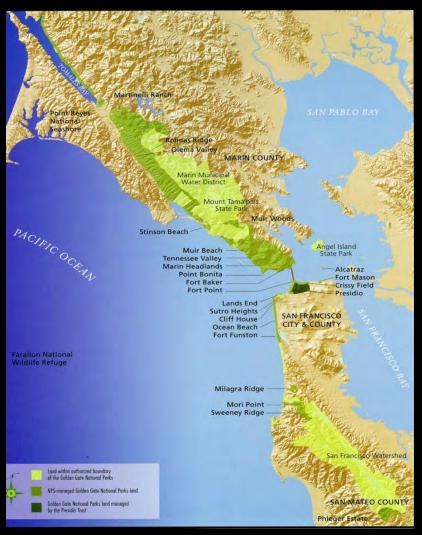
# Creating Lasting Connections to Marine Protected Areas



Howard Levitt
Director of Communications & Partnerships
Golden Gate National Parks

#### The Golden Gate National Parks





Established 1972

80,000 acres

16 million visitors annually

35,000 volunteers

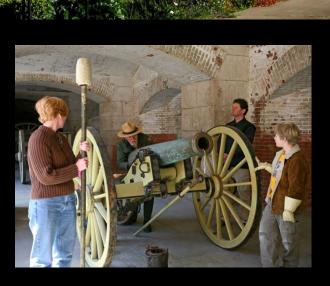
500,000 hours of volunteerism

Member of National System of

**MPAs** 



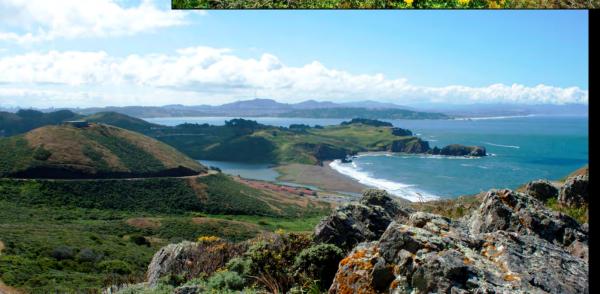
## Cultural Resources







### Natural Resources











### An Economic Engine

NPS Impact: \$31 billion / 258,000 jobs in 2010

Golden Gate Impact: \$403 million / 1800 jobs

Mainstay of the local tourism economy

A good investment



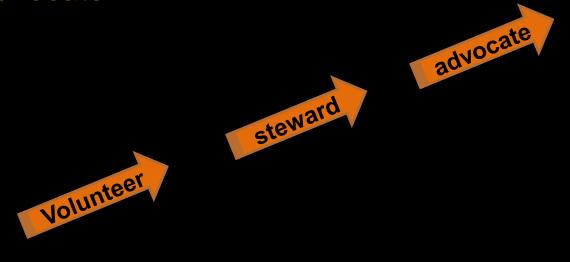
### Lessons Learned in 40 Years





# Provide a Ladder of Engagement

Visitor to volunteer to steward to advocate





# Use Your Secret Weapon: *Authenticity*

People seek genuine experiences

You are the real deal



### **Enlist Strong Allies**

14,000 members

**Dream Team Board** 

\$245M raised

20M visitors served by Alcatraz audio tour

8M volunteer hours/ 275,000 volunteers

Constituency of members, donors, volunteers, and advocates



### Create a Culture of Partnership

Hire the right people

Model partnership behavior

Resource the effort

You are in it for the long run



## Share Delivery of Your Mission





















### Work with Your Tourism Agencies





### Your MPA is a Keystone

Central to Quality of Life

Economic Powerhouse

Worth Supporting, Nurturing and Protecting



# Thank you!

