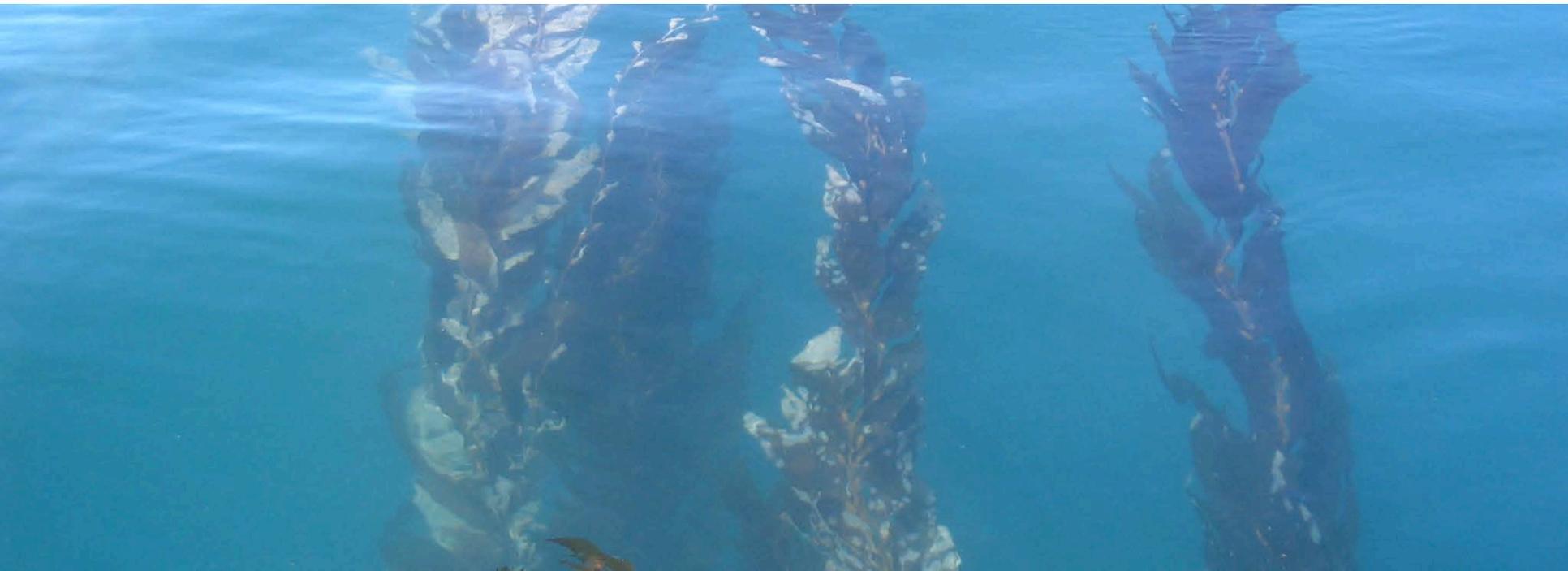
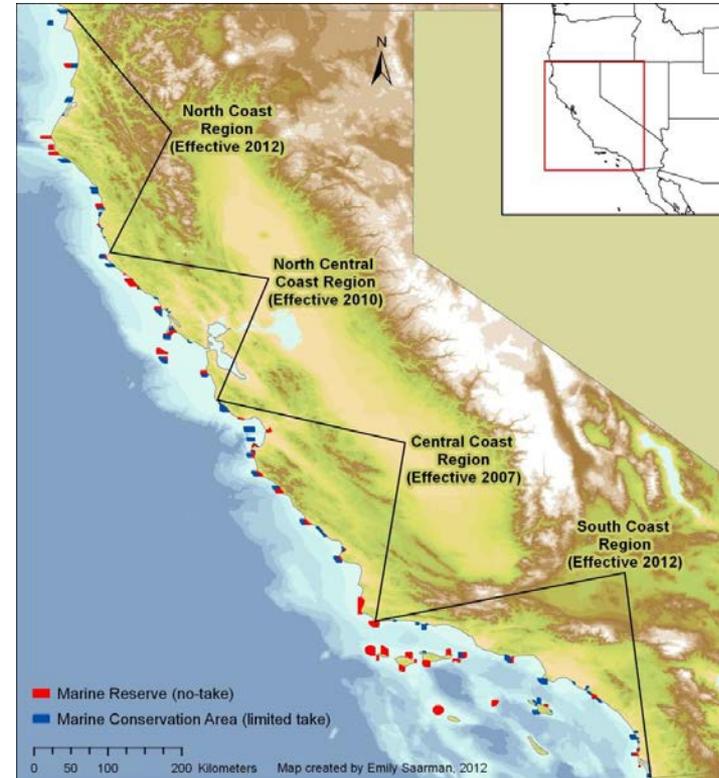
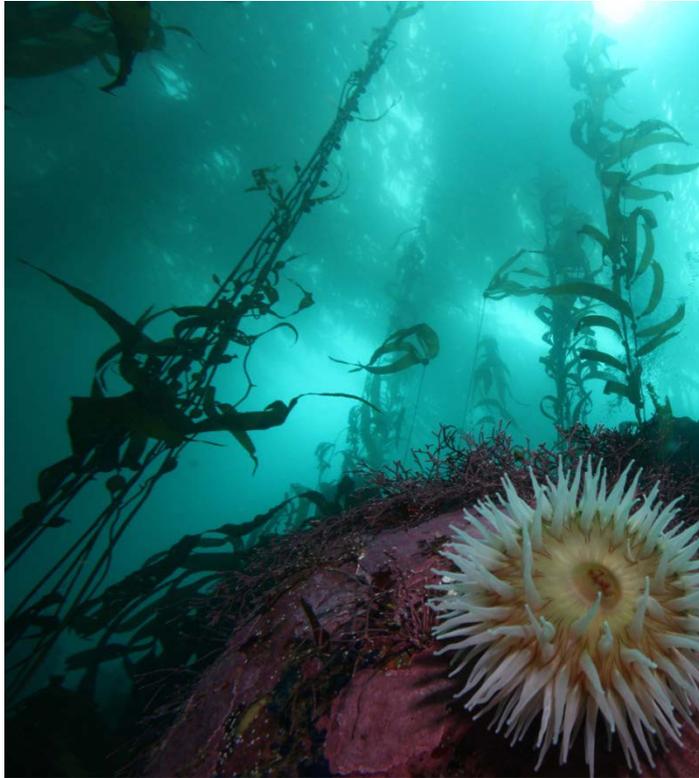


