The National Park Service Mission

"... to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

National Park Service Organic Act, 16 U.S.C.1.

National Park Service, Department of Interior 100th anniversary in 2016

- Yellowstone first National Park established in 1872
- Yosemite first park established in 1865 (150th anniv.)
- >400 National Park Service units
  - 74 Ocean Parks with 34 million acres (24 in PWR)
  - 5,100 miles of shoreline

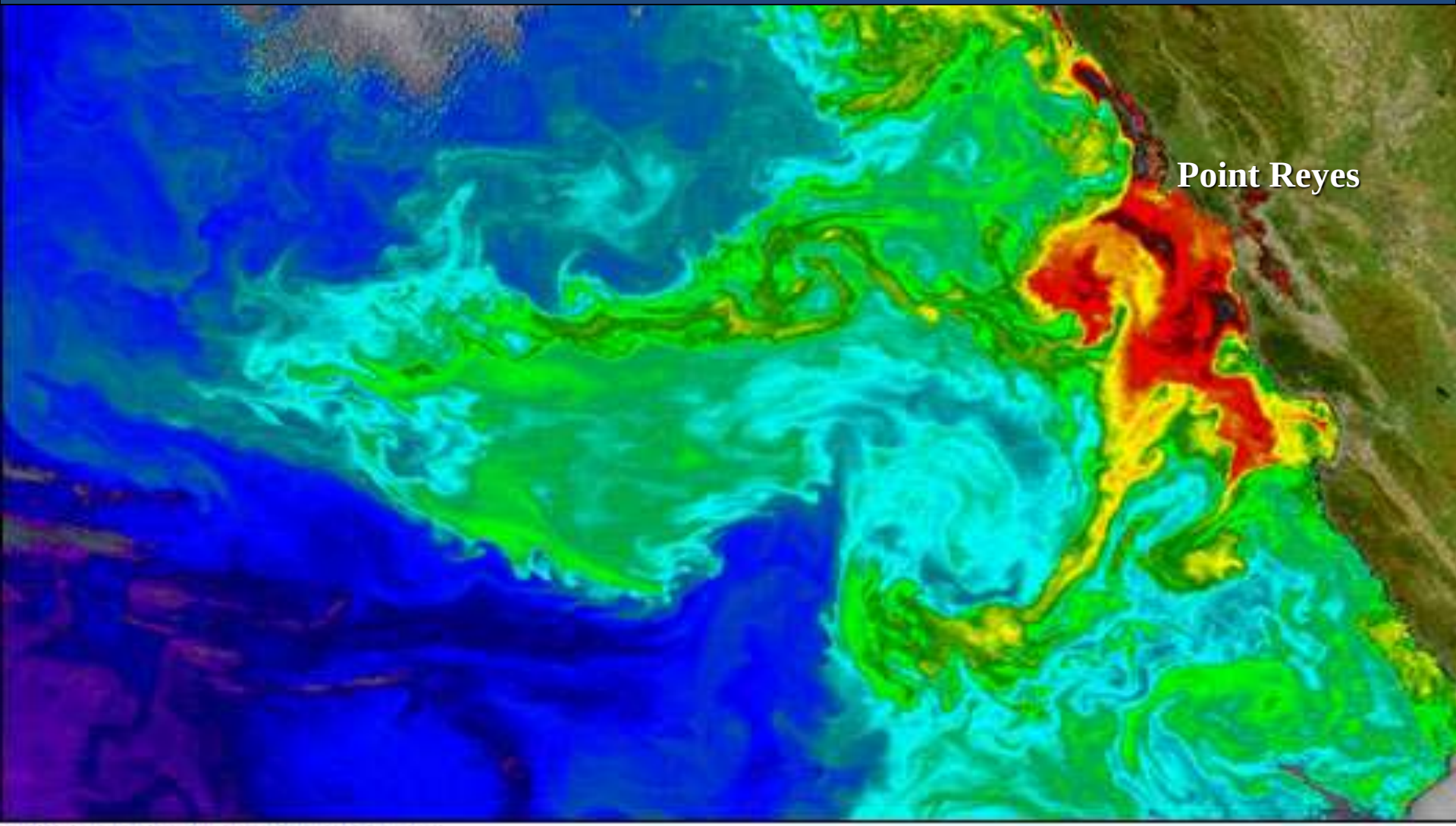
2016
National Park Service
CENTENNIAL
NATIONALPARKS.ORG
FIND YOUR PARK
SUPPORT YOUR PARK
Español
FIND YOUR PARK
Point Reyes National Seashore Fun Fact Friday
It's been 35 years since the first elephant seal pup was born at Point Reyes!
findyourpark.com
#findyourpark
#npwest
© NPS

