Frequently Asked Questions – North Coast Monitoring Survey

What is the North Coast Monitoring Survey?

The North Coast Monitoring Survey will build an inventory of existing monitoring activities in the region. Results of the online survey will identify the geographic and temporal coverage of monitoring activities inside and outside of North Coast marine protected areas (MPAs). Data from the survey will also highlight opportunities to partner and build upon existing capacity in the region to inform statewide MPA monitoring moving forward.

Why is this monitoring survey important?

California's North Coast is home to an extensive array of ocean and coastal scientific expertise and activity. A cost-effective statewide MPA monitoring program will rely on collaboration and partnerships that tap into this existing capacity. Through partnerships, we can leverage resources, avoid duplication of effort, expand the community of people and organizations involved in monitoring, and build opportunities for monitoring results to inform processes beyond MPA management. Ultimately, the results of the survey will help inform a cost-effective, efficient statewide MPA monitoring program.

Who should complete the monitoring survey?

While the survey is open to everyone, we suggest that coordinators and managers of monitoring projects in the North Coast region complete the survey. The survey asks for details about a monitoring project's organizational structure and function, sampling structure and metrics, and project capacity. The deadline to complete the survey is Friday November 10, 2017. To help ensure information about a monitoring project is only entered once, we recommend project managers coordinate internally to identify a lead responsible for completing the survey.

What information do I need to complete the survey?

The survey requires knowledge of the following:

- Project goals, monitoring methods, data collection, management, and analysis
- Habitat type(s) within which monitoring occurs, if applicable
- Location of monitoring site(s)
- Project partners and capacity

How long will it take to complete the survey?

We estimate that the survey will take 20-30 minutes to complete. If you lead multiple monitoring projects, it could take a little longer.

How will the survey results be used?

Responses to this survey will help California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Ocean Protection Council, and California Ocean Science Trust to build a cost-effective, statewide MPA monitoring program.

How can I access survey results?

The survey results will be accessible through the California Coastal Monitoring Dashboard, which will be updated with North Coast results in late 2017. This dashboard will help members of the North Coast ocean community to also explore the wide array of monitoring activities underway in this region via maps, figures, and tables. There are some survey results that will not be made publicly available in the dashboard – these are clearly labeled within the survey.

Can I edit a survey once it's been submitted?

Yes, once a survey is completed, you can reopen the survey to edit it by logging in and clicking on the "Revisit Your Survey" button. However, please note: *you must go all the way through to the end of the survey after making changes, until you reach the final submission page, in order for it to be marked as complete and included in the results.*

How can I learn more and stay informed about MPA monitoring and next steps?

Visit the North Coast State of the Region page on OceanSpaces.org for more information about MPA monitoring, or contact survey@oceansciencetrust.org.