

DATE: October 29, 2021
TO: Bolinas Lagoon Advisory Council
FROM: Kate Bimrose, Bolinas Lagoon Restoration Project Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item #5: Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Project Update

DISCUSSION

Invasive European Green Crab Removal Project

This summer Greater Farallones Association, UC Davis, and the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center worked together to execute the 12th year of invasive green crab removal in Seadrift Lagoon. With volunteers unable to join us in 2020 we were very excited to welcome volunteer participation back to the project. In total 22, volunteers joined the project this year with many participants returning for multiple removal dates. Thanks to their help the project removed a total of 7,154 green crabs from Seadrift Lagoon, up from roughly 5,000 crabs removed in 2020. The project also recorded two native rock crabs, cancer antennarius, present in the lagoon which have not been seen for several years. Not only does the removal of invasive crabs reduce the threat of spread to the larger Bolinas Lagoon but, highlighted by the presence of the rock crabs, also promotes the return of native species. Thanks to the project's removal efforts the health and diversity of Seadrift Lagoon is improving and the number of green crabs in Bolinas Lagoon remains low.

The South End Living Shoreline Project

Greater Farallones Association is working with the Seadrift Homeowners Association, Audubon Canyon Ranch, Marin County and GFNMS to create a living shoreline at the Southern End of Bolinas Lagoon that will reduce shoreline erosion, provide a buffer against changing water levels and storm impacts, and create important transitional habitat for birds and wildlife. The project was recently selected for funding through a Pacific Flyway Grant administered by the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB). Final project approval and funding allocation of \$227,998 will be finalized at WCB's November board meeting. The grant period will last four years, with grant funding supporting a feasibility study and preliminary permitting work within the project area. For questions about the project please contact Dr. Wendy Kordesch, project manager, at wkordesch@farallones.org.