Monitoring California's MPAs: Building a partnerships-based monitoring portfolio

Liz Whiteman, California Ocean Science Trust



A significant investment for our future



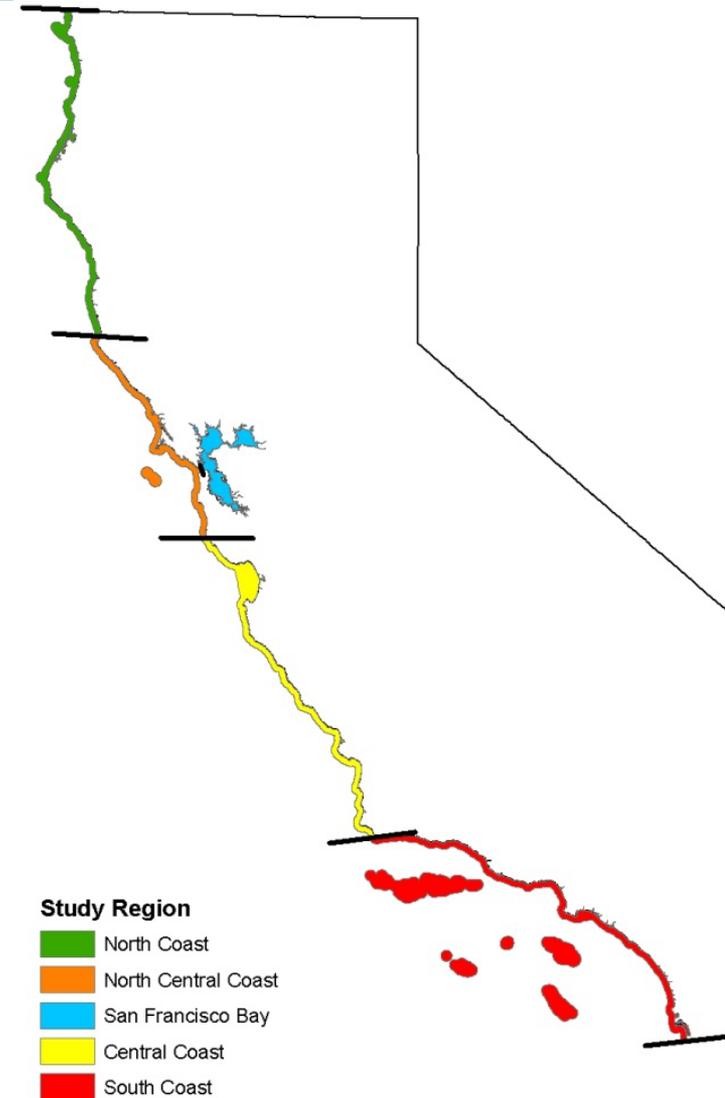
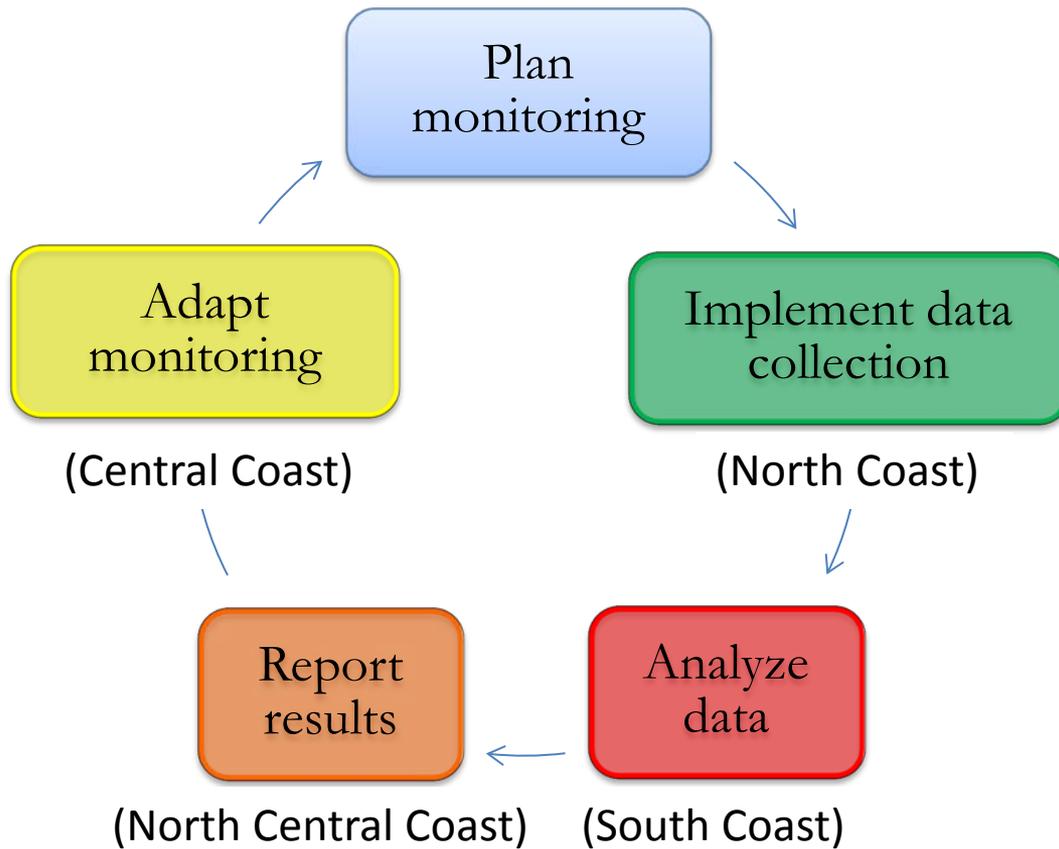
A statewide network of MPAs to protect and restore ocean ecosystems

...requires a new monitoring approach



- Start with stakeholder priorities
- Engage the best scientists
- Foster new ways to participate
- Share timely information broadly

Re-framing the discussion



Central Coast baseline monitoring: A quick recap...



Understanding our starting point

Setting a benchmark of ecological and socioeconomic conditions through baseline monitoring



\$16M invested by OPC: >50 programs

Initial results are encouraging...

