



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Point Reyes National Seashore
Point Reyes, California 94956

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Determination of Temporary Closure

36 CFR 1.5 Closures and Public Use Limits

- (a) Consistent with applicable legislation and Federal administrative policies, and based upon a determination that such action is necessary for the maintenance of public health and safety, protection of environmental or scenic values, protection of natural or cultural resources, aid to scientific research, implementation of management responsibilities, equitable allocation and use of facilities, or the avoidance of conflict among visitor use activities, the Superintendent may:
- (1) Establish, for all or a portion of a park area, a reasonable schedule of visiting hours, impose public use limits, or close all or a portion of a park area to all public use or to a specific use activity

1. Temporary Closure Location:

Drakes Beach starting approximately ¼ mile southwest of the Ken Patrick Visitor Center and continuing south to the current permanent elephant seal closure.

2. Duration of Temporary Closure:

Drakes Beach will be closed from Thursday, February 4, 2016, through Thursday, March 31, 2016, or as long as there are nursing elephant seal pups in this area of Drakes Beach, whichever is shorter.

3. Who is affected by the Temporary Closure?

Except in an emergency and for the duration of the closure to the above listed area, all public use shall be prohibited.

4. Justification for Temporary Closure:

This closure is necessary to protect elephant seals from disturbance during the pupping season when they are exceptionally vulnerable.

5. Additional Justification/Details for Temporary Closure:

This temporary closure is necessary to protect marine mammals and to provide for visitor safety. Adult female elephant seals with pups and attending males can be aggressive towards humans. There is also a risk that people can become trapped by the incoming tides and seals moving around the area. The Marine Mammal Protection Act and National Park Service regulations protect seals from any disturbance that alters their behavior.


Superintendent, Point Reyes National Seashore

Date:

3 FEBRUARY 2016