



STATE OF THE *California* CENTRAL COAST

Reflecting on the First Five Years of MPA Monitoring and Management

Public Symposium & Call for Abstracts

The **State of the California Central Coast** is a unique three-day event that offers resource managers, policy makers, stakeholders and scientists an opportunity to reflect on the first five years of marine protected area (MPA) monitoring and management in California's Central Coast region - the first region to implement MPAs under the Marine Life Protection Act. The symposium will also discuss perspectives on MPA governance and enforcement and look ahead to informing adaptive management of the Central Coast MPA network.

- Invited speakers will highlight information gathered through the state-funded baseline MPA monitoring program and key partners to establish a benchmark of ecological and socioeconomic conditions in the region and assess any initial changes following MPA implementation.
- The symposium provides a unique opportunity for the agencies, research institutions, citizen scientists, organizations and groups that conduct coastal and ocean monitoring in the region to share their work and help inform ocean resource management. More details on the call for abstracts are below.
- Join agency representatives and key partners as we discuss the lessons learned during the implementation of the Central Coast MPA network related to enforcement and governance.

This symposium is expected to **draw over 200 attendees** including fishermen, scientists, agency representatives, conservation organizations, recreational ocean users, business owners, and others.

When: February 27 to March 1, 2013 at the Marriot Hotel in Monterey, California.

Hosted by: the MPA Monitoring Enterprise (a program of the Ocean Science Trust), California Department of Fish and Game, and California Fish and Game Commission.

Registration is now open! Registration cost is \$60, and fee waivers are available. Registration will remain open until November 27, 2012. Please visit www.StateoftheCACoast.org to register.

Call for Abstracts - We are currently seeking abstracts to be considered for presentation on a broad array of topics to build an understanding of ocean conditions in California's Central Coast region inside and outside MPAs, and the ways in which we use and manage our ocean resources. Abstracts will be considered for talks on topics including:

- Contributions to developing a benchmark of marine ecosystem conditions and human uses, with a focus on 2007-2012
- Explorations of initial ecological and socioeconomic responses to MPA implementation
- Descriptions of drivers of natural variation in nearshore ecosystems
- Historical perspectives on current conditions
- Advancements in monitoring methods and approaches, including novel approaches that foster community involvement, stewardship and enduring partnerships
- Beyond MPAs: using MPA monitoring data to inform management, policy and science in other arenas, including water quality, fisheries and climate change

The deadline for abstract submission is September 30, 2012. To learn more about abstract guidelines and the submission process, please visit www.StateoftheCACoast.org.

We look forward to seeing you in Monterey in February 2013!