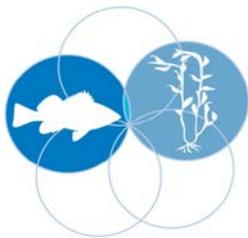
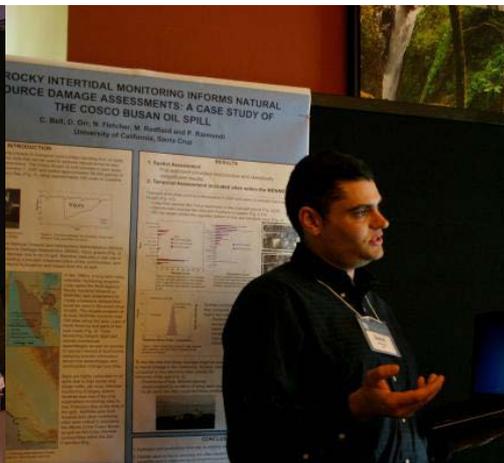
Central Coast MPAs are on track



- Some species (e.g., abalone, lingcod) have demonstrated early increases in size and abundance
- Fishing opportunities continue in a diversified economy

...and extend beyond the science

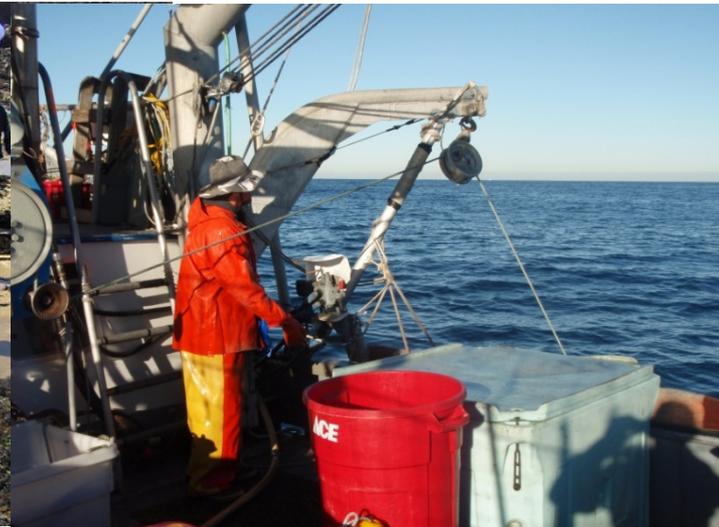
New partnerships and collaborations to steward
the network



