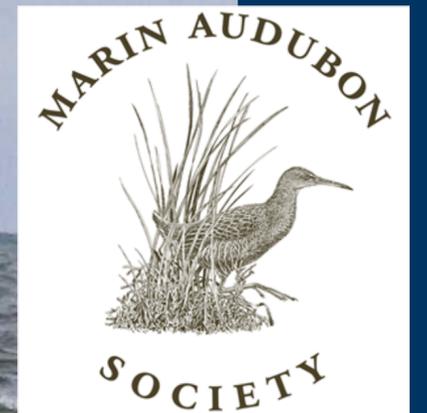


Sand Mining in SF Bay:

Proceed With Caution!

Photo: TMMC/Bill Keener

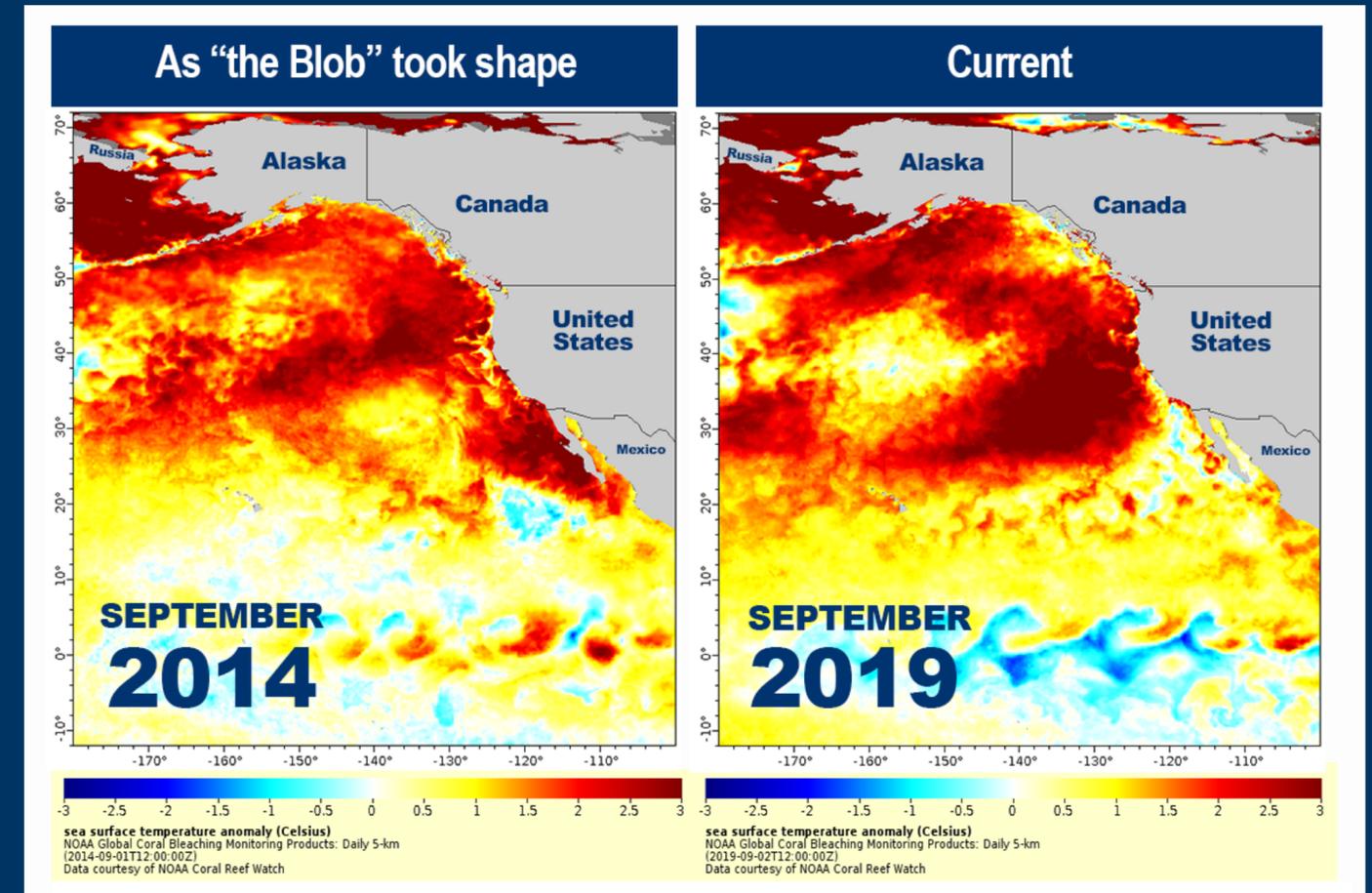
Mary Jane Schramm
for Marin Audubon Society
Oct. 31, 2025



