



Schematic diagram of North Central Coast MPA Monitoring Framework showing the two principal monitoring elements: assessing ecosystem condition and trends; and evaluating MPA design and management decisions. Ecosystem condition and trends may be monitored using Ecosystem Feature Checkups, which employ monitoring metrics called Vital Signs, or by Ecosystem Feature Assessments, which employ Key Attributes and Indicators or Focal Species as monitoring metrics. MPA design and management decisions may be evaluated through answering targeted questions, including both short-term questions, expected to be answered within four years, and long-term questions, expected to take longer than four years to answer. Monitoring is focused using nine Ecosystem Features, which collectively represent and encompass the North Central Coast ecosystems, including humans, and is designed to deliver useful results in advance of the five-year MPA reviews recommended by the MLPA Master Plan.