

## Frequently Asked Questions - Central Coast Monitoring Survey

### What is the Central Coast Monitoring Survey?

The Central Coast Monitoring Survey will build an inventory and picture 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 Central Coast marine protected areas, and the compatibility of those activities with the metrics and priorities outlined in the draft [Central Coast MPA Monitoring Plan](#). Data from the survey will also highlight potential partnerships and opportunities to build upon existing capacity in the region to design and implement the next phase of Central Coast MPA monitoring.

### Why is it important to complete the survey?

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

The Ocean Protection Council has authorized up to \$3 million to support and seed the next five years of Central Coast MPA monitoring. Disbursement of funding is contingent upon Fish and Game Commission adoption of the Central Coast MPA Monitoring Plan, together with OPC approval of a workplan that will be developed by OST, CDFW, and OPC during Summer 2014. Results of the Central Coast Monitoring Survey will be an important input to the workplan, and inform implementation of the Central Coast Monitoring Program.

### How can I access survey results?

Many of the survey results will be publicly accessible through the Central Coast Survey Dashboard, which will be released on OceanSpaces.org in mid-summer 2014. This dashboard will provide an opportunity for members of the Central Coast ocean community, to explore the wide array of monitoring activities underway in this region via maps, figures and tables. Users will also have the ability to download data files for their own purposes. Responses that will not be made publicly available in the dashboard are clearly labeled within the survey.

### Who should complete the survey?

While the survey is open to everyone, we suggest that coordinators and managers of Central Coast monitoring projects complete the survey. The survey requires in-depth knowledge of a monitoring project, including details about organizational structure and function, financial support, sampling structure, and project capacity. If you are a participant in a Central Coast monitoring project, we encourage you to share this survey with your project manager or lead.

### **What information do I need to complete the survey?**

The survey requires in-depth knowledge about the following:

- Project goals, monitoring methods, and data collection, management, and analysis
- Habitat type(s) within which monitoring occurs, if applicable
- Location of monitoring site(s)
- Financial support and 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, although if you lead multiple monitoring projects it could take a little longer.

### **NEW FAQ - Can I edit a survey once it's been submitted?**

Once a survey is completed, you cannot edit your survey entry. Please note, "Existing Financial Support and Project Capacity" is the final section of the survey before participants are asked to provide any additional project information (final field). If you advance beyond this page, your survey entry will be counted as complete, and you will no longer be able to edit it. There is also a "progress bar" located in the top right hand corner of each page that indicates where you are in relation to the end of the survey.

Survey participants can contact Benét Duncan at [benet.duncan@calost.org](mailto:benet.duncan@calost.org) to request that a completed survey be made available for additional editing.

### **How will the survey results be used?**

Responses to this survey will help Ocean Science Trust, Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Ocean Protection Council to build a cost-effective, partnerships-based MPA monitoring program in the Central Coast. Survey results may be shared with our state partners and funders as part of the monitoring planning process.

### **What's next in planning the Central Coast Monitoring Program?**

Ocean Science Trust is currently revising the draft Central Coast MPA Monitoring Plan in consideration of all public input received, and will present the revised monitoring plan at the October 2014 Fish and Game Commission meeting.

As mentioned above, during Summer 2014, OST, CDFW, and OPC will collaboratively develop a workplan for disbursement of funds to support Central Coast MPA monitoring. The results of this survey will be an important input to the workplan. Funding for the next phase of Central Coast MPA monitoring will likely be implemented through partnership agreements, contracts, Requests for Proposals (RFPs), and Requests for Qualifications (RFQs) at key periods over the course of the next five years. [Click here](#) to view a timeline of the monitoring planning process currently underway.

### **How can I learn more and stay informed about Central Coast MPA monitoring?**

Visit the [Central Coast region page](#) on [OceanSpaces.org](http://OceanSpaces.org) for more information about the Central Coast MPA monitoring planning effort, including a project timeline and program announcements throughout the planning process.