

Central Coast Long-Term MPA Monitoring Planning: 2013 - 2015



Location

The Central Coast network of marine protected areas (MPAs) stretches from Pigeon Point to Point Conception. Implemented in 2007, the network includes 28 MPAs and 1 state marine recreational management area, and it encompasses about 1,144 square miles of state waters.

Collaboration

California Ocean Science Trust, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the California Ocean Protection Council are collaborating to plan and implement long-term MPA monitoring in the Central Coast, building on the foundation of baseline monitoring in the region.

Staying Informed

To stay informed about progress on this project and opportunities to participate, please visit the Central Coast page on OceanSpaces.org, at oceanspaces.org/monitoring/regions/central-coast.

2013

Update the Central Coast MPA Monitoring Plan

The updated Central Coast MPA Monitoring Plan reflects the results of baseline monitoring, regional priorities, and management needs. It was developed with extensive input from scientists, resource managers, and members of the Central Coast ocean community. Opportunities for sharing input on the monitoring plan included large community gatherings, small-group meetings, informal discussions, and a public input period.

In October 2014, the Central Coast MPA Monitoring Plan was adopted by the California Fish and Game Commission as an appendix to the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Master Plan for MPAs.

2014

Identify Existing Monitoring Capacity

The Central Coast Monitoring Survey identified the geographic and temporal coverage of existing research and monitoring activities in the region, and the compatibility of those activities with the Central Coast MPA Monitoring Plan.

Over 60 research and monitoring projects were reported in the survey, representing over 1,300 sites. Results of the survey are publicly available in the interactive Central Coast Monitoring Dashboard, on the Central Coast page of OceanSpaces.org.

2015

Build the Monitoring Program

In June 2014, the California Ocean Protection Council approved up to \$3 million to support and seed the next 5 years of Central Coast MPA monitoring.

California Ocean Science Trust is leading the development of a workplan for disbursement of these funds, with input from partners at California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the California Fish and Game Commission. The workplan will guide implementation of the monitoring program.

The workplan and monitoring program will build on and leverage existing capacity in the region, which includes university, government, and citizen science programs. It will be guided by the updated Central Coast MPA Monitoring Plan and the results of the Central Coast Monitoring Survey.

Implement the Monitoring Program

Guided by the workplan, data collection in long-term monitoring program is expected to begin in Fall 2015.

Monitoring will 'take the pulse' of ocean ecosystems and ocean-based human activities and address key management questions at selected sites inside and outside of MPAs.

Funds will be disbursed through a mixture of requests for proposals, requests for qualifications, contracts, and partnership agreements over the next 5 years.