

North Central Coast MPA Monitoring

Location

The North Central Coast network of marine protected areas (MPAs) extends from Alder Creek near Point Arena south to Pigeon Point, including state waters around the Farallon Islands. Implemented in 2010, the network includes 22 MPAs and 3 SMRMAs encompassing about 20% of state waters in the region.

Coordination

The Baseline Program team, including California Ocean Science Trust, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the California Ocean Protection Council, and California Sea Grant worked together to design, implement, and support the North Central Coast MPA Baseline Program.

Collaboration

Researchers, citizen scientists, fishermen, managers, and others collaborated to establish a benchmark of socioeconomic and ecological conditions to measure future MPA performance. As baseline data collection ended, additional partnerships were formed to integrate and analyze data across baseline and contextual data sources. Partnerships will be key for long-term monitoring planning and implementation.

2010 - 2013

2013 - 2014

2015

2016 and Beyond

Baseline Conditions in the North Central Coast MPAs

The California Ocean Protection Council funded 11 monitoring projects that established a benchmark of ecological and socioeconomic conditions in the North Central Coast region.

Detailed technical reports, baseline data, and a *Regional Snapshot* report summarizing these 11 projects, were released on OceanSpaces.org.

Integrate and Synthesize

The Baseline Program team and collaborators developed an enhanced understanding of the region through integration of the baseline monitoring results and contextual data.

These syntheses demonstrated the value of MPA monitoring to better understand ocean health.

The process encouraged discussions of new ways to apply monitoring data to inform MPA management, as well as broader issues, such as water quality, fisheries management, and ocean acidification and hypoxia.

Engage and Share

Results, updates, and a synthesized *State of the North Central Coast Region* report will be shared with the local ocean community through a variety of formats, including blog posts on OceanSpaces.org, academic publications, and presentations at conferences and community meetings.

We are excited to spend time on the North Central Coast and engage with the local ocean community, to discuss the state of the region and begin conversations about long-term monitoring. **Stay tuned to OceanSpaces.org for announcements about upcoming events and activities!**

Plan for the Future

Ocean Science Trust and our partners will explore the extensive ocean and coastal expertise and scientific efforts in the North Central Coast. An online survey will invite people to document their local monitoring activities so we can all better understand local capacity and partnership opportunities in the region. Survey results will be available on OceanSpaces.org.

Adaptively Manage

The *State of the North Central Coast Region* report and supporting documents will provide a foundation for science-informed decisions at the Fish and Game Commission's 5-year management review. This will complete the first turn of the adaptive management cycle.

Long-Term Monitoring

Learning from the Baseline Program, together with insights shared by the local ocean community, will help establish a long-term monitoring program in the region.

Stay informed about North Central Coast MPA monitoring by visiting <http://oceanspaces.org/monitoring/regions/north-central-coast>

Contact us! You're welcome to contact Dina Liebowitz at dina.liebowitz@oceansciencetrust.org or (510) 350-3464



Published 07/28/2015