

## North Coast Baseline Program Summary of Community Discussion Sessions

June 18, Crescent City—June 19, Eureka & Shelter Cove—June 20, Caspar

*Prepared by the MPA Monitoring Enterprise and Strategic Earth Consulting*

### INTRODUCTION

In June, the Monitoring Enterprise hosted a series of informal ‘discussion sessions’ throughout the North Coast as a follow-up to the North Coast Bidders Conference. These discussion sessions provided additional venues for those interested in participating in the North Coast MPA Baseline Program to come together, discuss proposal development and ask questions of the MPA Monitoring Enterprise team. During each event, participants were invited to share their interests in being involved in Baseline Program proposal development, identify opportunities for North Coast community involvement in monitoring, and ask questions about the Baseline Program. Over 30 members of the North Coast community joined the conversation across all four discussions sessions, with participants representing a diverse suite of North Coast community perspectives.

This document provides a summary of the key themes heard at each of the discussion sessions and, in addition, highlights expressions of interest in partnering on proposal development expressed by discussion session participants. This document is available on the [North Coast MPA Baseline Program page](#) on OceanSpaces.org.

Additional information about the Baseline Program, including informational handouts and opportunities for connecting with other community members with an interest in MPA monitoring can be found on the [North Coast Monitoring Community page](#) on OceanSpaces. This includes a North Coast Monitoring Community contact list, which is available for download [here](#).

### KEY THEMES HEARD FROM COMMUNITY MEMBERS AT THE JUNE 2013 DISCUSSIONS SESSIONS

#### General

North Coast community members discussed proposals currently under development and shared ideas for other potential projects, these included:

- *Socioeconomics*: Development of a proposal led by Laurie Richmond and Steven Hackett at HSU to study socioeconomic impacts of MPA implementation, including consideration of historical regulations that have affected North Coast fishermen. This project aims to establish a fishermen’s advisory council to help guide and develop socioeconomic monitoring for the North Coast.
- *Sandy beach*: Development of a proposal led by Tim Mulligan (HSU) in partnership with Karina Nielsen (Sonoma State University) to characterize the sandy beach ecosystem.
- *Seabirds*: Development of a proposal (or multiple proposals) led by Rick Golightly (HSU), Dan Barton (HSU), and Craig Strong (Crescent Coastal Research) to look at coastal and marine birds.
- *Estuaries*: Development of a proposal led by Frank Shaughnessy (HSU) and Adam Wagschal (H.T. Harvey & Associates) to monitor estuaries throughout the North Coast.

- *Shallow rocky reefs:*
  - Development of a proposal led by Tim Mulligan (HSU) and Joe Tyburczy (Sea Grant Extension) to conduct hook-and-line surveys of fish populations.
  - Development of a proposal led by Jan Freiwald of Reef Check California to monitoring shallow rocky reef and kelp forest ecosystems through volunteer-led SCUBA surveys.
- *Deep rocky reefs:* Development of a proposal led by Brian Tissot (HSU) and James Lindholm (CSUMB) to conduct ROV surveys of deep rocky reefs.
- *Commercial, charter, and recreational fishermen who attended the discussion sessions expressed a number of ideas for potential projects, including:*
  - Tagging fish to better understand fish movement inside and outside MPAs (i.e., where they go and how far they travel) – some fishermen expressed interest in getting trained in tagging methods to enable their year-round involvement
  - Using long-lines as an additional method for sampling fishes (to potentially augment hook-and-line surveys). (Bill DeBacker may be able to take 6-8 people on his boat for long-line surveys.)
  - Understanding the effect of different methods of recompression on survival of sampled fishes
  - Documenting and understanding surfperch abundance and movement (i.e., where surfperch go when not in the nearshore)
  - Understanding the connection between oceanographic conditions and fish populations
  - Documenting any shifts in fishing patterns, especially those that result concentrating fishing pressure in smaller areas – how this affects fish populations
  - Exploring the role of fishing in maintaining a healthy ocean ecosystem and local economy
  - Conducting fish surveys at multiple depths to gain a better understanding of how fish use various habitats, how fish populations have changed over time, and the relationship between depth and breeding
- *Other topics of discussion included:*
  - The utility of coordinating kelp forest surveys to include surveys using multiple methods, such as hook-and-line and SCUBA
  - All project leaders who are currently developing proposals are encouraged to reach out to local tribes when proposing to conduct research on tribal lands to inform the tribe about the research project and to ask for the tribe's blessing in accessing their land.