SLC analysis of Supplemental EIR on Martin-Marietta/Lind Marine sand leases does not adequately address impacts of intensive sand extraction on the Bay ecosystem.

Mining operations must be evaluated in the context of **changing ocean climate, sea level rise, etc.** - all stressing a healthy ecosystem.

More in-depth study needed before permitting additional stressors.



Since 2016 endangered **humpback whales** feed in Central Bay and other areas, April - November.

SEIR/Appdx G: “Humpbacks ... potential to occur [in CB mining plots] is moderate to high.” Feed on baitfish, other species.

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**Gray whales:** Population drastically declining (Unusual Mortality Event).

May be re-listed under ESA.

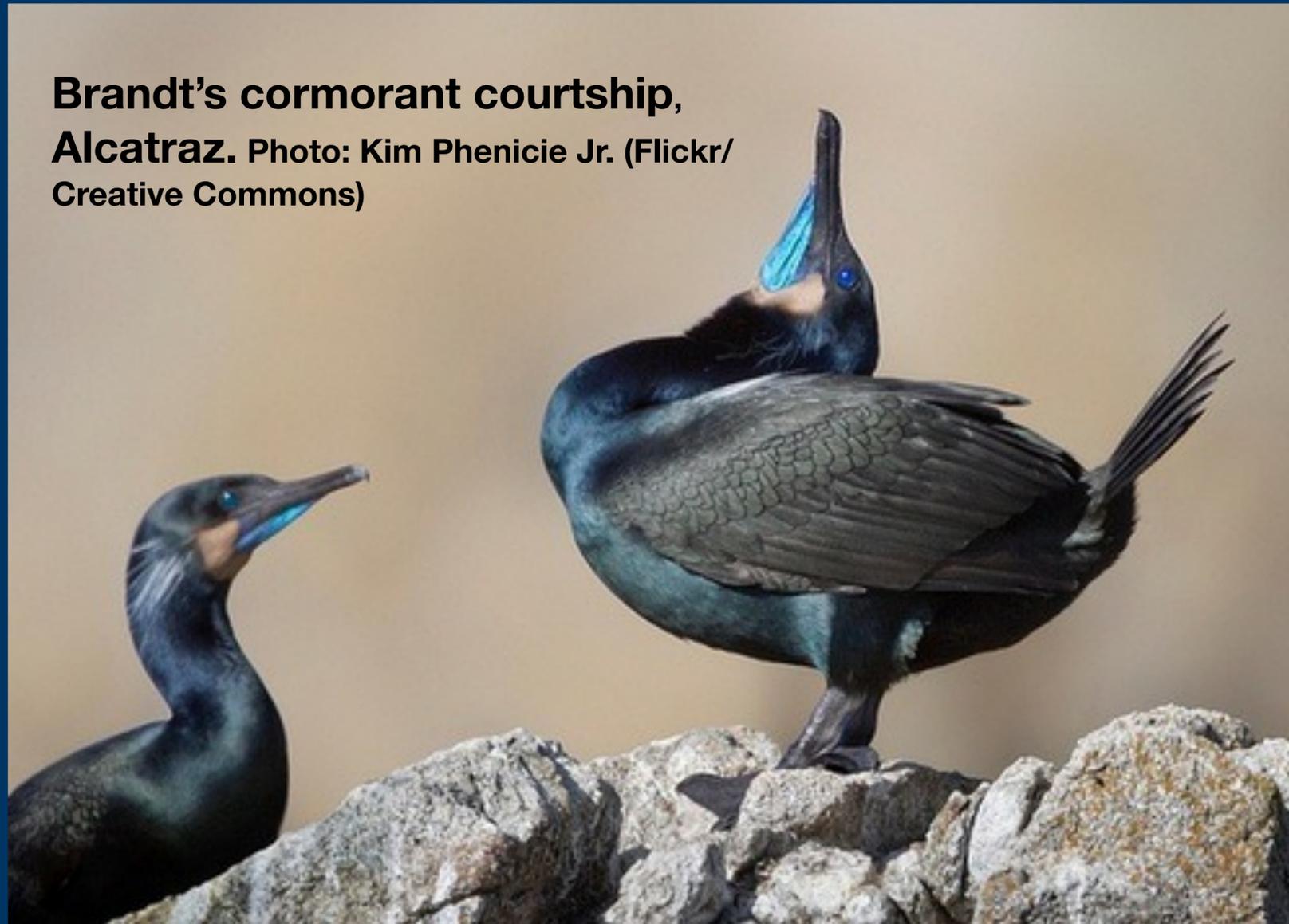
Resorting to urban feeding grounds.