State of the
CALIFORNIA
Central Coast



Poised to work together



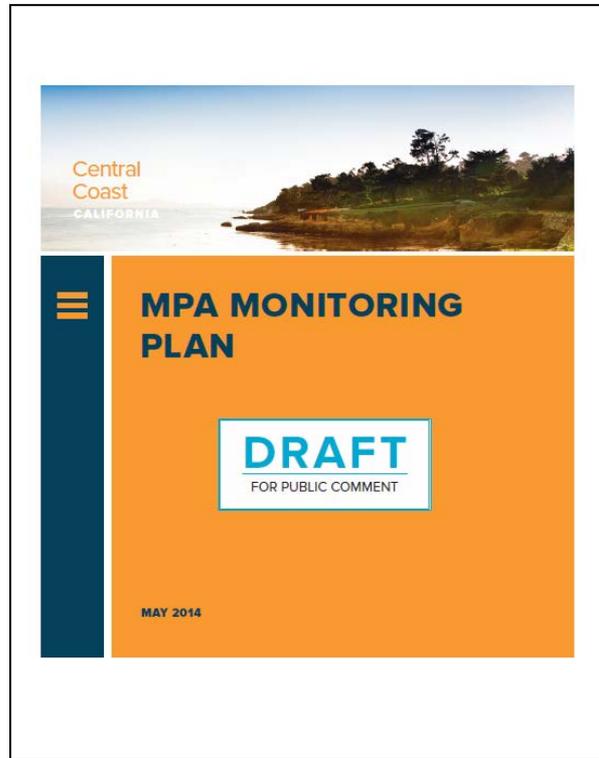
‘Taking the pulse’ of ocean ecosystems

Evaluating the effectiveness of MPA management

What's next...long-term monitoring in the
Central Coast



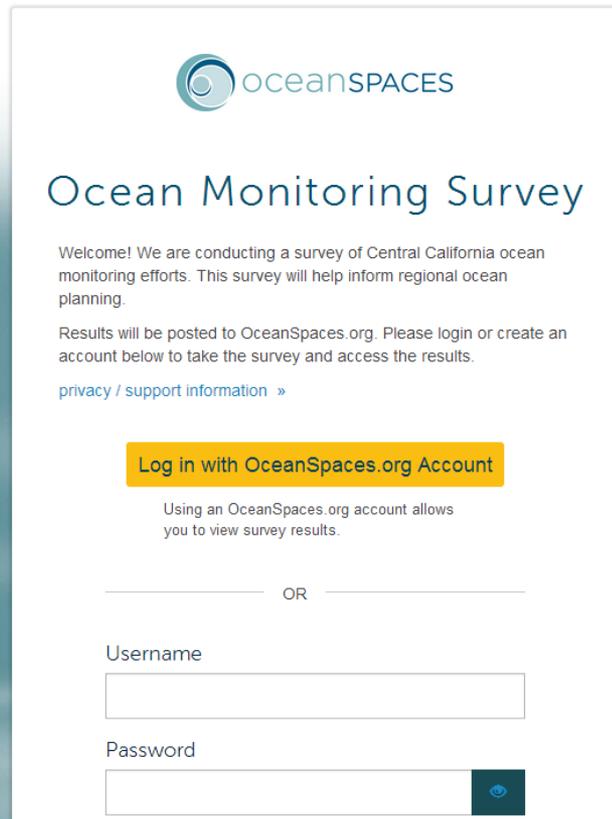
Updating the monitoring plan



- Draw on knowledge from baseline monitoring
- Apply the monitoring framework
- Reflect management, stakeholder priorities
- Serve multiple mandates

Policy guidance document that needs to meet MLPA requirements but can serve CA broadly

Survey existing programs



The screenshot shows the login page for the Ocean Monitoring Survey. At the top left is the OceanSpaces logo, which consists of a blue circular icon with a white swirl and the text "oceanSPACES" in a sans-serif font. Below the logo is the title "Ocean Monitoring Survey" in a large, blue, sans-serif font. The main text of the page reads: "Welcome! We are conducting a survey of