### Partnership opportunities

At each of the discussion sessions, participants identified projects that were interested in connecting with community members, as well as expressed willingness to participate in projects or proposal development. These expressions of interest included:

- Identification of charter boats, as well as multiple commercial fishing boats, are available in a number of North Coast ports
- Interest from fishermen in providing boats and/or volunteering time, in exchange for fuel costs

- Suggestion that Pacific Quest dive shop may be a source of volunteer divers for those projects including SCUBA as part of their methods.
- Expression of interest from Sean Kearns in assisting with projects that need help with proposal writing and communications support.
- Request for interested citizen scientist groups to get involved:
  - *Bird surveys*: Those interested in participating, should contact Craig Strong, Dan Barton or Rick Golightly. Project leaders are interested in connecting with citizen scientists of all ages, including high school students and college interns. (Commercial fishermen, including Kenyon Hensel, may be interested in taking researchers out.)
  - *Hook-and-line surveys of fish*: Those interested should contact Joe Tyburczy or Tim Mulligan. (A number of charter boat fishermen expressed interest in making their boats available for hire.)
  - *SCUBA surveys of shallow rocky reefs and kelp forests*: Those interested should contact Brett Stacy or Jan Freiwald. (Reef Check is interested in establishing sites and recruiting volunteer divers across Mendocino, Humboldt, and Del Norte counties.)
- Interest in school groups participating as citizen scientists:
  - *Petrolia, Ali Freedlund with Mattole Restoration Council (MRC)*
    - Rocky intertidal and beach projects: high school groups to monitor seaweeds and beach wrack – an important education opportunity that will impact the next generation
    - Over the long-term, MRC would have capacity to continue these efforts; it would therefore be advantageous to establish these local connections now.
  - *Whitethorn/Shelter Cove, Lost Coast Interpretive Association*
    - Organizes science projects for students, check out website and Facebook page
  - *Mendocino, School of Natural Resources (SONAR) at Mendocino High School*
    - Have organized SCUBA certification programs for students and may be interested in assisting with Reef Check surveys
    - Students may also potentially assist with beach and rocky intertidal surveys.
    - The program has historical data sets that may provide useful contextual information.

## Questions and concerns

Discussion session participants raised a number of questions and concerns during these gatherings, including:

- Questions regarding budgeting:
  - Can federal dollars be considered match?

*No, but they may be considered leveraged funds. For questions regarding the use of leverage funds, please contact California Sea Grant.*

- Is there a \$25,000 cap on sub-awards?

*There is no cap on sub-awards. The \$25K cap has to do with the "costs" associated with a sub-award. An institution can charge overhead or indirect costs on the first \$25K of a sub-award. For example, if a university develops a proposal that includes a sub-award to a second institution, that university can charge additional overhead or "subaward costs" on only the first \$25K of that second institution's approved amount.*

- Do project leads have to be members of a non-profit organization?

*For-profits can submit proposals. If they get approved for funding, California Sea Grant will work with project leaders to set up the funding mechanism.*

- Question and concerns regarding liability insurance:

- Many researchers and fishermen raised concerns about the insurance requirements of California Sea Grant and the Cal State and University of California systems, which may limit the type of boats that can be chartered as part of Baseline Program projects.

