



# Russian River Estuary

## Marine Mammal Protection Act



Jessica Martini-Lamb  
Principal Environmental Specialist





# SCWA's Application

- Artificial breaching
- Lagoon outlet channel management
  - May 15 to October 15
- Monitoring studies
  - Lagoon outlet channel
  - Beach topography
  - Biological and water quality monitoring

# What IHA Covers

- Incidental harassment authorization
  - Harbor seals
  - California sea lions
  - Elephant seals
- Minimization measures
- Monitoring
- Annual report



# Minimization Measures

- Year round
  - Approach slowly
  - Avoid seal haulout
  - Be visible
  - Drive slowly
  - Minimize harassment





# Minimization Measures

- Pupping season - March 15 to June 30
  - If pup <1 week old is in work area or on access path, delay until pup has left or latest possible day to prevent flooding, and still maintain suitable fish rearing habitat
  - Management events cannot occur more than 2 consecutive days, unless flooding imminent
  - 7-day "no work" period between events, unless flooding imminent

- Pre-excavation
- Day of excavation
- Post-excavation
- Seal counts and disturbances
- Displacement
  - Peripheral haulouts



# Methods

- Counts every 30 minutes
- Disturbances
  - Time
  - Source
  - Duration
  - Distance
  - Response



# Reporting

- Level of “take”
- Data analysis
  - Modify activities to avoid/minimize effects
  - Goals and objectives of Monitoring Plan
- Distributed to agencies and the public



# **RRIFR**



***Russian River Instream  
Flow and Restoration***