Prey mostly benthic invertebrates.



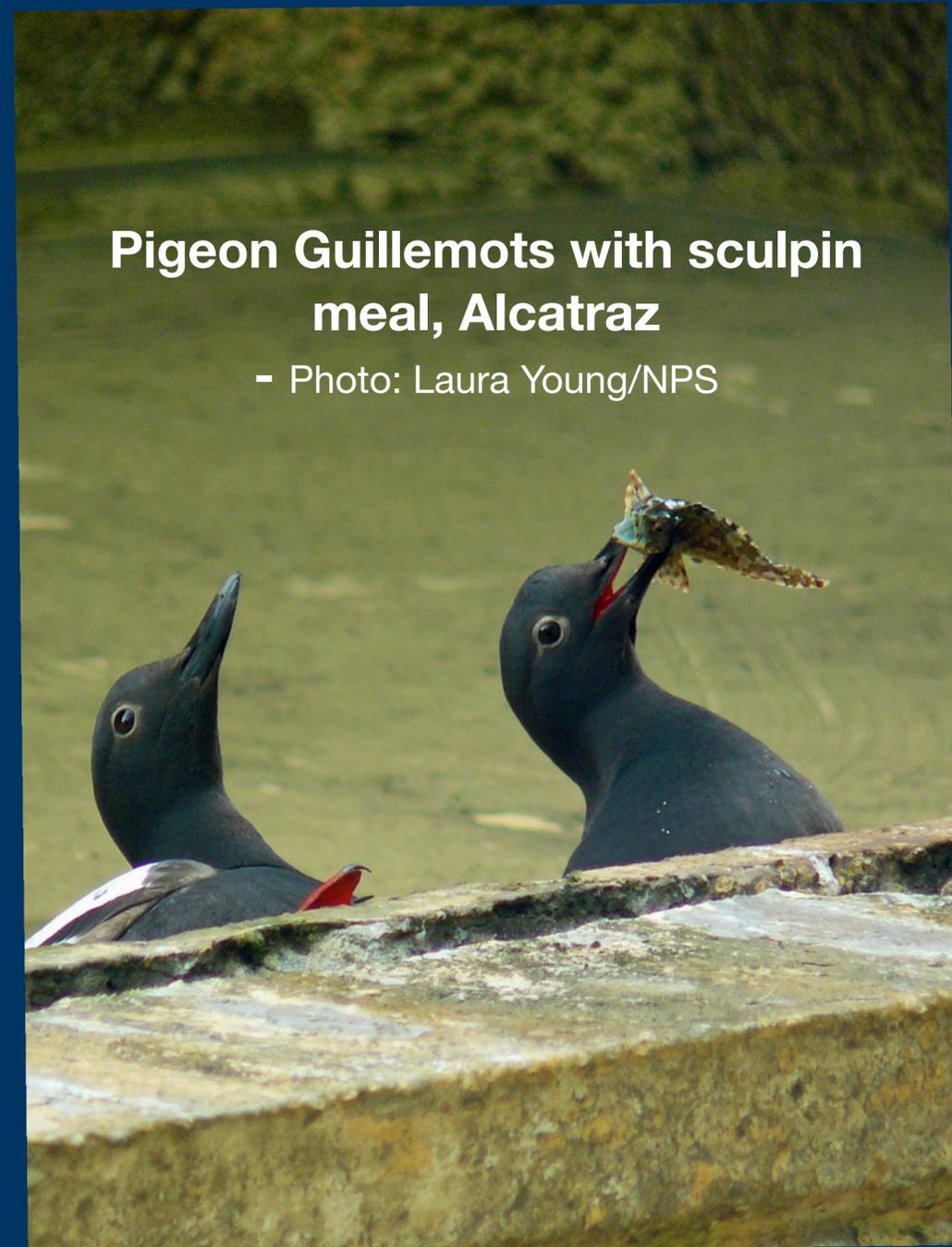
Central SF Bay major food source for Alcatraz-nesting Brandt's cormorants, western gulls, pigeon guillemots, snowy egrets, pelicans. Cool water “refuge” during outer Pacific waters during devastating Marine Heat Waves.

