



March 28, 2011

## **Annual Report – Year 1**

**Project Title:** Baseline Characterization of Newly Established Marine Protected Areas within North Central California Study Region - Beach Watch Coastal Beach Citizen Science

**Project Number:** R/MPA-9

**Grant Number:** 09-015

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### **Overview - Annual Report Year 1**

- (1) Brief summary of progress**
- (2) Project timeline progress**
- (3) Updated Financials Year 1**

### **Brief Summary of Progress – Year 1:**

- Continued monitoring of Beach Watch coastal beaches within MPAs, 1993-present
- Continued monitoring of Beach Watch coastal beaches outside MPAs (reference sites) 1993-present
- EML compliant database with standardized metadata in progress.
- Metadata testing is complete.
- Database standardization process is ongoing.
- Completed Objective 1 – compilation and description of data and methods
- In progress objective 2 and 3 - Review and analysis of following datasets is in progress:
  - a. Live bird and marine mammal distribution and abundance
  - b. Dead bird and marine mammal distribution and abundance
  - c. Human use patterns
- Study site map describing surveys sites used in analysis as inside MPA and outside MPA (reference sites) (Fig.1)

## **Project Timeline:**

### **Year 1 and 2 Objectives –**

- (1) Compilation and description of existing Beach Watch data to describe methods and data collected in areas currently surveyed within the North Central Coast MPAs.  
**(Status: completed)**
- (2) Analysis of Beach Watch live and dead bird and marine mammal data to:  
**(Status: in progress)**
  - a. Provide summaries and descriptions of major spatial and temporal patterns.
  - b. Describe historical trends in specific species of interest identified in the North Central Coast Monitoring Framework.
  - c. Summary description of marine mammal sightings inside and outside MPAs and across the survey region
- (3) Collection, provision and summary description of Beach Watch human uses data inside and outside MPAs and across the survey region.  
**(Status: in progress)**

### **Year 3 Objectives –**

- (4) Provision of long-term monitoring recommendations via participation in collaborative processes (e.g. workshops) with the MPA Monitoring Enterprise and other baseline program project leaders to :  
**(Status: remaining)**
  - a. Contribute towards an integrated and synthesized assessment of ecosystem conditions at the time of the MPA implementation and initial MPA effects following MPA implementation
  - b. Compare data from citizen science and other monitoring methods to provide recommendations for long-term monitoring

Figure 1. Beach Watch Survey Locations  
1993-present