*California Sea Grant is currently exploring how to best address this concern. We look forward to providing you with additional information in the coming weeks.*

## **NORTH COAST MPA BASELINE PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION**

### **California Sea Grant**

#### *Assistance with overall RFP process*

Shauna Oh, Associate Director, California Sea Grant College Program  
Phone: 858-822-2708; Email: [sgmpaproposal@ucsd.edu](mailto:sgmpaproposal@ucsd.edu)

#### *General Proposal Help (assistance with forms, format and submission)*

Carol Bailey-Sumber, Grants Specialist  
Phone: 858-534-7855; Email: [sgmpaproposal@ucsd.edu](mailto:sgmpaproposal@ucsd.edu)

#### *Budget Help*

Rose Madson, Business Office  
Phone: 858-534-4601; Email: [sgbudget@ucsd.edu](mailto:sgbudget@ucsd.edu)

#### *Computer/eSeagrant-related Help*

Roberto Chavez, Programmer  
Phone: 858-534-4441; Email: [rachavez@ucsd.edu](mailto:rachavez@ucsd.edu)

### **MPA Monitoring Enterprise**

#### *Assistance with Baseline Program purposes and priorities, and additional information on North Coast MPA monitoring planning*

Erin Meyer, Associate Scientist  
Phone: 510-350-1893; Email: [erin.meyer@calost.org](mailto:erin.meyer@calost.org)

### **Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW)**

#### *Assistance with DFW programs, priorities, or data*

Adam Frimodig, Environmental Scientist, Marine Region  
Phone: 707-445-5397; Email: [Adam.Frimodig@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Adam.Frimodig@wildlife.ca.gov)

#### *Questions related to DFW permitting*

Brian Owens, Environmental Scientist, Marine Region  
Phone: 650-631-6786; Email: [Brian.Owens@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Brian.Owens@wildlife.ca.gov)

### **Ocean Protection Council (OPC)**

#### *For more information about OPC's authorization and associated requirements*

Clare O'Reilly, Project Manager  
Phone: 510-286-0332; Email: [coreilly@scc.ca.gov](mailto:coreilly@scc.ca.gov)

## KEY RESOURCES

**California Sea Grant North Coast MPA Baseline Program Request for Proposals (RFP) page:** This is the official website for the RFP, where any updates or changes to the RFP will be posted.

<http://www.csgc.ucsd.edu/FUNDING/APPLYING/NorthCoastMPA2014-15.html>

**North Coast MPA Baseline Program page:** This page is home to information and resources related to the North Coast MPA Baseline Program, including a database of past and ongoing monitoring projects. Announcements are also posted to this page, such as any updates related to the RFP and details about upcoming events. Follow this page to be notified via email when new content is posted.

<http://oceanspaces.org/program/north-coast-mpa-baseline-program>

**North Coast Monitoring Community group:** This online group provides a platform for bringing together members of the North Coast community who are interested in MPA monitoring. It will serve as a hub for planning activities and resources, including announcements for upcoming meetings. Join this group and connect with others interested in North Coast MPA monitoring.

<http://oceanspaces.org/organization/north-coast-monitoring-community>

**North Coast Community Bulletin Board:** We've heard from many community members that they are interested in building new partnerships and collaborations for baseline monitoring. The [North Coast Community Bulletin Board](#) is now available on OceanSpaces as an additional place where you can exchange ideas and share resources as you begin developing Baseline Program proposals. We encourage you to share opportunities, express interests in collaboration, and ask questions of fellow community members.

**Stay connected:** In addition to reaching out to those who participated in the bidders conference (see pages 8-11), we encourage you to join the North Coast listserv to receive our regular *North Coast Update* that provides timely information on the Baseline Program. Contact Erin Meyer ([erin.meyer@calost.org](mailto:erin.meyer@calost.org)) to be added to the North Coast listserv.

## JUNE 2013 DISCUSSION SESSION PARTICIPANTS

This information has also been added to the [North Coast Community Contact List](#).

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