

# MBNMS MPA Planning Process Update

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# MBNMS's MPA Action Plan

## Key Strategies

- 1) Develop partnerships with National Marine Fisheries Service, Pacific Fisheries Management Council, and the California Department of Fish and Game to identify common goals within the geographic area of MBNMS
- 2) Develop an Integrated Management System to ensure that the development of any additional MPAs are coordinated with other types of management measures
- 3) Develop interagency coordination mechanisms for implementation of any management measures being considered
- 4) Consider a range of options that allow for varying types of extractive and non-extractive uses within MPAs

# MBNMS MPA needs

- Protect unique and rare places within MBNMS in their natural state for future generations
- Protect areas within MBNMS where natural ecosystem components are maintained and/or restored
- Establish research areas within MBNMS that can be used to differentiate between natural variation versus human impacts to ecological processes and components

# Complementary management objectives

- Implementing the State MPAs within MBNMS and along the Central Coast
- Identifying economically viable ways to reduce impacts of fishing on benthic habitat
- Determining proposed modifications to EFH closures within MBNMS
- Developing with PFMC an Ecosystem Fishery Management Plan for MBNMS
- Establishing economically and ecologically viable community-based fisheries within MBNMS
- Establishing an effective Community Fishing Association along the Central Coast to utilize community-based catch shares for groundfish
- Developing a sustainable fisheries certification program for fisheries conducted within MBNMS

# Approaches

## Integrated Ecosystem Assessments (IEA)

To implement EBM and consider various alternative management actions developed in collaboration with our partner agencies for meeting MBNMS's MPA needs and complementary needs.

# Initial California Current IEA steps

- 1) Joint scoping to ID existing and desired ecosystem benefits;
- 2) Determination of specific indicators and targets for these ecosystem benefits;
- 3) Evaluation of the threats and risks to natural processes and human activities;
- 4) Assessment of the ability of the existing ecosystem to provide desired ecosystem benefits in the future.

# MPA WG and SP

To inform the MBNMS portion of the IEA, we anticipate a stakeholder involvement process that includes the SAC, agency partners, the public, and science experts.

This is likely to be the appropriate time to establish the MPA Working Group and Science Advisory Panel.

# MBNMS core values

- Science-based
- Public input and stakeholder involvement
- Collaborative: interagency, stakeholders, scientists
- Transparent management