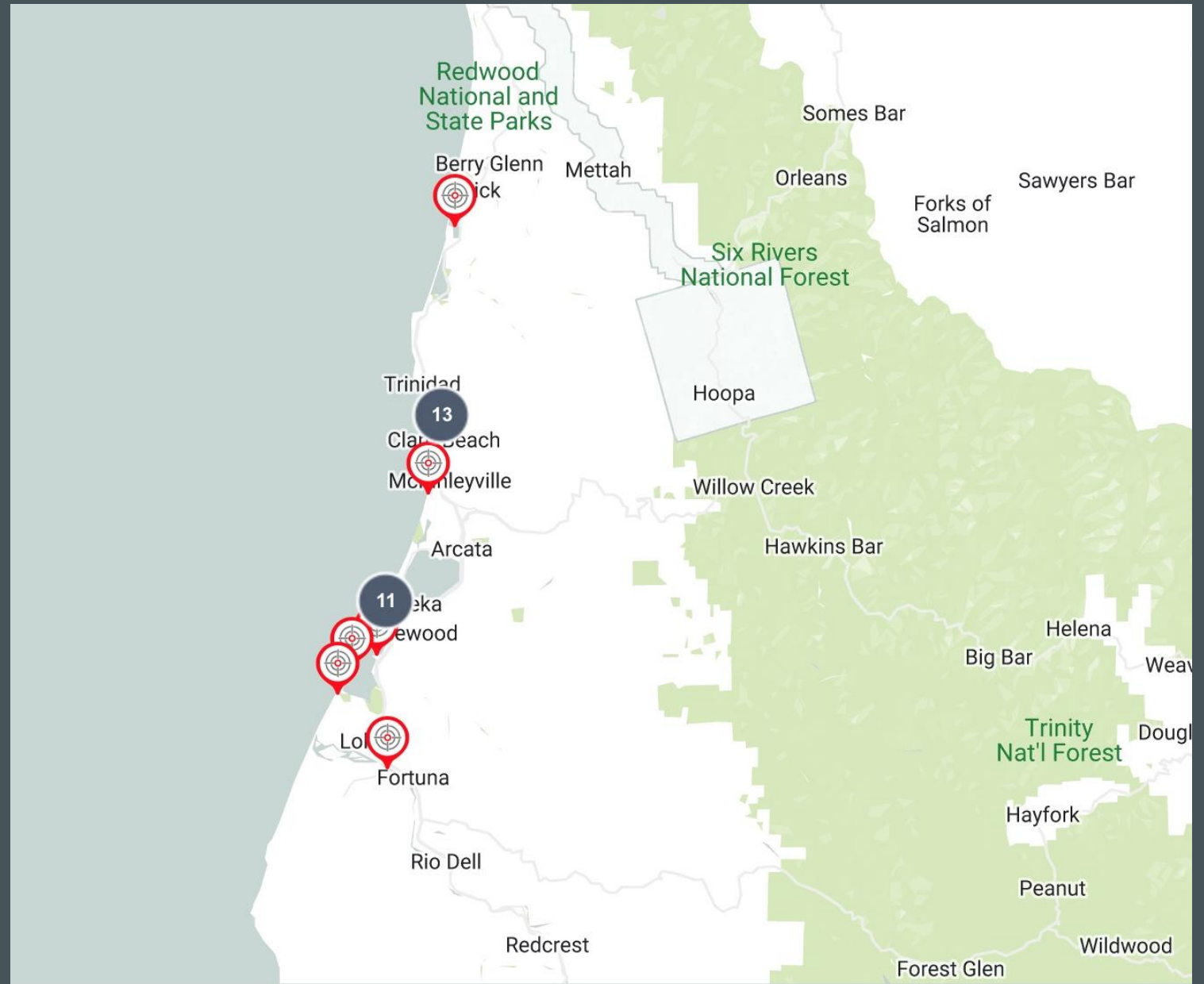


PHOTO: SAUSALITO

DATA COLLECTION HUMBOLDT COUNTY



PHOTO: STONE LAGOON



NOAA OFFICE OF NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES +
NOAA MARINE DEBRIS PROGRAM
BEHAVIOR CHANGE CAMPAIGN TO REDUCE PLASTIC SHOTGUN WAD DEBRIS
ON THE NORTH-CENTRAL CALIFORNIA COAST

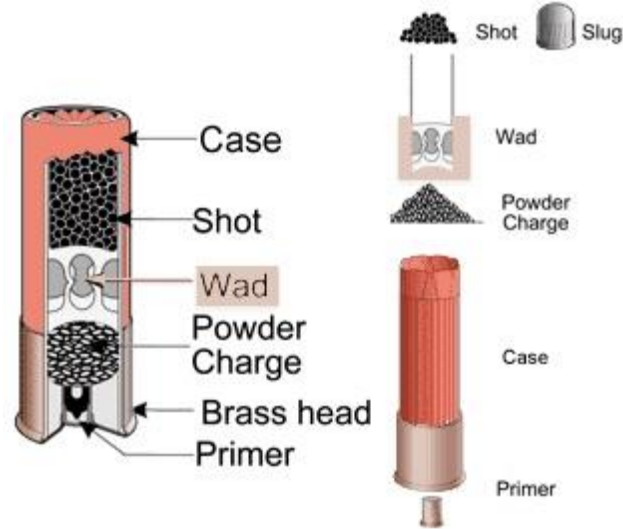


REPORT PUBLISHED IN MAY 2021
focus on shotgun wad retrieval

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MARINE DEBRIS PROJECT MANAGER
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<https://farallones.noaa.gov>





MANUFACTURING UPDATE

PHOTOS:
FINELY GROUND WALNUT SHELL MEDIA BY FOUNDERS GREENOPS AMMO
'ROYAL ECO BLUESTEEL ECO WAD'



THANK YOU FOR INCLUDING THE PLASTIC
SHOTGUN WAD DEBRIS TOPIC TO THE
WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMITTEE
JANUARY 2024 AGENDA

