



MPA Baseline Program

Annual Progress Report



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: 2015 MLPA Region: North Coast

Project Title & Number: North Coast MPA Baseline Program: Traditional Ecological Knowledge of Keystone Marine Species and Ecosystems

PI name: Megan Rocha Co-PI name: Hawk Rosales

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

**Project Goal and Objectives**

The primary **Goal** is to use traditional ecological knowledge to create a baseline of ecological features and species observations; to identify areas of concerns/threats for long-term monitoring of MPAs; and to inform North Coast ocean policy and adaptive management.

**Objective 1:** Gather TEK through published archival and gray literature research, as well as tribal community participatory research.

**Objective 2:** Gather TEK in a manner that is culturally appropriate, ensures the protection of sensitive information, and provides analyses that can inform the baseline.

**Objective 3:** Create a baseline of ecological features, species observations, and areas of concerns/threats obtained from TEK-informed data.

**Objective 4:** Document community perspectives on the potential effects the North Coast’s new “Tribal Take” regulation may have on traditional subsistence, ceremonial, and customary Tribal gathering, harvesting and fishing within MPAs in order to directly inform policy, long-term stewardship, and adaptive management.

## Summary of Project Activities Completed to Date

### Overview of Project Year 2 Activities, including progress towards meeting goals & objectives

In accordance with the Revised Workplan, the following Activities have been completed or are in progress at the end of Year 2 (January 31, 2016):

Activity 1: Perform overall project management, coordination of partners and grant reporting. – 66% complete  
Project management has continued on two tiers: overall project management of the four partners and contractor, which is led by the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation (formerly Smith River Rancheria) and project-specific management at a Tribe/Tribal organization level. Overall Project Team meetings, communications and shared updates are ongoing, including in person (when possible), by phone and email. There have been countless discussions among staff within each respective Tribe/Tribal organization, as well as direct discussions between Co-Leads, partners and the State throughout the year. The Project Co-Lead continues to track and monitor progress, as well as assist with project, grant and fiscal compliance guidance, as able. A change in the subcontractor was required as Ecotrust, of which Point 97 was a subsidiary, resumed responsibility to complete the scope of work. A presentation was also prepared and shared at the MPA Collaborative North Coast Forum on November 17, 2015. The North Coast MPA Baseline Program grantee meeting was also attended. Changes in staffing have led to an additional need for project support and alternative methods for implementing the project.

Activity 2: Develop any necessary confidentiality agreements/policies – 100% complete  
An Informed Consent form was finalized and used during the interview process. Sub-contractor, Point 97 was dissolved and their parent company, Ecotrust, assumed responsibilities for the remainder of the work in the original contract with Point 97. Thus, contract termination and new contract negotiations and finalization had to occur between the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation, Point 97 and Ecotrust.

Activity 3: Develop records system – 100% complete  
This Activity was completed in Year 1 with the outcome of the Marine Traditional Knowledge Ethnographic Database (MTKED). However, as data entry into the records systems has continued, ways to improve it have been identified and it has been updated.

Activity 4: Perform research and data processing of published ethnographies and readily accessible gray literature – 60% complete  
Research is ongoing to gather published ethnographies and readily accessible gray literature. This began by each Tribe/Tribal organization conducting a thorough search of the materials already in possession and sharing those materials thought to be useful for other Project Team members, through Dropbox. Project partners have also conducted research collaboratively, as well as individually at the Library at Humboldt State University and the Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley. A meeting was also held with the Cultural Resource Facility at Humboldt State University for research suggestions and sharable publications. Ongoing archival research through other means has also been ongoing. As materials were collected, they were read through and information pertaining to the selected keystone species is being documented in the records management system, according to the relationship between place, resource and activity; with citations and links to the media source also documented. This research has been completed by the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation and Trinidad Rancheria, with the Wiyot Tribe and InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council research work to be completed within the next couple months.

Activity 5: Develop database, metadata standards, and QA/QC procedures for standardization – 85% complete  
This activity is being completed as elements of Activities 3 and 6 to ensure tool standardization. In addition, discussions have commenced with the Ocean Science Trust and members of the Project Team to talk about metadata standards and applicability to our project. These discussions are ongoing and should inform standards for documents/materials produced by the State.

Activity 6: Develop a Data Survey Tool to gather TEK geospatially and ensure data standardization across participating Tribes and the region – 100% complete

This Activity was completed in Year 1 by the marine consulting firm, Point 97 under the guidance of the Project Team.

Activity 7: Perform training on Data Survey Tool, QA/QC, and interview methods – 90% complete

Point 97 conducted a training on the data survey tool, which was hosted by Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation in Smith River in February 2015. Ongoing technical assistance has been provided by the Project Co-Lead and Point 97 both in person and remotely by email and phone. Several personalized trainings were also conducted by the Project Co-Lead with the InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council (Ukiah and Arcata x 2). Tutorials and technical assistance was also provided by the Project Co-Lead on the records management system and other data collection methods when requested, particularly as new staff/contractors came on board.

Activity 8: Conduct community introductory and scoping meetings with members, Councils, and/or Committees of respective Tribes – 100% complete

This Activity was completed in Year 1.

