



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Seabirds To Be Released**

**Media contact:** Russ Curtis, Mobile: 415.533.1357

[Russ.Curtis@Bird-Rescue.org](mailto:Russ.Curtis@Bird-Rescue.org)

## **International Bird Rescue Releasing Group of Healthy Common Murres After Seabirds Rescued Exhausted, Starving**

**WHEN: Friday, Oct. 23, 2015 11:00 AM**

**WHERE:** Fort Baker - 435 Murray Circle, Sausalito, CA 94965

**RELEASE:** Boat launch – facing Golden Gate Bridge

**WHO:** Bird Rescue personnel will be available for questions

International Bird Rescue will release 10-15 healthy seabirds back to the wild in Sausalito on Friday, October 23 at 11 AM. The Common Murres were rescued off Northern California beaches exhausted and starving.

An unprecedented number of seabirds have flooded Bird Rescue's San Francisco Bay Center. **Since July 1<sup>st</sup> more than 450 rescued Common Murres** – mostly young, malnourished chicks – unable to maintain their weight and body temperature – have been delivered to the center in Fairfield.

"Our staff and volunteers feel really privileged to be able to give these guys a second chance, and the ones we're releasing took full advantage of our sushi buffet," said Michelle Bellizzi, Bird Rescue's center manager.

The number of stranded, hungry seabirds this year is exceptional – especially since Bird Rescue rarely sees more than ten Common Murres in **one month** during the late summer and early fall.

The sight of so many starving seabirds raised red flags among ocean scientists. With ocean waters warmer than usual along the California coast, scientists believe the diving birds are starving as fish go deeper to reach cooler waters, putting themselves out of the birds' reach. This past summer Northern California coastal waters warmed 5 to 10 degrees above historical averages.

Common Murres serve as a key indicator species for ocean conservation. What's happening to these seabirds is important. Their numbers are trending downward with documented changes in fish stocks, chronic oil spills, and interactions with humans.

These deep diving seabirds look very much like small penguins. The public often reports seeing "little penguins" stranded on California beaches, what they are really seeing is a Common Murre (Uria aalge). Unlike Penguins, Common Murres can fly.

Bird Rescue relies on public support to care for these ailing seabirds. Donations are gladly accepted online <http://bird-rescue.org/donate>

### **About International Bird Rescue**

International Bird Rescue ("Bird Rescue") has been saving seabirds and other aquatic birds around the world since 1971. Bird Rescue is dedicated to mitigating the human impact on seabirds and other aquatic bird species worldwide. This is achieved through emergency response, education, research and planning. Our team of specialists operates two year-round aquatic bird rescue centers in California, which care for over 5,000 birds every year, and has led oiled bird rescue efforts in over 200 oil spills in more than a dozen countries.

Bird Rescue is a proud partner with California's [Oiled Wildlife Care Network](#) (OWCN).

Learn more at [birdrescue.org](http://birdrescue.org)