

MPA Monitoring Planning in the North Coast Region: Summary of North Coast Community ‘Meet & Greets’

August 13, Fort Bragg / August 15, Eureka / August 16, Crescent City

Prepared by the MPA Monitoring Enterprise, Department of Fish and Game, Kearns & West, and Strategic Earth

Purpose of this document

The MPA Monitoring Enterprise, in collaboration with the California Department of Fish and Game, held a series of public ‘Meet & Greets’ throughout the North Coast region (Fort Bragg, August 13; Eureka, August 15; Crescent City, August 16). These community events provided the Monitoring Enterprise team with the opportunity to introduce ourselves and the work we do, learn about the monitoring interests and priorities of the region, and begin to build relationships with North Coast community members. Over 80 community members joined the conversation across all three Meet & Greets.

This document provides a summary of key themes and marine protected area (MPA) monitoring priorities expressed by Meet & Greet participants. This information will inform the development of a North Coast MPA Baseline Program request for proposals (RFP) and the North Coast MPA Monitoring Plan. In addition, the document includes links to key resources and identifies next steps in the North Coast MPA monitoring planning process. This summary 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 Game, California Sea Grant, and the California Ocean Protection Council.

Additional information about MPA monitoring planning in the North Coast, including informational handouts, answers to frequently asked questions, and future announcements of community gatherings can be found on the Monitoring Enterprise [website](#).

KEY THEMES HEARD FROM COMMUNITY MEMBERS AT THE AUGUST 2012 MEET & GREETS

General

- The North Coast community supports the production of reliable, unbiased, and rigorous scientific information to support regional MPA management and decision-making.
- It is important that MPA monitoring activities be transparent with respect to who is collecting data and that data and results be peer-reviewed to ensure that they are statistically and scientifically rigorous. Community members were supportive of plans ensuring that all data collected are easily and readily accessible.
- Regular, on-the-ground communication and local community engagement are important steps in planning MPA monitoring in the North Coast.
- The North Coast has a unique community structure, including many tribal governments that have direct and active relationships with marine and coastal resources. It is important that traditional, non-

commercial harvesting and gathering rights and usages be acknowledged and considered when planning and implementing monitoring on the North Coast.

- North Coast community members stressed the importance of monitoring the socioeconomic effects of MPAs and related human use patterns.
- Engaging local experts in MPA monitoring, both in terms of planning and data collection, is essential to the success of monitoring projects and to local confidence in the resulting data.

North Coast MPA Baseline Program development

- Baseline Program projects should be repeatable and comparable, and include sites both inside and outside of MPAs.
- The North Coast region is both biologically and socially unique from other regions, which should be reflected in the breadth of projects awarded.
- Collaboration among scientists, local experts, and tribes, along with local capacity-building, is encouraged. Potential avenues to facilitate collaborations include:
 - Public access to contact information of those who attended Meet & Greets and are willing to share their contact information.
 - Additional community meetings supported by the Monitoring Enterprise and Baseline Program partners.
- North Coast community members suggested that proposal evaluation criteria include consideration of the extent to which proposals incorporate:
 - Local expertise, including local scientists, local governments, tribal governments and scientists, local fishermen, etc.
 - Historical data (e.g., fishing catch rates, data from ongoing monitoring projects).
 - Traditional ecological knowledge (TEK).

Priority metrics for monitoring

- Initial priority monitoring metrics suggested by North Coast community members included:
 - Invertebrates:
 - Abalone: distribution, abundance, and the relationship between abundance and depth
 - Sea urchins: the relationship between fishing restrictions and urchin barrens, especially in kelp forests (or historical kelp forest locations)
 - Fishes:
 - Yelloweye & canary rockfish: distribution, abundance, body size, and population size
 - Algae (seaweeds):
 - Impacts of pollution on algae
 - Kelp forest response to climate change (e.g., sea level rise, temperature rise)
 - Impacts of radiation from Fukushima Power Plant
 - Environmental conditions:
 - Pollution (i.e., impacts of runoff, oil spills, military waste)

- Climate change (e.g., sea level rise, increased temperatures, increased storm frequency and severity)
- Underwater testing (e.g., Navy, PG&E earthquake sensitivity testing)
- Unique aspects in the North Coast region should be recognized.
 - TEK
 - Mobile, subtidal rocky reefs (i.e., boulder habitat)

KEY RESOURCES

Monitoring planning documents from other California regions, (e.g., monitoring plans, Baseline Program RFPs, and descriptions of funded Baseline Program 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 annual progress reports:

- North Central Coast:
http://www-csgc.ucsd.edu/RESEARCH/NCCMPA_Summaries_and_Reports.html
- South Coast:
http://www-csgc.ucsd.edu/RESEARCH/SCMPA_Summaries_and_Reports.html

North Coast MPA Baseline Program contact information:

- **Monitoring Enterprise** – For questions related to Baseline Program and long-term monitoring plan development, 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
(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 Game (DFG)** – For questions related to scientific collecting permits and alignment with DFG priorities, please contact:
Adam Frimodig
(707) 445-5397
afrimodig@dfg.ca.gov

Resources for staying informed on other projects and monitoring results:

- Central Coast Symposium (February 27 – March 1, 2013):
www.stateofthecoast.org
- OceanSpaces – An online community designed to bring together those who want to stay informed about MPA monitoring projects and results:
www.oceanspaces.org
- The Monitoring Enterprise monthly electronic newsletter:
www.monitoringenterprise.org/signup.php
- California Department of Fish and Game, Marine Life Protection Act website:
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/>

NEXT STEPS

The following next steps were identified during the Meet & Greet discussions:

1. The Monitoring Enterprise team will convey the key themes outlined here to our North Coast MPA Baseline Program partners to inform the launch of the Baseline Program and the development of the RFP.
2. We will provide periodic updates, address new frequently asked questions (FAQs), and post other documents on our website (www.monitoringenterprise.org) on an ongoing basis. We also encourage community members to sign up for monthly updates on our activities and programs:
<http://monitoringenterprise.org/signup.php>.
3. We anticipate returning to the region in mid-October to host additional informal community gatherings to continue the conversation on the North Coast MPA monitoring planning. We will keep community members informed as the scheduling and details of these events begin to take shape.