

FINAL PLAN OF WORK

Project Title

Informing the North Coast MPA Baseline: Traditional Ecological Knowledge of Keystone Marine Species and Ecosystems

Project Participants

Smith River Rancheria, InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council, Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria, Wiyot Tribe and Point 97

Approach and Work Plan

The primary goal is to use traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) to create a baseline of ecological features and keystone 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 readily accessible gray literature, 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.

Project methodology will be standardized and strictly followed by each participating Tribe, to ensure consistency of information gathered across the North Coast Study Region. This will be developed under an effort coordinated by the Smith River Rancheria, in consultation and coordination with each Co-Lead on behalf of their respective Tribe or Tribal organization. Point 97 will be contracted for database and survey tool development, training, and technical assistance to ensure data standardization and increase QA/QC.

Researchers will focus on gathering data related specifically to the research questions. In addition, grounded theory will be used during interview processing in order to draw common themes, including those related to stewardship practices. The information gathered will be quite extensive; however, it must not be construed as statistically representative or exhaustive (e.g. with respect to geography, species, a particular Tribe, North Coast Tribes generally, and/or the individual participating). Given the nature of the information we are interested in for this project, we will use a non-random sample of culturally knowledgeable and/or active harvesters identified by each participating Tribe and Tribal organization.

The extent of archival information gathered will focus on published materials, information shared during the MLPAL process, and/or readily accessible information in Tribal and other archives as able. The extent of archival information processed will be specific to the marine ecological features, observations of selected keystone species, and areas of concerns and/or threats, with particular attention to areas within and adjacent to MPAs. TEK gathered through tribal

community based participatory research will be sought from those identified by the Project Co-Lead, Tribal leadership, staff, and community of that respective Tribe, to be considered knowledgeable and/or interested in being a part of the project. Involvement in the short map-based interviews will not be limited; however, the number of longer oral history interviews may not exceed the following, as budgeted in the proposed project (unless supplemental funding is identified and/or key respondents volunteer their time):

- Smith River Rancheria – 10
- InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council – 30 (potentially 3 from each member Tribe)
- Trinidad Rancheria – 10
- Wiyot Tribe – 10

Baseline Creation: Using the results of these efforts, we will be able to provide a rich historical context prior to MPA placement and a baseline at/near the time of MPA placement of the following:

- Distribution and presence of historic and current ecological features evident in TEK;
- Historic and current presence and geographic disbursement of keystone species as recorded through TEK;
- Distribution, extent, and intensity of concern of identified areas by North Coast Tribes;
- Identification, distribution, extent, and intensity of identified threats to those areas of concern by North Coast Tribes; and
- Perceptions of effects from the new State “Tribal take” regulation on traditional, non-commercial harvesting by North Coast Tribes.

Additionally, we will be able to identify common themes related to Tribal stewardship that may inform State and Tribal co-management, as well as methods of take by non-Natives throughout the State.

The following Work Plan in Table 1 outlines the necessary steps, as well as responsible Lead and Supportive roles.

Table 1: Project Work Plan

Task	New Data Collection Step	Lead	Supportive	Timeframe
<i>Project Management and Coordination</i>				
Task 1	Perform overall project management, coordination of partners (e.g. track work plan progress and coordinate routine conference calls), and grant reporting.	Smith River Rancheria		February 1, 2014 to January 31, 2017
Task 2	Develop any necessary confidentiality agreements/policies (e.g. Memorandum of Understanding, Traditional Knowledge	Smith River Rancheria	InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council, Trinidad Rancheria, Wiyot Tribe	February 1, 2014 to May 31, 2014

	Policy, Informed Consent Form, Confidentiality Agreement, Data Sharing Agreement).			
Archival Research				
Task 3	Develop records system	Smith River Rancheria	InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council, Trinidad Rancheria, Wiyot Tribe	March 1, 2014 to March 31, 2014
Task 4	Perform research and data processing of published ethnographies and readily accessible gray literature	Smith River Rancheria, InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council, Trinidad Rancheria, Wiyot Tribe		March 1, 2014 to January 31, 2015
Tribal Community-Based Participatory Research				
Task 5	Develop database, metadata standards, and QA/QC procedures for standardization	Point 97	Smith River Rancheria, InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council, Trinidad Rancheria, Wiyot Tribe	March 1, 2014 to May 30, 2014
Task 6	Develop a Data Survey Tool to gather TEK geospatially and ensure data standardization across participating Tribes and the region	Point 97	Smith River Rancheria, InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council, Trinidad Rancheria, Wiyot Tribe	March 1, 2014 to June 30, 2014
Task 7	Perform training on Data Survey Tool, QA/QC, and interview methods	Point 97	Smith River Rancheria, InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council, Trinidad Rancheria, Wiyot Tribe	June 1, 2014 to August 31, 2014
Task 8	Conduct community introductory and scoping meetings with members, Councils, and/or Committees of respective Tribes	Smith River Rancheria, InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council, Trinidad Rancheria, Wiyot Tribe	Tribal community members and Councils of the respective Tribes	February 1, 2014 to August 31, 2014
Task 9	Using the Data Survey Tool, conduct short map-based interviews with interested	Smith River Rancheria, InterTribal Sinkyone	Tribal community members of the respective Tribes	September, 2014 to December 31, 2015

	members of participating Tribes	Wilderness Council, Trinidad Rancheria, Wiyot Tribe		
Task 10	Develop semi-directed interview questionnaire for longer oral history interviews	Smith River Rancheria, InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council, Trinidad Rancheria, Wiyot Tribe		October 1, 2014 to February 28, 2015
Task 11	Conduct and process longer oral history interviews with 60 members of participating Tribes in the North Coast (i.e. key respondents)	Smith River Rancheria, InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council, Trinidad Rancheria, Wiyot Tribe	Tribal community members of the respective Tribes	March 1, 2015 to January 30, 2016
Data Synthesis and Analysis				
Task 12	Data verification, aggregation, synthesis, and analysis	Smith River Rancheria, InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council, Trinidad Rancheria, Wiyot Tribe, Point 97	Key respondents	December 1, 2015 to January 31, 2017
Task 13	Reporting	Smith River Rancheria	InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council, Trinidad Rancheria, Wiyot Tribe	January 31, 2015/2016/2017

Deliverables

Deliverables will include: 1) a comprehensive compendium of TEK related to marine and estuarine ecological features and selected keystone species that spans from prior to contact with non-Natives to the present-day baseline (text report and index); 2) a georeferenced intensity map that will identify areas of concern and the perceived threats (map(s) and GIS layer(s); and 3) associated metadata. Data and associated metadata will be provided in accordance with the procedures described in the proposal.