

Golden Gate Audubon
Report on Use of Alameda County Fish & Game Commission's
2017 Fish & Wildlife Propagation Grant Funds

In Alameda, there's a segment of the Bay Trail which contains two distinctive species that merit the public's attention: California Brown Pelicans were classified as an endangered species until rather recently (2009) and Harbor Seals a very shy marine mammal that can be observed from the Bay Trail in this area, as well.

With \$10,000 in support from Fish & Wildlife Propagation Grant Fund, Golden Gate Audubon created original artwork and provided the graphic design for two separate interpretive panel kiosks to enhance this segment of the Bay Trail, not far from the USS Hornet in Alameda.

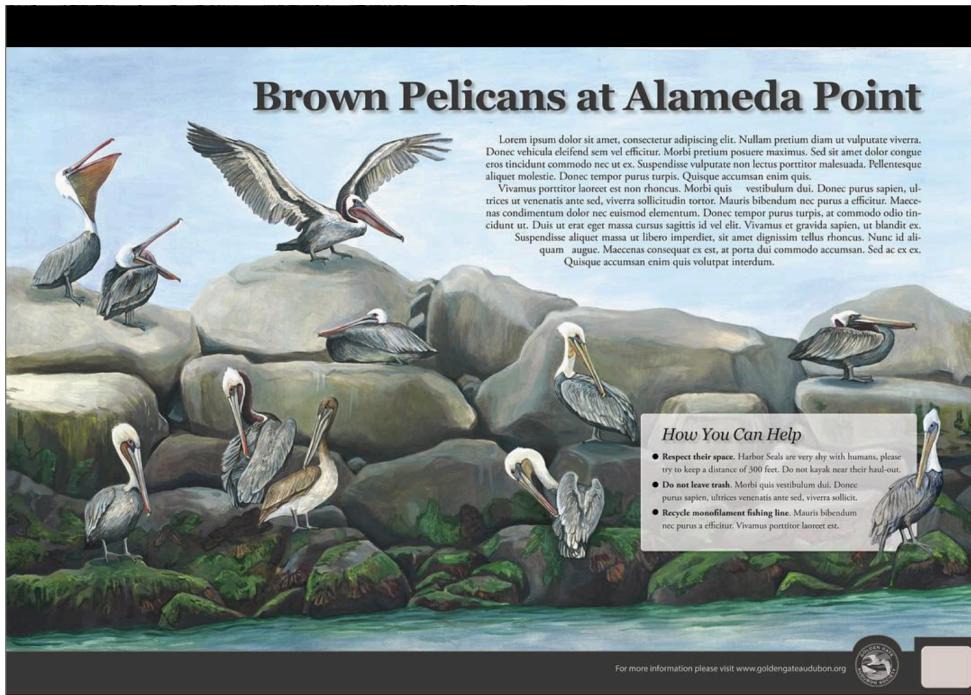
Both interpretive panels provide valuable natural history information about these iconic wildlife species and provide tips for viewing and helping conserve these species locally.

Artist and scientific illustrator Lindsey Kernodle hand-painted the original artwork for these panels.



Every pelican was hand-painted by L. Kernodle in a unique posture that depicted the range of pelicans' distinctive behaviors at a roosting site.

Especially during the summer months, Brown Pelicans gather in the evening hours at Alameda's breakwater island. The pelicans use the breakwater as a night roosting (sleeping) spot. A high count of more than 8,000 Brown Pelicans has been documented on a single night on this breakwater.



Original artwork and graphic design layout of the interpretive panel by L. Kernodle for Golden Gate Audubon. (Note: placeholder text only, as interpretive text wasn't finalized in time for this report)

Golden Gate Audubon has been working with the City of Alameda and WETA to ensure that an appropriate harbor seal float platform would be built to replace the removal of a decrepit old wooden dock that the seals often use as a haul out. Now that the new floating platform for the seals has been installed, this kiosk interpretive panel will inform passersby about Harbor Seals and encourage people to observe these marine mammals, without disturbing them, from the Bay Trail overlook where this interpretive panel will be installed.

Harbor Seal Float

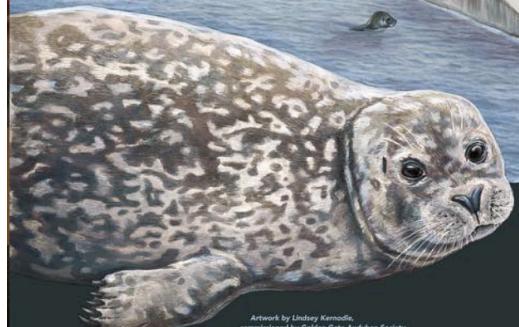
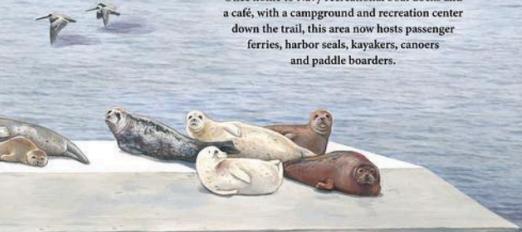
Providing a Refuge for our Blubbery Friends

Harbor seals spend about half of their day in the water in search of food. The remainder is spent on land warming up and resting, known as hauling out. In this sheltered harbor, the Water Emergency Transportation Authority has provided a specially designed floating platform for the harbor seals that frequent the central Bay. It was placed in service in June 2016 at the urging of local wildlife advocates to replace a dilapidated dock used by the seals. Constructed of reinforced concrete with an inner Styrofoam core and anchored in place, it is the first known structure in the world built specifically for harbor seals.

The number of seals on the float varies from full house to zero, depending on weather and feeding success, providing a constant refuge throughout the tide cycle.

A Changing Scene

Once home to Navy recreational boat docks and a café, with a campground and recreation center down the trail, this area now hosts passenger ferries, harbor seals, kayakers, canoers and paddle boarders.



Artwork by Lindsey Kernodle, commissioned by Golden Gate Audubon Society.

How You Can Help

1 Respect their space.

Resting harbor seals are very shy with humans. Please do not approach the float when on the water. Try to stay 300 feet away.

2 Do not leave trash.

Plastic in the marine food chain is bad for seals, birds and the fish they eat.

3 Recycle monofilament fishing line.

Marine wildlife can become entangled in, or accidentally consume, discarded or lost fishing line.

4 Stay connected.

Follow the lives of the local harbor seals on the Alameda Point Harbor Seal Monitors Facebook page. Report your observations.

For more information on local wildlife, www.goldengateaudubon.org



Harbor Seals on their new float platform are depicted in this interpretive panel, with artwork, text, and graphic design. Original artwork and graphic design done by L. Kernodle for Golden Gate Audubon