



North Coast MPA Baseline Program
Community Discussion Sessions
February 2013

North Coast Baseline Program Summary of Community Discussion Sessions

February 19, Crescent City—February 20, Eureka—February 21, Fort Bragg

Prepared by the MPA Monitoring Enterprise, North Coast Community Liaisons, and Strategic Earth Consulting

Introduction

In February, the Monitoring Enterprise hosted a series of informal “Discussion Sessions” throughout the North Coast to help further inform the North Coast Baseline Program (Crescent City, February 19; Eureka, February 20; Fort Bragg, February 21). During each event, the Monitoring Enterprise shared information about the Baseline Program, its goals and general timeline, and described the type of information that will be included in the Baseline Program Request for Proposals (RFP). Participants were encouraged to continue sharing their interests and priorities for marine protected area (MPA) monitoring. The Discussion Sessions also provided the opportunity for the North Coast community to meet and engage with the Liaison Team. Over 50 community members joined the conversation across all three Discussion Sessions.

This document provides a summary of key themes and MPA monitoring priorities expressed by Discussion Session participants. This information, together with information gathered over the last seven months, is informing the development of the Baseline Program RFP. In addition, the document includes links to key resources and identifies next steps in the Baseline Program. This document is available on the Monitoring Enterprise [website](#), and has been shared with the other North Coast MPA Baseline Program partners: the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Sea Grant, and the California Ocean Protection Council.

Additional information about the Baseline Program, including informational handouts and future announcements of community gatherings can be found on the [North Coast Monitoring Community page](#) on OceanSpaces.

KEY THEMES HEARD FROM COMMUNITY MEMBERS AT THE FEBRUARY 2013 DISCUSSION SESSIONS

General

- The North Coast community broadly supports the updates made to the Baseline Program’s timeline and process, which include:
 - Originally scheduled for an October 2012 release, the a draft Baseline Program RFP will now be distributed in mid-March 2013 for a two-week public comment period. The final RFP will be released in April 2013.
 - Proposals will be due approximately 16 weeks after the release of the final RFP. This 16-week “open period” is a departure from the 8-weeks provided in other regions.
 - In recognition of the multiple and complementary definitions of “science”, Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) will be included within the scope of the Baseline Program.



*North Coast MPA Baseline Program
Community Discussion Sessions
February 2013*

- In recognition of the value that local expertise will bring to MPA monitoring projects, evaluation criteria will be included that favor proposals that draw on local knowledge and build on local capacity through collaboration and partnerships.
- A team of local, North Coast Community Liaisons has been contracted to assist with community engagement, participate in the RFP development process, and help facilitate local partnerships.
- Data collected as part of the Baseline Program should be publicly accessible and versatile enough to inform fisheries management (e.g., stock assessments, fisheries management plans, etc.).
 - All data and reports produced through the North Coast Baseline Program will be provided to DFW and OPC, and will be made publicly available on the [North Coast Baseline Program page](#) on OceanSpaces.
 - The Central Coast [report](#) and [data](#) are already posted and publicly available on OceanSpaces. Reports and data for the North Central and South Coast regions will be posted following completion of the Baseline Programs.
- Recognizing the value of historical and contextual information for interpretation of the current “baseline,” it will be important to evaluate evaluation existing information. Historical and contextual information includes existing data that was not included in MPA planning (e.g., observer data).
- Members of the North Coast community are interested in building partnerships within and across North Coast counties. Opportunities for collaboration include:
 - Working together with the North Coast Community Liaisons to help make connections as needs and available resources are identified.
 - Attending a series of events, to be hosted by the Monitoring Enterprise and the Baseline Program partners to help facilitate partnership-building (e.g., webinars, workshops, small group meetings, etc.).
- Participants identified a wide range of roles that may exist as part of Baseline Program projects, including Principal Investigators, trained researchers, citizen scientists, operators (e.g., boat captains), and volunteers. Members of the North Coast community expressed interest in getting involved in the full range of roles possible, and expressed the importance of utilizing local resources and expertise.
- Water quality was identified as important information to consider, especially as part of estuary projects.
- Concerns were expressed regarding funding for long-term monitoring and how long-term monitoring is being pursued in other regions.
 - The Central Coast Baseline Program, which was the first such program, was completed in 2012. Plans and strategies for long-term monitoring are currently being developed.
 - Baseline Programs in the other two regions, North Central Coast and South Coast, are ongoing.