Central California ocean monitoring efforts. This survey will help inform regional ocean planning. Results will be posted to OceanSpaces.org. Please login or create an account below to take the survey and access the results." Below this text is a link for "privacy / support information »". A prominent yellow button with black text says "Log in with OceanSpaces.org Account". Underneath the button, a smaller line of text states: "Using an OceanSpaces.org account allows you to view survey results." Below this is a horizontal line with the word "OR" in the center. Underneath the line are two input fields: "Username" and "Password". The "Password" field has a small dark blue icon of an eye, indicating a password visibility toggle.

- Leverage existing capacity
- Understand interest
- Identify gaps
- Shape resource needs

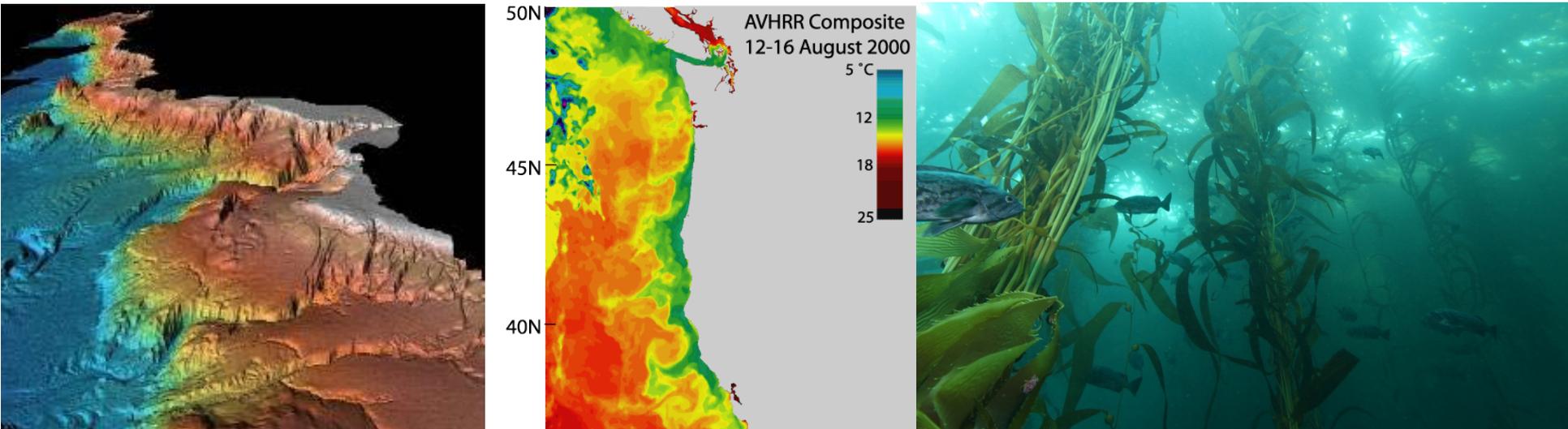
Opportunity to identify location, habitat, species, etc overlap with water quality monitoring programs

