

Principal Investigators - please use this form to submit your MPA Baseline Program project annual report, including an update on activities completed over the past year and those planned for the upcoming year. This information will be used by the MPA Baseline Program Management Team to track the progress of individual projects, and will be provided to all MPA Baseline Program PIs and co-PIs prior to the Annual PIs workshop to facilitate discussion of project integration. Please submit this form to California Sea Grant when complete (sgreport@ucsd.edu, Subject [Award Number, project number, PI, "Annual Report"].)

Project Information

Project Year	1	Study Region	South Coast
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Project Title & Number	Integrative Assessment of baseline ecological and socioeconomic conditions and initial changes within the South Coast MPA region, R/MPA-23
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PI name	Jennifer Caselle	Co-PI name	Carol Blanchette
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PI Contact Info

Co- PI Contact Info

(please list additional PIs and contact info in the "Project Personnel" section if necessary)

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Project Goals & Objectives

The overall goals are to:

- 1) Provide a coordinated approach to monitoring across these ecosystem features, so that data can be easily shared and analyzed in a unified framework
- 2) Ensure a standards-based approach to data and metadata management across projects, Facilitate data analysis and synthesis through dedicated workshops and working groups,
- 3) Produce an integrated dataset and series of data-based products (papers, presentations, outreach materials) providing a baseline characterization of ecological and socioeconomic conditions of the entire south coast region across ecosystem features as well as an assessment of initial changes in these conditions within the initial period of baseline monitoring.

The specific objectives of this of this integrative project are to:

- 1) Ensure integration and planning of all groups starting in year1
- 2) Facilitate collaboration among groups through bi-monthly conference calls and webinars
- 3) Manage data from all groups to ensure compatibility and adherence to a common set of standards and work with the Monitoring Enterprise (ME) to refine those standards for the South coast
- 4) Lead the data analysis and synthesis effort in by hosting a series of collaborative analysis workshops modeled on similar workshops conducted during the Channel Islands five year review process and the MLPA Central and North central coast study regions
- 5) Develop, in collaboration with the ME, easy to understand outreach products for the public and policy makers

Summary of Project Activities Completed to Date

Overview of Project Year _1_ Activities, including progress towards meeting goals & objectives

Our progress thus far includes the coordination of all 9 funded project groups that make up the South Coast Baseline Data Collection effort. We have facilitated coordination across groups using a shared file system, as well as the new OceanSpaces and WorkSpaces platforms. We are still in the testing phase of these new platforms for coordination across groups and data dissemination. We have successfully used the Workspaces platform to ensure distribution of pertinent information to all project PIs and associated project personnel.

To date we have uploaded all project workplans and map layers and we plan to use these platforms for exchange of information. We are in the process of collecting spatial information from all PIs in order to create a GIS for the Baseline program.

We have coordinated and held our first PI conference call (August 2012) and will be holding these bi-monthly. During our first conference call we identified January 2013 as a good time for most project leaders to attend the first workshop. We will be coordinating and hosting this workshop and we currently have a draft agenda out to PIs. This workshop will focus on the preparation of metadata as well as preliminary planning for analysis and synthesis. The draft agenda outlines the following goals for the workshop:

- 1) review metadata formats,
- 2) review individual project progress and identify areas of overlap (spatially and question-wise),
- 3) brainstorm synthesis ideas and analyses,
- 4) identify the types of ancillary information and data needed for interpreting the South coast datasets,
- 5) identify next steps and tasks.

Highlights from project progress so far, such as successes achieved or interesting stories from the past year

We have had several very productive conference calls among project leaders and have all begun to share data and information using the OceanSpaces platform, which is continuing to evolve. The most exciting outputs from this grant will occur after individual PIs have collected data and created synthesis products.

Description of any unforeseen events and substantial challenges, and resulting effect on data collection

The biggest challenge so far has been the delay in implementation of the south coast MPAs until January 1, 2012. This has resulted in the delays of several of the projects as part of our integrative project. Due to these delays for several of the groups, we have postponed our first workshop and data and metadata workshop until winter 2013 (rather than fall 2012).

Data status (i.e., paper/raw format or digitized; if digitized, what format?)

We have begun to assemble contextual and metadata spanning the different projects as part of our integrative project. These data are currently in raw format. Progress has been made in assembling the lookup tables that will be required to combine the rocky subtidal and the rocky intertidal datasets. These lookup tables will be part of the final data products.

Activities Planned for following Project Year _2_ (if applicable) – Please describe remaining work and approximate timelines for completing that work, including any anticipated budget variances necessary to complete the project.

We will continue conference and skype calls among research groups as groups continue to assemble datasets. Our next face-to-face meeting will be in January 2013. This meeting will focus on initial synthesis of datasets, and will also focus on the basic structure and use of EML for documenting metadata, as well as various EML metadata editors. The following workshops will focus on data analysis and data products. Following the first synthesis workshop we will work with project participants to build an integrated dataset to facilitate synthetic analyses.

Project Personnel – Please indicate additional project personnel involved in your MPA baseline project, including students and volunteers, or additional PI contact information if necessary.

	<i>Students Supported</i>	<i>Student Volunteers</i>
<i>K-12</i>		
<i>Undergraduate</i>		
<i>Masters</i>		
<i>PhD</i>		

Number of other Volunteers not counted above:

Additional PI contact info not listed on first page:

Cooperating Organizations and Individuals – Please list organizations or individuals (e.g., federal or state agencies)

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<i>Name of Organization or Individual</i>	<i>Sector (City, County, Fed, private, etc.)</i>	<i>Nature of cooperation (If financial, provide dollar amount.)</i>
SCCWRP	state	Assistance with meeting support
PISCO	private	Additional funding for Caselle and Blanchette

Additional Information – Please provide any other project-relevant information, such as descriptions of attached materials, media coverage your project has received, etc.

None to date