Point Reyes long history in study of marine mammals beginning with UC Berkeley

Joseph Grinnell and Seth Benson

Collected many specimens including Steller Sea Lion in *1909* and Beaked whale in 1920s

Point Reyes National Seashore
is in heart of an eastern boundary coastal upwelling ecosystem



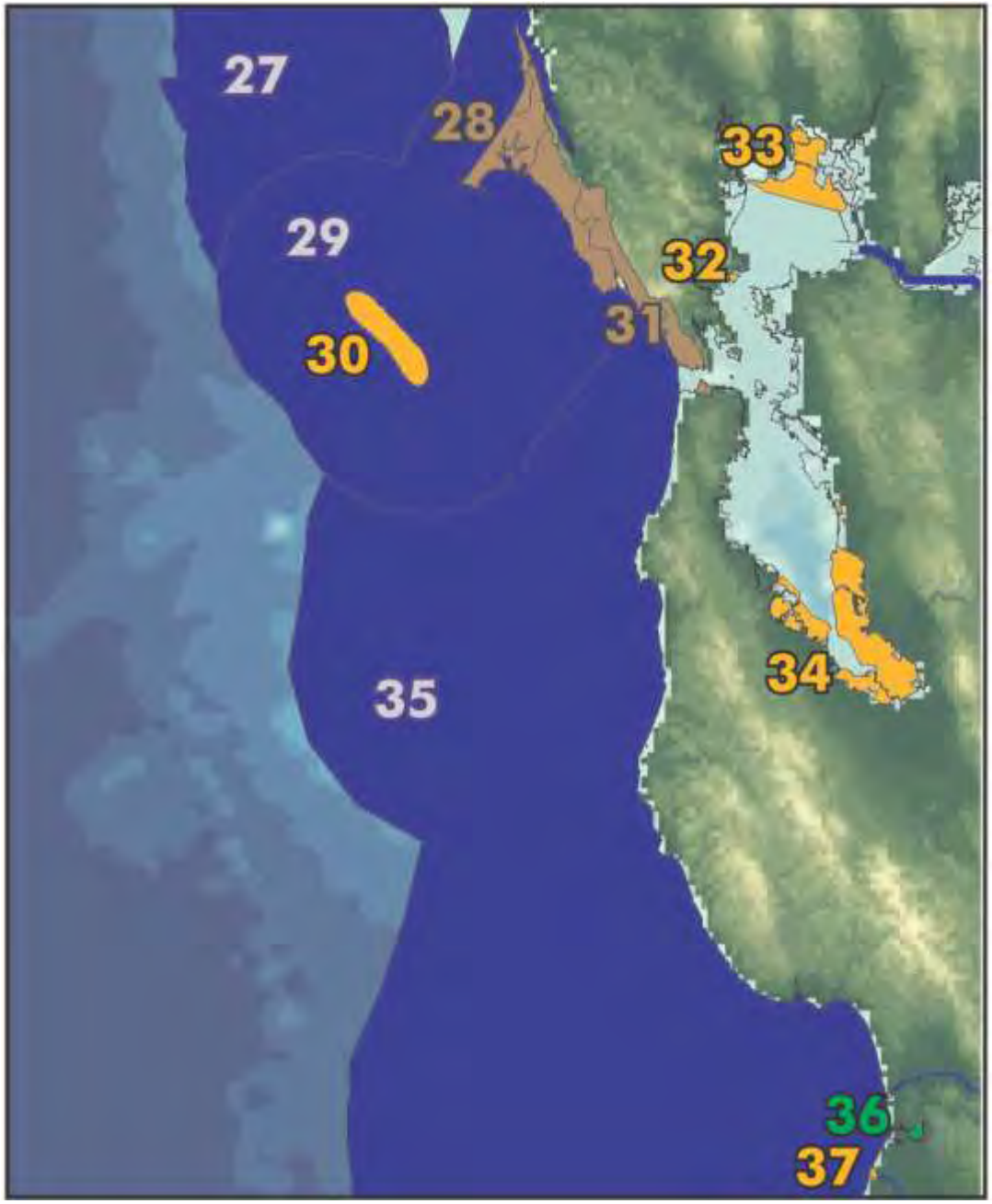
Chlorophyll Concentrations

Ocean Chlorophyll Concentration (mg/m³)

0.04 0.1 1.0 10 20

Central California Network of Protected areas

27 Cordell Bank NMS
28 Point Reyes NS
29 Gulf of the Farallones
30 Farallones NWR
31 Golden Gate NRA
32 Marin Is. NWR
33 San Pablo Bay NWR
34 Don Edwards NWR
35 Monterey Bay NMS



Point Reyes National Seashore

- Established in 1962
50th anniversary in 2012

- One hour's drive from San Francisco Bay Area with 8 million people

- 2.5 million visitors annually

Point Reyes protects...