Activity 9: Using the Data Survey Tool, conduct short map-based interviews with interested members of participating Tribes – 78% complete

The Project Team decided to integrate all questions into a single interview that would incorporate the data survey tool. Interviews are being conducted by each Tribe/Tribal organization for their own community. These interviews are currently being completed and submitted for the data verification and analysis stage. Of the total interviews (n=60), 78% have been completed.

Activity 10: Develop semi-directed interview questionnaire for longer oral history interviews – 100% complete.

This longer questionnaire was developed in conjunction with those for the data survey tool and the Project Team decided to integrate all questions into a single interview that would incorporate the data survey tool.

Activity 11: Conduct and process longer oral history interviews with 60 members of participating Tribes in the North Coast (i.e. key respondents) – 30% complete

These interviews are currently being completed and submitted for the data verification and analysis stage, which will be a focus in Year 3. Of the total interviews (n=60), 78% have been completed.

Activity 12: Data verification, aggregation, synthesis, and analysis – 10% complete

Initial data verification on the surveys submitted has started and verification of archival data entered has been ongoing.

Activity 13: Reporting – 66% complete

The Annual Report for the first and second year has been completed.

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*Highlights from project progress so far, such as successes achieved, new collaborations or partnerships, or interesting stories from the past year that may be suitable for a blog post or other media venue*

There has been great interest shown and contributions made to this project by the member tribes and tribal citizens in contributing to an effort whose results will contribute to improved management and stewardship of marine ecosystems, increased awareness and involvement by tribal citizens, and the continued protection and ongoing practice of tribal marine rights and uses.

*Description of any unforeseen events and substantial challenges, and resulting effects on project activities and progress. Please indicate any issues that may affect other PI's or require coordination with other Baseline partners (e.g., ME, DFG, Sea Grant).*

Originally, the InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council intended to hire a consultant who would survey 30 tribal citizens about marine traditional knowledge of the five keystone species types. However, in the latter part of 2015, the Sinkyone Council decided to request its ten member tribes to each survey three tribal members. This approach thus far has resulted in completion of 19 surveys. The Sinkyone Council got off to a late start due to logistical challenges, but is making excellent progress on the research of published ethnographies and readily accessible gray literature, which is being undertaken by a local historian with extensive background in working with local tribes, who was contracted as consultant for this element of the Sinkyone Council's project.

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

Data products will be completed in Year 3, however, 2 data tools have been developed (ethnographic database and data survey tool).

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

Activity 1: Perform overall project management, coordination of partners and grant reporting – 34% remaining

Activity 4: Perform research and data processing of published ethnographies and readily accessible gray literature – 40% remaining. The Wiyot Tribe and InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council are completing their research and data entry.

Activity 5: Develop database, metadata standards, and QA/QC procedures for standardization – 15% remaining. Project Team will continue to work with Ocean Science Trust and Ecotrust on metadata standards.

Activity 7: Perform training on Data Survey Tool, QA/QC, and interview methods – 10% remaining. Minor technical assistance for submission of final interviews is anticipated.

Activity 9: Using the Data Survey Tool, conduct short map-based interviews with interested members of participating Tribes – 22% remaining. There are 13 interviews remaining to be completed.

Activity 11: Conduct and process longer oral history interviews with 60 members of participating Tribes in the North Coast (i.e. key respondents) – 70% remaining. The remaining 13 interviews need to be completed and then all will need to be processed, which may include transcription and editing.

Activity 12: Data verification, aggregation, synthesis, and analysis – 90% remaining. This will be conducted in Year 3.

Activity 13: Reporting – 34% remaining. There will be one more annual report (Year 3) and a final report.

Major budget variances relate to the late project start in that minimal funds were expended in Year 1. There is a need to carryover Year 1 and/or 2 funds into Year 3. InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council will also be working with Sea Grant to modify their budget based on a change in staffing approach.

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**Project Personnel** – Please indicate additional project personnel involved in your MPA baseline project, including students and volunteers, or additional PI contact information if necessary, as well as the nature of their assistance in the project.

	<i>Students Supported</i>	<i>Student Volunteers</i>	<i>Nature of Assistance</i>
<i>K-12</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	
<i>Undergraduate</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	
<i>Masters</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	
<i>PhD</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	

*Number of other Volunteers not counted above and the nature of their assistance in the project:*

N/A

*Additional PI contact info not listed on first page:*

Rachel Sundberg, Cultural Resources Coordinator/Tribal Heritage Preservation Officer, Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria PO Box 630 Trinidad, CA 95570 Phone: (707) 677-0211

Thomas Torma, Culture Director/Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Wiyot Tribe, 1000 Wiyot Drive Loleta, CA 95561 Phone: (707) 733-5055

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**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>
<i>Point 97</i>	<i>private</i>	<i>Technical assistance</i>
<i>Far Western Anthropological Group, Inc.</i>	<i>private</i>	<i>Technical assistance</i>
<i>Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation Tribal Council</i>	<i>tribe</i>	<i>Guidance, approvals, and technical assistance</i>
<i>Trinidad Rancheria Tribal Council</i>	<i>tribe</i>	<i>Guidance and approvals</i>
<i>InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council Board of Directors</i>	<i>tribal organization</i>	<i>Guidance and approvals</i>
<i>Wiyot Tribe Tribal Council</i>	<i>tribe</i>	<i>Guidance and approvals</i>

**Project Outputs and Materials:** Please provide any other project-relevant information, such as descriptions of attached materials, media coverage your project has received, presentations, publications, images etc.

None to report at this time.