

HOT TOPIC:

Updated: South Farallon Islands Invasive House Mouse Eradication Project: On June 17, the Marin Conservation League wrote a letter to the California Coastal Commission recommending the commission concur the South Farallon Islands Invasive House Mouse Eradication Project is consistent with the California Coastal Management Act. Notably, the organization copied a number of elected officials on their letter, including Congressman Jared Huffman (D-CA-2), Senator Mike McGuire, State Assemblyman Marc Levine, and the President of the Marin County Board of Supervisors. With this letter of support, the Marin Conservation League joins a growing number of NGOs in support of the project. The California Coastal Commission is anticipated to consider the project in November. Receiving concurrence from the California Coastal Commission supports the likelihood that the project, which aims to eradicate invasive house mice for the restoration of the ecosystem and conservation of native species, moves forward successfully. (Last updated February 14, 2020.)

Background info:

A growing number of Non-Government Organizations (NGO's) have joined other NGO's in support of the USFWS proposed House South Farallon Islands Invasive House Mouse Eradication Project. International Bird Rescue along with National Audubon Society and California Audubon have recently joined others in support of the project. As part of our continued outreach efforts Marin Audubon is hosting a virtual program over zoom about the Farallon eradication project on July 16 at 7:30 PM. The program will feature a member of Marin Audubon, Roger Harris, naturalist on Farallon boat trips for over 3 decades, wildlife veterinarian Winston Vickers from UC Davis and Oiled Wildlife Care Network who assisted with the gull hazing trial back in 2012 and is very knowledgeable of rodenticides, Pete Warzybok from Pt Blue, and Refuge Manager, Gerry McChesney.

The California Coastal Commission expects to continue to hold virtual public meetings through the end of the year. Because the meetings are virtual, there are larger numbers of people who want to provide comments creating substantial challenges for the Commissioners and Commission staff. It will take a tremendous amount of additional work and time on their end to produce a new report reviewing the Farallon project that answers all of the Commissioner's questions. Thus, Coastal Commission staff and USFWS staff concur the earliest the project can be brought before the Commission is November 2020.