



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Fort Mason, San Francisco, California 94123



D18 (GOGA-CPPA)

JUN - 3 2013

RE: Temporary marine buffer zone around Alcatraz Island during America's Cup race series

Dear Maritime Friends:

As the 2013 Challenge and Final race series of the America's Cup approaches, the National Park Service (NPS) is putting into effect some temporary measures which were identified during the development of the federal Environmental Assessment (EA) to protect nesting birds within Golden Gate National Recreation Area. On June 21, 2013, a temporary 500' marine buffer zone will be established, closing the area around the perimeter of Alcatraz Island to all vessels.

The NPS and United States Coast Guard (USCG), in cooperation with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the Presidio Trust (Trust)—collectively referred to as the "federal team"—prepared an EA to analyze the potential effects of the 34th America's Cup (AC34) sailing races and associated events on lands and waters under the jurisdiction of these federal agencies. For more details about that planning process and the Management and Protective Measures put into effect, please visit <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectId=38234>.

This marine buffer zone around Alcatraz Island, along with an air buffer zone, are being established during this America's Cup race series to insure nesting seabirds are protected along the cliffs of the island. The buffer, extending a total of 500 feet out from the island, will be closed to all vessel traffic. The Crissy Field Wildlife Protection Area also includes a marine buffer zone, 300 feet offshore, which will continue to be closed as usual, to protect snowy plovers.

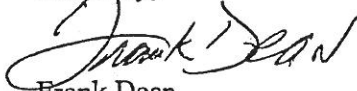
Buoys will be placed at the 300' boundary off of Crissy Field to ensure clear demarcation. The NPS plans to also place buoys around Alcatraz Island if possible, but it is the boaters' responsibility to maintain the 500' distance from the island. USCG will work in concert with the NPS to enforce these closures.

The marine buffer zone around Alcatraz Island will remain in effect from **June 21 – September 22, 2013**. This closure is necessary to protect the numerous nesting seabird colonies on the

island. Disturbances from boat traffic may cause seabirds like Brandt's cormorants to abandon their nests, with dire consequences for their eggs and young chicks.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we work to balance recreational enjoyment in and around the park with the needs of our more sensitive natural resources, especially during these large marine sporting and recreational events. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Public Affairs Specialist, Alexandra Picavet at alexandra_picavet@nps.gov or (415)786-8021.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frank Dean". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Frank Dean

General Superintendent