**Brandt's cormorant courtship,  
Alcatraz.** Photo: Kim Phenicie Jr. (Flickr/  
Creative Commons)



**Pigeon Guillemots with sculpin  
meal, Alcatraz**

- Photo: Laura Young/NPS



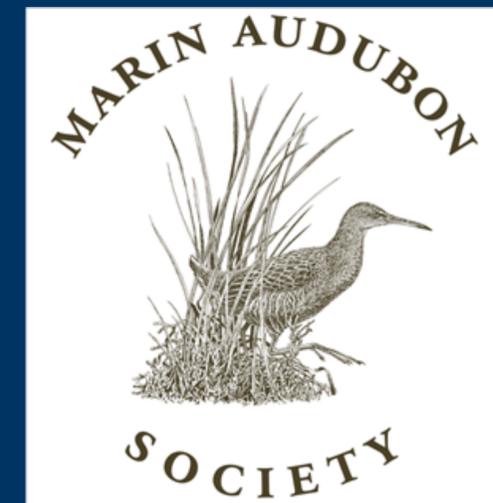
## **COMMISSIONERS:**

**Essential issues and changed circumstances such as whales are not adequately addressed - or addressed at all - in State Lands Commission's SEIR document. Further analysis of the impacts noted is needed.**

**We recommend BCDC support further investigations and conclude that a lease extension is not appropriate at this time.**

***Thank you!***

**The Marin Audubon Society**



## Sources:

- “New Urban Habitat for Endangered Humpback Whales: San Francisco Bay.” Markowitz, T.M., W. Keener, M.A. Webber, A.R. Payne, R.S. Lane, J.A. Fahlbusch, and J. Calambokidis. 2024.
- “Increased use of San Francisco Bay Habitat by Gray Whales Coincides with an Unusual Mortality Event Tim M. Markowitz, Isidore D. Szczepaniak, William Keener, et al., “Beyond the Golden Gate Research Symposium, 2022.
- “Ecological Overlap with Sand Mining Leases in San Francisco Bay.” Farallones Institute/Julie Thayer BCDC presentation, 2025.
- “Shorebirds decreased Baywide especially in central Bay” - SF Bay State of the Birds, Pt. Blue Conservation Science, 2025.
- *“With Ocean Foraging Condition All Over the Map, Alcatraz Offers Breeding Seabirds an Alternative” –NPS*