



## North Coast MPA Baseline Program: Overview & Partners

(August, 2013)

### ***What is the North Coast MPA Baseline Program?***

The Baseline Program is the first step in MPA monitoring. It will establish a baseline – or benchmark – of the ecological and socioeconomic conditions when the regional MPA network takes effect and will document any initial socioeconomic and ecological changes in the region in the first few years following MPA implementation. Reflecting regional priorities, this program will provide information that will improve our understanding of the health of North Coast marine ecosystems and socioeconomics, inform management decisions, and guide ongoing MPA monitoring.

The North Coast MPA Baseline Program is a collaboration of the California Ocean Protection Council, MPA Monitoring Enterprise within the California Ocean Science Trust, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and California Sea Grant. These entities are collectively referred to as the Baseline Program Management Team.

The North Coast MPA Baseline Program will be comprised of projects selected through a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) process. The RFP open period was April 24 through August 14, 2013. The RFP can be viewed on [California Sea Grant's website](#).

### ***California Ocean Protection Council***

The California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) was created to help protect, conserve, and maintain healthy coastal and ocean ecosystems and the economies they support. The OPC authorized funds for baseline data collection in the coastal regions of the MLPA process, and disburses these funds to California Sea Grant as necessary to solicit and fund individual projects as part of the Baseline Program.

For more information about OPC's authorization and associated requirements, please contact:

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

### ***MPA Monitoring Enterprise, California Ocean Science Trust***

The MPA Monitoring Enterprise is a program of the California Ocean Science Trust, an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring that rigorous science is applied to California policies and management to successfully maintain a healthy, resilient and productive ocean and coast. The Monitoring Enterprise advances MPA monitoring by developing scientific and practical assessments of the changing condition of ocean ecosystems and evaluating the effectiveness of MPA management decisions. In partnership with the Department of Fish and Wildlife and in collaboration with stakeholders, scientists and others, the Monitoring Enterprise is leading the design and implementation of MPA monitoring in the North Coast region. The Baseline Program is the first step in implementing MPA monitoring in the North Coast region.

For questions regarding Baseline Program purposes and priorities, and additional information on North Coast MPA monitoring planning, please contact:

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



### ***California Department of Fish and Wildlife***

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) is a lead trustee state agency responsible for managing California's diverse fish, wildlife and plant resources and the habitats they depend on for their intrinsic and ecological value and their benefits to people. The Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) mandates the DFW as the lead agency responsible for the planning, implementation, and management of California's MPA network. Following the MPA planning process recently completed in the North Coast region, DFW is now collaborating with the Monitoring Enterprise on the design and implementation of MPA monitoring in the North Coast region. DFW will use results from the Baseline Program projects for adaptive MPA management decisions.

For questions regarding DFW programs and priorities, please contact:

*Adam Frimodig, Environmental Scientist, 707-445-5397, [afrimodig@dfw.ca.gov](mailto:afrimodig@dfw.ca.gov)*

For questions related to DFW permitting, please contact:

*Brian Owens, Environmental Scientist, 650-631-6786, [brian.owens@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:brian.owens@wildlife.ca.gov)*

### ***California Sea Grant***

California Sea Grant is one of 32 university-based programs of NOAA's Sea Grant College Network, dedicated to the understanding, conservation, and sustainable use of coastal and marine resources. California Sea Grant administers the Baseline Program in collaboration with the Program Management Team by soliciting, reviewing and funding scientific data collection projects. Once projects are selected, California Sea Grant manages grants with the selected Baseline Program projects, and oversees review of deliverables, reporting and financial accounting.

For questions related to program administration, please contact:

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