Build a monitoring program

Deploy financial instruments creatively, strategically:

- Solicit project proposals through RFPs
 - Answer management questions e.g., connectivity
- Identify monitoring contracts through RFQs
 - Efficiently align data collection e.g., rocky shores
- Engage in data sharing and analysis partnerships
 - Solidify data partnerships with e.g., PISCO, CenCOOS
 - Collaborate on cross-cutting research e.g., ocean acidification

Advance research priorities together



- Understanding the spatial scales of variability in ocean acidification and hypoxia
- Developing risk models of threats to ASBS's
- Refining monitoring methods and tools (e.g., indicators)

Ongoing now...building a foundation in the
South Coast



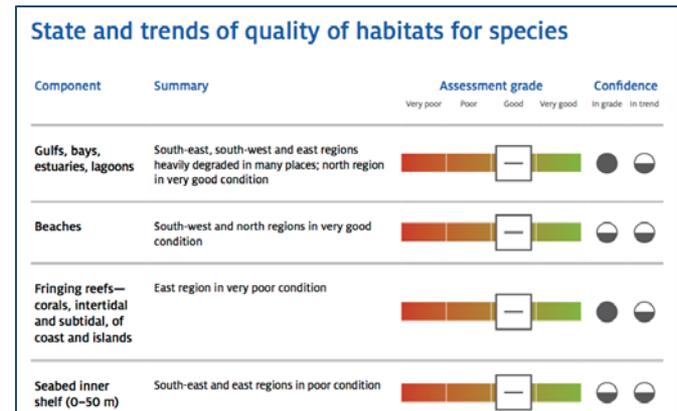
Linking Bight 13 and MPA monitoring

- Building institutional partnerships
 - Joint SCCWRP and OST Science Integration Fellow
- Programmatic collaborations to answer shared science questions
 - What is the relative effects of fishing and water quality on ecosystem condition?



Linking Bight 13 and MPA monitoring

- Advancing novel research
 - Developing indices/score cards of ecosystem health
- Leveraging technology assets
 - MyWaterQuality
 - CEDEN
 - OceanSpaces



OceanSpaces is an online community that tracks the health of California's oceans

Fisherman and citizen scientists join forces to dive deeper than ever

OceanSpaces is an online community that fosters vast new knowledge of ocean health

A shared body of scientific knowledge becomes the basis for participation in ocean

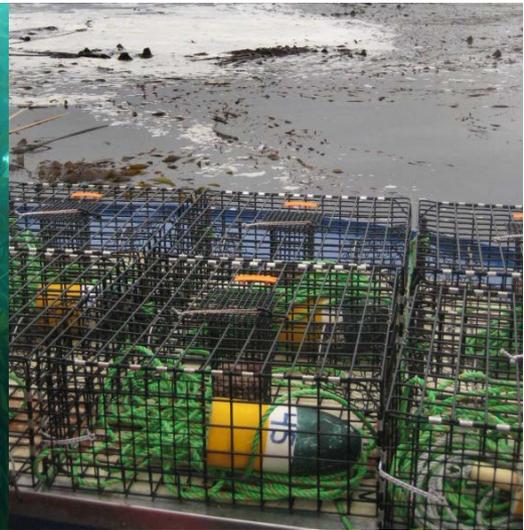
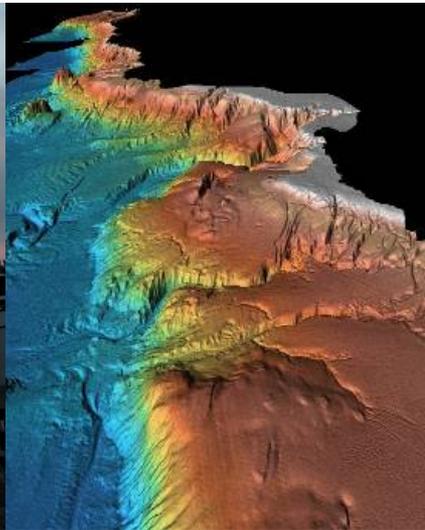
How does this all add up?



