Marine Conservation: The Farallon Islands Example

Some Historical and Current Perspectives

Major Threats to Populations

- Ocean currents, upwelling
- Changes in water temperature
- Chemical contamination (e.g. hydrocarbons, etc)
- Oil pollution
- Gill-netting
- Disturbance at breeding areas
- Disturbance along migration (e.g. stop-over locations)

Case History

- The Farallon Islands, California
Location of island

Distant photo of island

It’s known for

Important Historical facts

- Once had very large northern fur seal population; now extinct (overharvested by Russians & Americans)
- In mid 19th century had 1 million Common Murres
- Egging during and after the Gold Rush eliminated most of the murres
- Coast Guard occupied the island 1855-1971
- Now protected via various designations, including being part of the National Wildlife Refuge System
The gull colony on the marine terrace in 1971.
Conservation Measures

- Protect breeding and staging areas
- Reduce chemical contaminants
- Reduce plastic particle pollution
- Reduce effects of gillnetting
- Protect prey fish populations
- Educate the public