North Coast MPA Baseline Program
Community Discussion Sessions
February 2013

- Members of the North Coast community are interested in learning more about the state and federal permitting processes for Baseline Program projects. Participants identified a number of potential hurdles, including endangered species, restrictions on data collection methods, and the typical timeframe to receive permits. Access to private land is also a potential obstacle, although not part of the DFW permitting process.
 - Those who submit proposals as part of the Baseline Program are responsible for determining the permits required for their proposed projects.
 - Contact Brian Owens (brian.owens@wildlife.ca.gov, (650) 631-6786) at the Department of Fish and Wildlife for more information about state research permits.
- To help ensure broad distribution of the draft RFP for public comment, participants recommended circulating a press release announcing its availability in mid-March.

North Coast Baseline Program RFP

In addition to the Baseline Program RFP updates described by the Monitoring Enterprise (detailed above), Discussion Session participants recommended that the Baseline Program RFP emphasize the following:

- Benefits of making direct connections to other research applications (i.e., fisheries management);
- Value of considering historical and contextual information;
- Advantage of planning ahead for long-term monitoring, particularly through establishing the broadest and most comprehensive local partnerships as part of the Baseline Program.

Priority Metrics for Monitoring

- Habitats
 - Beaches
 - Estuaries (e.g., Ten Mile Estuary emphasized in Mendocino County)
 - Offshore rocky and soft-bottom habitats
 - Rocky intertidal
- Species
 - Algae (seaweeds) and marine plants
 - Bull kelp
 - Eelgrasses
 - Seaweeds and kelps (in general), especially harvesting activities
 - Birds
 - Seabird colonies, especially special closures

- Fishes
 - Albacore tuna¹
 - Flatfishes
 - Night smelt, especially commercial and recreational fisheries
 - Rockfishes, especially yelloweye rockfish, copper rockfish, canary rockfish, and quillback rockfish
 - Salmon (multiple species)
- Invertebrates
 - Abalone and sea urchins – interactions between and among these species and seaweeds (e.g., light restrictions and predation by depth north and south of Pt. Gorda)
 - Crabs
 - Razor clams
- Marine mammals
 - Harbor seals
- Socioeconomic indicators
 - Changes in fishing effort and distribution
 - In-port monitoring
- Historical and contextual information
 - Changes in environmental conditions, especially due to climate change (e.g., ocean acidification)
 - Evaluation of water quality data
 - Historic and current patterns in oceanographic conditions
 - Impacts of radiation from Fukushima Power Plant

Identified Partnership Opportunities

Highlighted here are some partnership opportunities identified during the Discussion Sessions. Please contact a member of the North Coast Community Liaison Team for more details (see the KEY RESOURCES section below for contact information).

- Commercial fishing representatives in the Crescent City area have expressed interest in forming partnerships, have vessels available, local expertise.
- Humboldt State University researchers are interested in building partnerships throughout the North Coast region. Visit <http://www.humboldt.edu/hsuf/ncbm.php> for more information.
- Representatives with Humboldt Baykeeper shared that they have a boat available, together with volunteers who are interested in ocean- and land-based research.
- California Sea Urchin Commission has available boats and divers. Research does not have to be limited to urchin research.

¹ Typically not found in state waters



*North Coast MPA Baseline Program
Community Discussion Sessions
February 2013*

- The Mendocino County Fish and Game Advisory Commission Preservation Fund has community funding available for fish, wildlife restoration, and education projects. Contact Jim Martin (flatland@mcn.org) for more information.