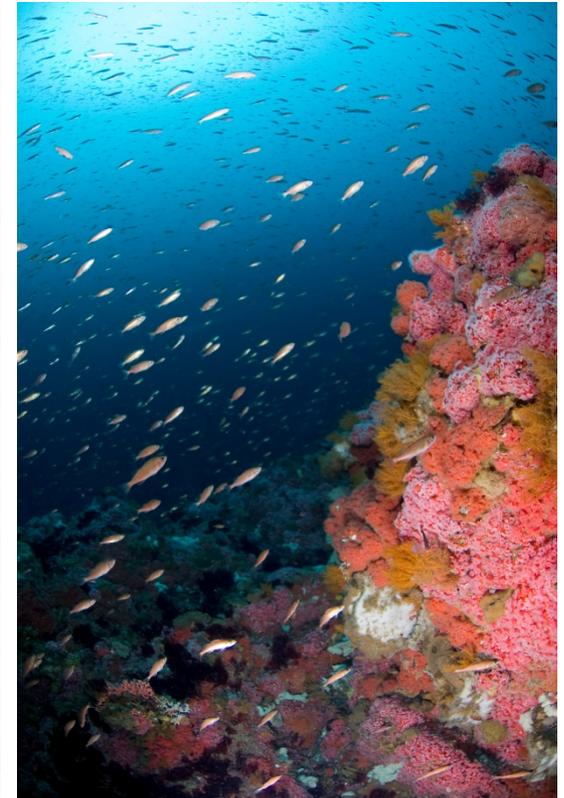
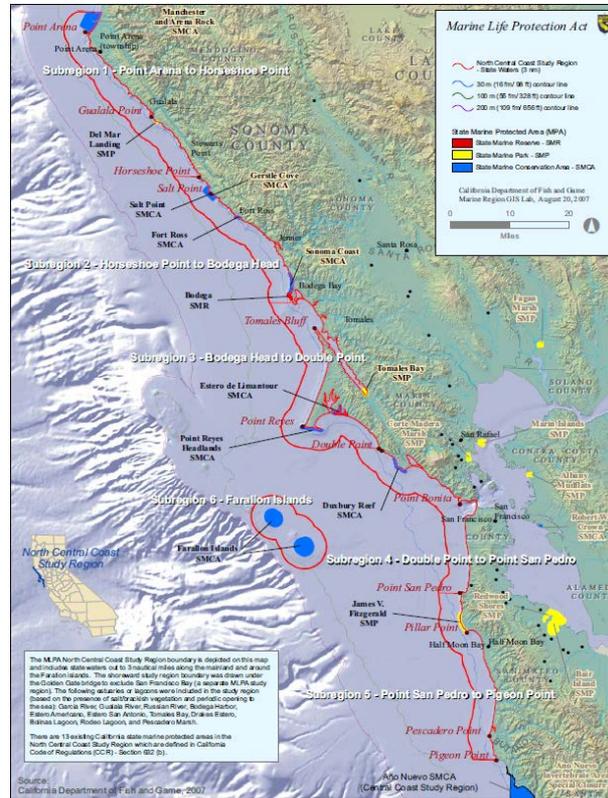
Realizing the value in our investment

‘Putting the MPAs to work’

Climate change :: Ocean acidification :: Fisheries management



A foundation for science-informed decisions



And an investment portfolio for our oceans

Monitoring California's MPAs: What is a partnerships-based monitoring portfolio?

Liz Whiteman, California Ocean Science Trust

