

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	Baseline Characterization and Monitoring of Rocky Intertidal Ecosystems for MPAs in the South Coast Region, R/MPA-22A
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PI name	Carol Blanchette	Co-PI name	Peter Raimondi, Julie Bursek, Jayson Smith and Jenifer Burnaford
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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 goals and objectives of our project are to:

1. Produce a quantitative baseline characterization of the structure of rocky intertidal ecosystems in all of the South Coast MPAs that have accessible rocky intertidal habitats consistent with those in the Central and North-central study regions
2. Provide a quantitative comparison between the rocky intertidal ecosystems in these MPAs and associated reference areas in the South coast region using a combination of biodiversity surveys and targeted species sampling
3. Analytically explore the baseline characterizations for potential indicators of the state of the rocky intertidal ecosystems using newly collected data along with historical and contextual data from the region
4. Evaluate the suitability of proposed draft metrics and other metrics for long term monitoring
5. Assess initial changes in size and abundance of targeted species across newly created MPAs, existing MPAs and reference areas
6. Integrate these assessments with other components of the baseline program (e.g., Kelp Forest, Sandy Beach, etc.) to inform the role and design of those programs for a future monitoring and evaluation program.

Summary of Project Activities Completed to Date

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

We have just completed our first field season, and have completed baseline surveys at 21 south coast rocky intertidal sites. These surveys include both Biodiversity and Targeted Species sampling.

Sites sampled to date include the following:

Site	MPA status
Ellwood	IN
Palos Verdes	IN
Abalone Cove	IN
Navy North	OUT
Sea Ridge	IN
Windansea	OUT
Cardiff Reef	IN/OUT
Alegria	OUT
Coal Oil Point	IN
Carpinteria	OUT
Point Fermin	OUT
Crystal Cove	IN
Cabrillo 3	IN
Shaws Cove	IN
Crook Point	OUT
Cuyler Harbor	IN
Middle West	IN
S Frenchys Cove	OUT
Sequit Point	OUT
Lechuza Point	IN
La Jolla Caves	IN

We have completed approximately 50% of the data entry so far, and we are in the process of QA/QC on the data and metadata. We are beginning data entry for some archival data, as well as data from the LiMPETs group.

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

Great field season in which we were able to sample most of our proposed sites and we are very close to being done with data entry and QA/QC. Due to our efficiency, we also were able to add an additional site (not on our list of proposed sites) in the San Diego region.

We are also in the process of trying to add several more sites on San Clemente Island in the next year as part of a related project.

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

The only proposed sites that we have not been able to sample have been Government Point, and the 2 Santa Barbara Island sites.

We have had continuing difficulty getting permission to access the Government point site due to private property issues.

On our spring attempt to sample the Santa Barbara Island sites, the NPS boat (with our crew aboard) was turned around at the Landing Cove due to large swells and the inability to land the boat. By the next low tide period on our second attempt, the birds on the island had begun nesting, restricting us from accessing the island sites. We will attempt again in winter/spring 2013.

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

Our data are currently in raw format in .csv files and .xls spreadsheets. Once we are done with QA/QC we will upload all relevant data and metadata to the data catalog.

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.

Our year 2 sampling activities will largely focus on targeted species sampling at all of our study sites, as well as biodiversity sampling at the Santa Barbara Island and Government Point sites if we are successful in accessing them in the next year.

We will use the periods of time in between field seasons to focus on data management (data entry, metadata documentation and uploading) as well as analysis of our data and historical data. Our comparative analysis of the LiMPETS data and ours will guide the refinement, development and testing of protocols for long-term monitoring. These protocols will be field tested with LiMPETS staff and volunteers in year 2, and we will work with the LiMPETS group to facilitate their broad-scale adoption in year 3. Much of year three will focus on synthesis of data and analysis in preparation for final reports as well as recommendations for long term monitoring.

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>4</i>
<i>Masters</i>		
<i>PhD</i>		<i>1</i>

Number of other Volunteers not counted above:

3

Additional PI contact info not listed on first page:

Julie Bursek, Julie.Bursek@noaa.gov, Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

Jayson Smith, jaysonsmith@csupomona.edu, CSU Pomona

Jennifer Burnaford, jburnaford@fullerton.edu, CSU Fullerton

Cooperating Organizations and Individuals - Please list organizations or individuals (e.g., federal or state agencies, fishermen, etc.) that provided financial, technical or other assistance to your project since its inception, including a description of the nature of their assistance.

<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>
Channel Islands National Park	Federal	Transportation and Lodging at Island Sites
PISCO	Private	Database support

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

<http://www-csgc.ucsd.edu/NEWSROOM/NEWSRELEASES/2012/squishythings.htm>
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