

# Program Name

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Contacts:

## **Background Scouting (from what we know online or ask)**

*Website:*

*Mission:*

*General idea:*

*Methods:*

*Partnerships:*

## **Initial Communications**

1. Describe program activities, spatial range, main goals of the group
2. Average volunteer and motivation?
3. Data use? Publications, resulting actions?
4. Established partnerships and funding
5. Relationship with DFW and other management agencies?
6. Challenges about keeping program running or using data? Best things?
7. Good place to see research in-the-moment?
8. Future formal research format? – focus group, interviews, participant surveys?
9. Willingness to contribute a blog post or profile to OceanSpaces?

## Interview Protocol for Engaging with Citizen Science Groups

*Note: This engagement is written as a focus group, our desired format. However, it's up to the program contact person which format works best for them, so this will be amended if a different format is requested. As part of a longer engagement, this is a rough guide for the discussion to make sure we hit all relevant topics of interest. Order and wording may change and program-specific questions added.*

### Introduction

[Background on CCSI and links with Central Coast Monitoring process, tailored to the group based on their prior knowledge]

Today we want to get a better idea of how the data from your program are used, identify potential links to the state's MPA monitoring plan, lessons learned from past efforts to connect to management, and the kinds of capacity that would help you accomplish your mission and be part of MPA adaptive management.

### Volunteer Attributes:

This section is to get a feel of the 'who' - what kinds of capacity the group has in terms of things like expertise and commitment. Much of the nuts and bolts will have been covered in a previous phone conversation, but this is a chance to follow-up on some of the basic facts, and potentially get a few alternative perspectives.

[one option here, as a kind of ice-breaker, would be to go around the room and get each person to describe what it's like to participate in the program from their perspective, whether a manager or a volunteer]

1. How many volunteers?
2. What is the demographic of your volunteer base? (age and education)
3. How much time is required of volunteers? How much time do most spend?
4. What would you say is the biggest motivator for most of the volunteers to participate?
5. What has been most rewarding during your participation in the group?
6. What has been most challenging for you?

### Project Attributes:

This section is to get a feel of the 'what' and serve as a link in the conversation between the nuts and bolts to how they may connect to monitoring efforts and management. It's also a time to ask questions we didn't find out through our earlier scouting.

1. What are the primary goals of your project?

- a. Why these goals?
  - b. Have these shifted over time? Why or why not?
  - c. How do you evaluate your success in meeting these goals?
2. What is your long-term plan for the group/project?
3. (other possible subjects if not already known): partnerships, relationship with overall program)
4. How are your data analyzed and presented?
5. **What are the data and results used for currently?**

### Connecting Outside Science: General

This follows directly from the question in bold above - asking them to elaborate on the different uses of data, and exploring how the program/project relates to or participates in those activities.

1. What sort of activities other than data collection does the group have?
  - a. How does data collection fit into the broader activities of the organization?
2. (if they do advocacy) How do you balance advocacy and science in your reputation?

### Connecting to Policymakers and Management

1. In what ways do you engage with policymakers and managers?
  - a. Are there any particularly important connections and how did you first form them?
2. What qualities do you want managers and other potential data users to see in your program?
3. What benefits do you get out of these connections?
4. What are the challenges in navigating these interactions?

### MPA Monitoring

This section will be heavily tailored to the group, since each will have a unique history with respect to MPAs. The main goal is understand their views of, and experiences with MPAs and MPA monitoring, and

1. **In what ways are you, or have you been involved with California's MPAs?**
  - a. How would you evaluate the success of these activities (on a scale of 1-10)?
  - b. What has worked well? What's been challenging?
  - c. What does it (or would it) mean to you to be involved in monitoring efforts?
  - d. (if they participated in baseline monitoring) Can you talk about your experiences helping with baseline monitoring?
    - i. How satisfied were you with the experience? What aspects did you like the best and which were the most challenging?
    - ii. Describe how the data was used, both by your group and by others.
2. What is your ideal relationship with the MPA monitoring program?
3. Can you describe activities of other groups productively engaged in monitoring activities?
  - a. In what context?
  - b. How would you evaluate these (on a scale of 1-10)?

4. Based on your experiences and stories from others, what advice would you give other programs who want to be involved in MPA monitoring?

### Capacity and Resources

We want to figure out what capacity and resources are needed for citizen science to fruitfully contribute to monitoring (combatting the common perception that citizen science is free) and means for evaluating and planning for that need. This may be used later to justify our focus on citizen science in monitoring efforts, or place citizen science in a broader field of monitoring possibilities.