The Monitoring Enterprise is currently developing a North Coast community page on OceanSpaces that aims to provide a platform for partnerships-building as well as a central location for important resources. Look for more information in the upcoming North Coast Update newsletter. Contact Erin Meyer (erin.meyer@calost.org) to join the North Coast listserv.

NEXT STEPS

The Monitoring Enterprise looks forward to continuing to work together with the North Coast community over the coming weeks as the Baseline Program RFP is finalized. Key next steps include:

1. A draft RFP will be distributed in mid-March for a two-week public comment period.
2. In April, the final RFP will be distributed. Interested applicants will have 16 weeks to develop and submit proposals.
3. With the Baseline Program partners, we anticipate hosting a series of activities and events (e.g., webinars, workshops, small group discussions) in May and beyond to help facilitate collaboration and the building of partnerships. We will be sure to keep you informed as the scheduling and details of these events begin to take shape.
4. We encourage you to reach out to the North Coast Community Liaison Team with any questions you may have – their contact information is below under KEY RESOURCES.
5. Please keep an eye out for our “North Coast Update”, a monthly electronic newsletter that provides regular updates on the Monitoring Enterprise’s activities on the North Coast. Please encourage your contacts to sign up by contacting Erin Meyer, erin.meyer@calost.org.



North Coast MPA Baseline Program
Community Discussion Sessions
February 2013

KEY RESOURCES

North Coast Community Liaison contact information

- Brandi Easter, resident of Humboldt County, brandi.easter@yahoo.com
- Zack Larson, resident of Del Norte County, zack.larson@yahoo.com
- Bill Lemos, resident of Mendocino County, blemos@mcn.org
- Tom Trumper, resident of Mendocino County, trtrumper@gmail.com

Materials circulated at the Discussion Sessions

- [Baseline Program Development and Launch Diagram](#)
- [Baseline Program FAQs](#)

Baseline Program materials from other California regions, (e.g., RFPs, and descriptions of funded projects)

- North Central Coast: <http://monitoringenterprise.org/where/northcentralcoast.php>
- Central Coast: <http://monitoringenterprise.org/where/centralcoast.php>
- South Coast: <http://monitoringenterprise.org/where/southcoast.php>

Baseline Program reports

- Central Coast results and report:
<http://oceanspaces.org/learn/monitoring-results>
- North Central Coast annual progress reports:
http://www-csgc.ucsd.edu/RESEARCH/NCCMPA_Summaries_and_Reports.html
- South Coast annual progress reports:
http://www-csgc.ucsd.edu/RESEARCH/SCMPA_Summaries_and_Reports.html

North Coast MPA Baseline Program contact information

- **MPA Monitoring Enterprise** – For questions related to Baseline Program, inquiries about previous RFPs and current Baseline Projects in other regions, please contact:
Tess Freidenburg
(510) 251-8325
tess.freidenburg@calost.org
- **California Ocean Protection Council (OPC)** – For questions related to OPC's support of the Baseline Program and associated requirements, please contact:
Clare O'Reilly



North Coast MPA Baseline Program
Community Discussion Sessions
February 2013

(510) 286-0332

coreilly@scc.ca.gov

- **California Sea Grant** – For questions related to how proposals should be structured, including budgets and match requirements, please contact:

Shauna Oh

(858) 822-2708

shaunaoh@ucsd.edu

- **California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW)**

For questions related to alignment with DFW priorities, please contact:

Adam Frimodig

(707) 445-5397

adam.frimodig@wildlife.ca.gov

For questions related to scientific collecting permits, please contact:

Brian Owens

(650) 631-6786

brian.owens@wildlife.ca.gov

Resources for staying informed on all Monitoring Enterprise projects

- OceanSpaces – An online community that fosters new knowledge of ocean health:
www.oceanspaces.org
- The Monitoring Enterprise monthly electronic newsletter:
www.monitoringenterprise.org/signup.php
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Marine Life Protection Act website:
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/>