

Socioeconomic Impacts of MPAs in California

Monitoring human uses and values



Goal

The primary goal of this project is to understand the interactions between coastal and marine human uses and marine protected areas (MPA) networks in California. This project will directly inform the 5-year review of recently implemented MPAs in California which will provide a baseline characterization of the ecological and socioeconomic conditions and changes within specific regions of California since MPA implementation.



Outcome

Upon completion, Ecotrust will have developed spatially explicit pre- and post-MPA human use datasets for the majority of the California coast (Point Arena in the North to the Mexico border in the South). Datasets will be developed for the commercial, charter, and select recreational fishing sectors and for coastal recreational uses such as kayaking, surfing, SCUBA diving, etc. We anticipate conducting over 500 interviews with commercial and charter fishermen and with thousands of coastal recreational users across California. Through analysis of this survey data and previous data collected by Ecotrust, robust spatial datasets will be produced to illustrate spatial shifts in the patterns and value of human uses across the region and, to the extent possible, attribute these changes to the recently established MPAs and other significant drivers of change.





Project Highlights

All data will be collected using Ecotrust's Open OceanMap survey and mapping tool in both an in-person and online format.

COASTAL RECREATIONAL USE SURVEY

In partnership with NaturalEquity, Ecotrust has designed a Coastal Recreational Use Survey to collect spatially-explicit data on coastal recreational use patterns, characteristics, and associated trip expenditures. This survey tool has been tested, refined, and improved to increase the ease of use for survey respondents and ensure the data collected is of the highest quality and spatial resolution.

Difficult to achieve using traditional mail or intercept survey methods, Ecotrust is deploying its survey tool using Knowledge Network's innovative online public survey methodology to ensure that all data collected is a representative sample (based on U.S. Census data of household characteristics) of the larger study population.

COMMERCIAL, CHARTER, AND RECREATIONAL FISHING SURVEY

During this project Ecotrust staff will conduct interviews with over 500 commercial, charter, and recreational fishermen to collect information on the spatial extent

and relative value of specific fishing areas, operating costs and characteristics, impacts of specific MPAs on spatial fishing behavior, and perceptions of change in ecological and economic conditions in each fishery and drivers of those changes. Furthermore, utilizing spatially-explicit data collected by Ecotrust prior to MPA establishment, a spatial-economic change analysis will be conducted — highlighting areas in which the most positive and negative economic changes have occurred over time in each fishery on both a port and regional scale.

This project demonstrates the effectiveness of our collaborative approach with local fishing communities and state agencies to design a socioeconomic monitoring program, gather data, and apply human use information for MPA monitoring and assessment in a more inclusive and transparent process.

PARTNERS — Natural Equity and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG)

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ECOTRUST MARINE PLANNING

Since 2001, Ecotrust has worked with federal and state agencies, nonprofit organizations and fishing communities to develop transparent and participatory approaches to marine planning and conservation. We bring an open, flexible and collaborative commitment to all our projects.

LEARN MORE: ecotrust.org/marineplanning

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