

October 29, 2021

California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
North Coast District  
2825 Cordelia Rd, Suite 100  
Fairfield, CA 94534

Dear California Department of Fish and Wildlife,

On behalf of the Bolinas Lagoon Advisory Council (BLAC)<sup>1</sup>, an advisory board to the Marin County Open Space District Board of Directors, I am writing today to alert your resource management agency of the increased potential poaching activities occurring within Bolinas Lagoon and the need for enforcement response. The Bolinas Lagoon Advisory Council has been concerned by the alarming increase in consumptive activities at Bolinas Lagoon beginning in early 2020.

Following a viral video encouraging people to forage for clams, the community has been observing an accelerated increase in visitors coming out during low tides. We have also gotten recent reports of gillnetting and scuba diving for fish. Aside from the overuse of and possible commercial poaching activities occurring within Bolinas Lagoon, Marin County Parks ranger staff and others have seen too many people getting close to the harbor seals as the most popular fishing spot is within 100 yards of the seals' haul-out site.

We are requesting immediate attention from resource protection agencies with jurisdiction to protect the areas of Bolinas Lagoon to increase enforcement patrols to ensure compliance during these recreational activities. The lagoon falls within the Golden Gate Biosphere and is an Audubon Important Bird Area, a site of regional importance in the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network, a State and National Treasure, one of only seven Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance in the western United States, and part of the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary.

Illegal activities at Bolinas Lagoon could severely harm this complex and fragile ecosystem and we would like to prevent this before it is too late. To resolve this issue, we would like to see coordinated patrols between shared enforcement agencies to

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<sup>1</sup> BLAC members include representatives from College of Marin, Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Point Reyes National Seashore, Marin County Parks, the communities of Bolinas and Stinson Beach, the Bolinas Rod and Boat Club, the Seadrift Homeowners Association, Audubon Canyon Ranch, and Point Blue Conservation Science, with one additional member at-large.

help in educating visitors about bag limits and regulating use (e.g. checking fishing licenses). In addition, we would like to call a meeting with these resource managers to discuss resource patrols and enforcement at Bolinas Lagoon to better understand what efforts may be implemented to protect the resources at the lagoon now and into the future.

We look forward to discussing this issue in the near future to ensure the protection of our coastal and marine resources. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Ralph Camiccia, Vice Chair  
Bolinas Lagoon Advisory Council

cc: Bolinas Lagoon Advisory Council  
Marin County Supervisor Dennis Rodoni  
Samantha Haimovitch, Superintendent, Marin County Parks