Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Ecosystem-based Management Initiative Update

Sanctuary Advisory Council

December 8, 2011
2000
• Joint Management Plan Review
• MPA planning process
• Agency and stakeholder feedback
• Changes in management seascape

2009
Transition to EBM Initiative
EBM Initiative
Goals

1) Maintain/restore marine ecosystem health and function;
2) Ensure protection of unique and rare features;
3) Facilitate research to differentiate between natural variation versus human impacts;
4) Facilitate ecologically and economically sustainable uses, including fisheries.
1. Publication of Research Workshop Report
2. Unique and Features Workshop (outline report in review)
3. Series of discussions with boating community
4. Engagement with Pacific Fisheries Management Council on research priorities
1. EBM – ecosystem components
2. EBM – partners and stakeholders
3. Opportunities – NMFS Integrated Ecosystem Assessment
4. Opportunities – Essential Fish Habitat Review
5. Advisory Council participation
Ecosystem Components

1. The big pieces of the ecosystem puzzle
2. Benthic habitat
3. Key food web components – forage
4. Water quality
5. Birds and mammals
### Examples of external processes that influence the EBM Initiative

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Process/Plan</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PFMC</td>
<td>Essential Fish Habitat Review</td>
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<td>Fisheries Ecosystem Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>CDFG – OPC</td>
<td>Marine Life Protection Act Review</td>
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<tr>
<td>SWRCB</td>
<td>Areas of Special Biological Significance</td>
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<tr>
<td>USCG</td>
<td>Port Access Route Study</td>
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Partner and Stakeholder Opportunities

1. Research and Protection
2. Benthic habitat – EFH review
3. Forage – NMFS research and IEA
4. Water quality – Regional monitoring, ASBS
5. Birds and mammals – WCRO, NMFS, USCG
Ecosystem-based management (MBNMS) and Ecosystem-based fisheries management (NMFS)

- Specifying and aligning research questions
- Cooperating on data synthesis
- Ecological indicators
- Robust Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA)
Focal research objectives for the EBM Initiative

- Long-term cooperative research sites (sentinel sites)
- Priority science questions which cannot be addressed given current spatial management
- Research to evaluate management options