Over 71,000 acres, including 32,000 acres of congressionally designated Wilderness

Point Reyes NS

100 miles of undeveloped coastline (sandy beaches, rocky cliffs, estuaries, and salt marshes)

Point Reyes NS encompasses….

~15,000 acres of marine waters
that extend ¼ mile offshore

Photo Robert Campbell

Point Reyes is...

the only national seashore on the west coast and includes the only marine Wilderness designated by Congress south of Alaska, Glacier Bay NP

Point Reyes includes ….

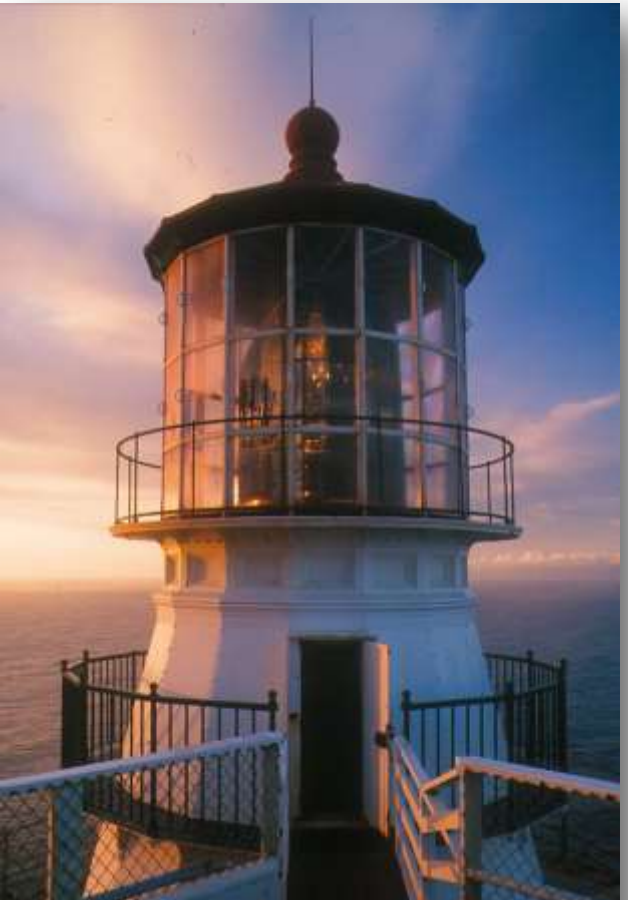
The San Andreas fault

Photo Robert Campbell

Point Reyes has….

297 historic structures

> 490,000 historical and archeological pieces in park museum



Point Reyes is also home to

24,000 acres of active ranch lands for dairy and beef cattle

Point Reyes is home to...

Over 900 species of flowering plants

Including several plants rare in coastal dunes...

Point Reyes NS includes…

Outstanding rocky intertidal and subtidal communities

Point Reyes protects...

27 threatened and endangered species

Point Reyes is home to...

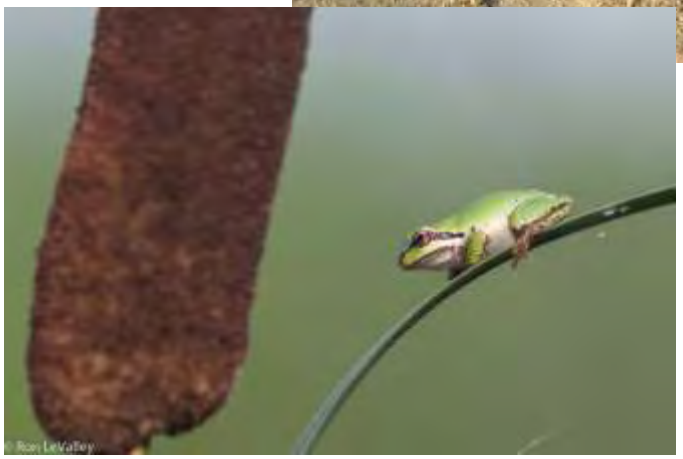
Over 490 species of birds

11 species of nesting seabirds

> 150 species of wintering water birds, shorebirds and seabirds

Point Reyes is home to...

