

MPA Monitoring Enterprise Development of a South Coast MPA Monitoring Plan

Frequently Asked Questions #1, July 2010

This is the first in a series of Frequently Asked Questions designed to provide information about the MPA Monitoring Enterprise and our work to develop the South Coast MPA Monitoring Plan. More information about the MPA Monitoring Enterprise can be found at monitoringenterprise.org.

1. What is the MPA Monitoring Enterprise?

The MPA Monitoring Enterprise was established to lead development of efficient, cost-effective monitoring of MPAs established under the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA). We are housed within the [California Ocean Science Trust](#), a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization established pursuant to the Coastal Ocean Resources Stewardship Act of 2000 to provide scientific guidance to the state on ocean policy issues.

2. What does the MPA Monitoring Enterprise do?

The MPA Monitoring Enterprise is leading the development of monitoring plans and MPA baseline monitoring. We began with the [North Central Coast MPA Monitoring Plan](#), which was adopted by the Fish and Game Commission in April 2010. We also led the design of the [North Central Coast MPA Baseline Program](#), through which 11 projects have been funded to: 1) document existing socioeconomic and ecological conditions as the MPAs took effect on May 1st, 2010, and; 2) describe socioeconomic and ecological changes in the two years following MPA implementation. We are now beginning development of a South Coast MPA Monitoring Plan to guide design of the South Coast MPA Baseline Program and inform ongoing MPA monitoring in the region (Point Conception to the California/Mexico border). In the future, we will lead analysis and public reporting of monitoring results and will help ensure that monitoring data, analyses and results are publicly available. We work closely with the Department of Fish and Game in all aspects of our work. We are not involved with MPA planning or adoption.

3. How will the South Coast MPA Monitoring Plan be developed?

We have planned two rounds of public workshops to seek input on MPA monitoring priorities and approaches. We will also be working with technical experts in MPA monitoring or related fields, including fisheries and water quality monitoring, to identify the most effective MPA monitoring metrics and the best use of existing data and programs. We will develop a Draft South Coast MPA Monitoring Plan for public comment, likely in late 2010. We will then revise the plan in consideration of comments received, and submit it to the Fish and Game Commission. If adopted by the Commission, the plan will be incorporated into the MLPA Master Plan for MPAs.

4. What is the purpose of the July (Round 1) Public Workshops?

The first round of public workshops is designed to obtain public perspectives on MPA monitoring priorities for the South Coast region (see notice and agenda, next page). The agenda will be repeated in three locations to facilitate broad public participation. All workshops are open to anyone who wishes to participate and provide a perspective on MPA monitoring priorities. We will use input obtained during the workshops to inform development of draft monitoring metrics and approaches, which we plan to present for public input at the second round of public workshops, to be held in approximately November 2010.

These workshops focus exclusively on MPA monitoring priorities for the South Coast region and do not affect the South Coast MPA designation process under the MLPA.

South Coast Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Monitoring Planning – Public Workshops, Round 1

Dates & Venues

All workshops are open to any interested participants and all will have the same format and agenda. If you would like to attend and have not done so already, please RSVP by **Thursday, July 15** to Christine Lim (clim@kearnswest.com or 415-391-7900) with the date/location you will attend. **Lunch will be provided for those who RSVP by July 15.** All workshops will run approximately 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Monday, July 19
Santa Barbara, CA
Fess Parker's Doubletree
633 East Cabrillo Boulevard

Tuesday, July 20
Santa Monica, CA
Marriott-Le Merigot Beach Hotel
1740 Ocean Avenue

Monday, July 26
Carlsbad, CA
Hilton Garden Inn
6450 Carlsbad Boulevard

Workshop Objectives

1. Describe the role and function of the MPA Monitoring Enterprise;
2. Provide an overview of the anticipated process and timeline to develop the South Coast MPA Monitoring Plan;
3. Present information about the MPA monitoring framework and approach developed to meet MLPA requirements; and
4. Offer an opportunity for participants to provide input throughout the day on MPA monitoring perspectives and priorities.

Agenda

- 9:00* *Arrival and Sign-in*
- 9:30* *Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review*
- 9:45* *Introduction to the Monitoring Enterprise & the South Coast MPA Monitoring Plan Development*
- 10:15* *Overview of Approach to MPA Monitoring*
- 11:30* *Lunch (provided for people who have RSVP'd by Thursday, July 15)*
- 12:45* *Introduction to Breakout Session #1 Activity*
- 1:00* *Breakout Session #1 – Input on Monitoring and Assessing Ecosystems*
- 2:20* *Plenary Discussion*
- 3:00* *Break*
- 3:15* *Introduction to Breakout Session #2 Activity*
- 3:30* *Breakout Session #2 – Input on Possible MPA Design and Management Questions for Monitoring*
- 4:10* *Plenary Discussion*
- 4:30* *Next Steps and Workshop Close*
- 4:45* *Adjourn*