



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE  
POINT REYES, CALIFORNIA 94956

IN REPLY REFER TO:

N1427

April 28, 1992

Bob Hulbrock  
Calif. Dept. of Fish and Game  
1416 9th St.  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Hulbrock:

We regret that it has taken so long to complete documentation of the understanding reached during our January 15 meeting regarding harbor seal protection in Drake's Estero. We realize that we are well into the restriction period, but operations appear to be occurring without incident.

Enclosed is a synopsis of the individual operational restrictions which were discussed and agreed to by all parties present. We have included a simplified map delineating the areas subject to these oystering restrictions for clarity.

We hope that these measures can be easily incorporated in Johnson Oyster Company's operations and will prove beneficial to the wildlife. Should you encounter any inconsistencies or omissions with the substance of the agreed to items, please contact us.

Sincerely yours, -

John L. Sansing  
Superintendent

cc:

Tom Moore, CDF&G ✓  
Johnson Oyster Company  
Tom Johnson  
Manuel Solorzano  
Bob Studdert  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Diane Windham  
Charles Clark  
Gregg Langlois, CDHS  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
Russ Case  
Gary Fellers  
LeeRoy Brock

Record of Agreement  
Regarding  
Drake's Estero Oyster Farming  
and  
Harbor Seal Protection

As a result of a meeting held January 15, 1992 between the National Park Service (NPS), National Marine Fisheries (NMFS), the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and Johnson's Oyster Company (JOC), a series of operating procedures and restrictions were agreed upon to minimize the disturbance to harbor seals resulting from JOC oystering operations. The following items were mutually agreed to by all parties:

- During the pupping season, March 15 through June 30, the main channel (Figure 1.) of Drake's Estero will be closed to boat traffic.
- The western channel between Creamery Bay and Barries Bay (Figure 1.) will be closed to boat traffic between March 15 and June 1.
- The "lateral channel" between beds #2 and #3 and bed #1 (Figure 1.) are closed to boat traffic from March 15 through June 1.
- Oyster seeding operations in beds #1, #2 and #3, located between Creamery Bay and Barries Bay, may begin on June 1. Earlier commencement dates may be permitted on a case by case basis.
- The "lateral channel" should be used as little as possible between June 1 and June 30. Oyster beds #2 and #3 should be approached from the north at low speed, and the beds themselves planted from north to south so that disturbance near the "lateral channel" will occur toward the end of the pupping season.

# Drakes Estero Harbor Seal Pupping Season Closures

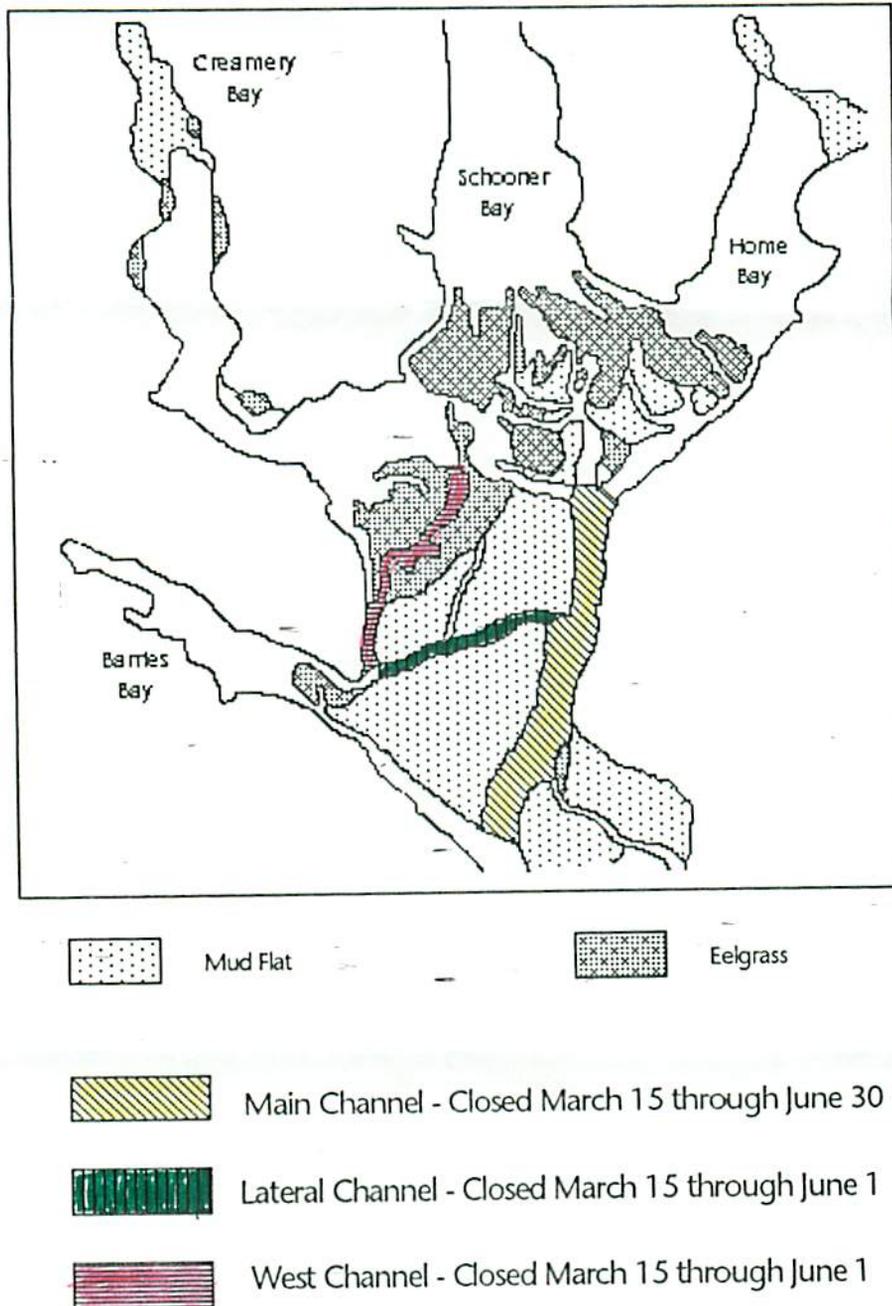


Figure 1