Over 28 species
amphibians and reptiles

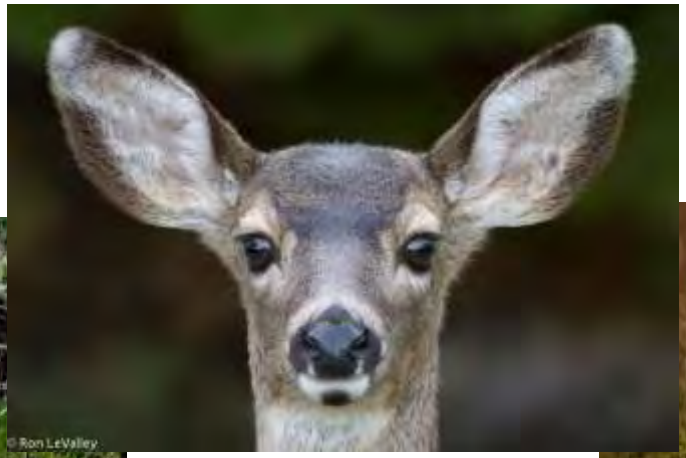


Point Reyes is home to...

Over 135 species of fish and more than 75% are marine

Point Reyes provides refuge for...

65 species of mammals



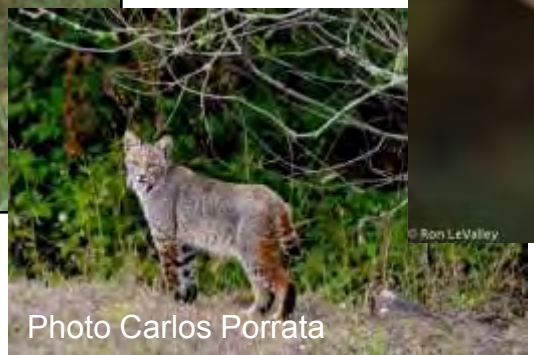


Photo Carlos Porrata

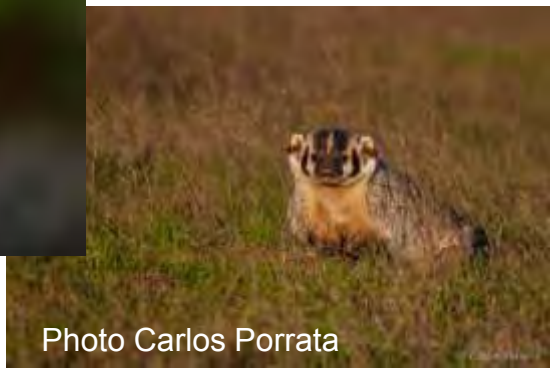


Photo Carlos Porrata

33 species

of which are

marine mammals

Point Reyes is a haven for wildlife

- NPS uses science to inform park management to guide protection of species and ecosystems.

- You are part of that strategy as trained volunteers = citizen scientists

Science Strategy at PRNS

To understand and protect through adaptive management

Sue Van Der Wal

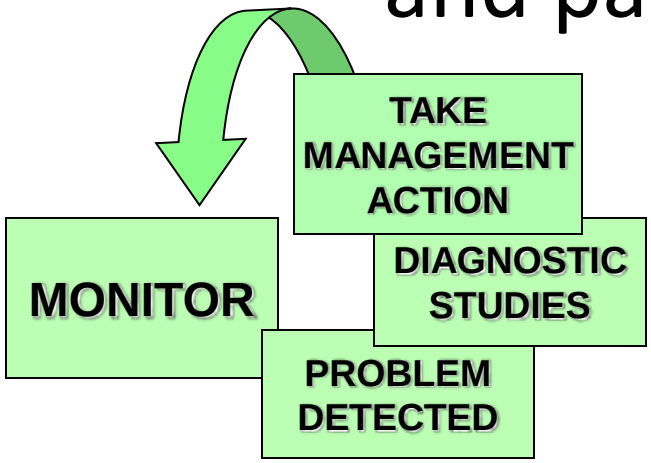
Inventory
- Subtidal habitat
- Species – biodiversity Inventory
- Water quality
- Coastal watershed assessment

Monitor and Assess
- Species/communities
- Shoreline change
- Water quality

Manage through
- Restoration
- Protection
- Education

Summary

Stewardship through adaptive management and partnership



Management actions =

Research and **monitor**

Protect habitat/species

Restore habitat/species

Education

Questions?