1. Where does your funding come from?
  - a. Which aspects of your program are the most costly?
  - b. Would scaling up dramatically increase the costs?
  - c. (if involved with MPAs already) How much of this is dedicated for involvement in the MPA process?
2. Other than money, what resources are critical to the function of your group?
  - a. Which of these relate directly to monitoring activities, for MPAs or more generally?
3. How do you measure return on investment or value provided by this program? If not, any ideas you might try?

We've talked a bit about your ideal level of involvement in the MPA monitoring program...

1. What do you think it would take for you to play an active role in MPA monitoring in the coming years?
2. What would that look like? What would be the benefits?
3. Are there any additional resources that would help you meet your ideal level of participation in monitoring efforts?
  - a. Which of these are the hardest to acquire?

### The Future

The goal of this discussion is to wrap up, solicit final comments directly related to Packard proposal goals, and let people know what the next steps for them might be. Make sure to exchange any relevant contact information for other good contacts. This is not meant to be a monologue, but a means of making sure the people we talk to know about our future activities.

1. We are planning a workshop in April to discuss these issues further, specifically to develop a framework that guides and supports a role for citizen science in MPA monitoring. The framework and discussion will be based around the results of these interviews. Here's information....
  - a. Is there anything in particular you'd like to get out of a workshop full of citizen science groups and managers?
  - b. Any thoughts to be included as we prepare this framework.
2. Either a or b, followed by c:

- a. You've indicated that you'd like to strengthen your connection to management. Would you be willing to partner in research attempting new ways to strengthen the connections between citizen science and management?
  - b. You've indicated that you're happy with your level of engagement with management. Do you mind if we work together to document in a more detailed way how those connections work?
  - c. Would you like to partner in future data collection about citizen science? For example, we'd love to know more about your return on investments or perhaps perform a survey of your volunteers. Open to other suggestions as well.
3. (if not already agreed to) Please think about contributing a blog post to our project blog on OceanSpaces, listed on the info sheet.

<b>Citizen Science Program</b>	<b>Website</b>
Beach Watch	<a href="http://www.farallones.org/volunteer/beach_watch.htm">http://www.farallones.org/volunteer/beach_watch.htm</a>
BeachCOMBERS	<a href="http://montereybay.noaa.gov/research/bchmon.html">http://montereybay.noaa.gov/research/bchmon.html</a>
Beachkeepers	<a href="http://sosbeachkeepers.org/about-us/">http://sosbeachkeepers.org/about-us/</a>
Black Oystercatcher Monitoring	<a href="http://www.ca.audubon.org">www.ca.audubon.org</a>
Blue Water Task Force	<a href="http://www.surfridersantacruz.org/current-projects/water-testing/">http://www.surfridersantacruz.org/current-projects/water-testing/</a>
California King Tides	<a href="http://www.californiakingtides.org">http://www.californiakingtides.org</a>
CCFRP	<a href="http://seagrant.mlml.calstate.edu/research/ccfrp/">http://seagrant.mlml.calstate.edu/research/ccfrp/</a>
CWC (First Flush)	<a href="http://coastal-watershed.org/our-work/monitoring/first-flush/">http://coastal-watershed.org/our-work/monitoring/first-flush/</a>
CWC (Urban Watch)	<a href="http://coastal-watershed.org/urban-watch/">http://coastal-watershed.org/urban-watch/</a>
Elkhorn Slough (algae)	<a href="http://www.elkhornslough.org/volunteer/">http://www.elkhornslough.org/volunteer/</a>
Elkhorn Slough (nestboxes)	<a href="http://www.elkhornslough.org/research/09birdupdate.htm">http://www.elkhornslough.org/research/09birdupdate.htm</a>
Elkhorn Slough (otters)	<a href="http://www.elkhornslough.org/ottercam/">http://www.elkhornslough.org/ottercam/</a>
Elkhorn Slough (shorebirds)	<a href="http://www.elkhornslough.org/research/bird_esnerr.htm">http://www.elkhornslough.org/research/bird_esnerr.htm</a>
First Flush - Monterey Bay	<a href="http://coastal-watershed.org/first-flush/">http://coastal-watershed.org/first-flush/</a>
Grunion Greeters	<a href="http://grunion.pepperdine.edu/">http://grunion.pepperdine.edu/</a>
iNaturalist	<a href="http://www.inaturalist.org">http://www.inaturalist.org</a>
Jellywatch	<a href="http://www.jellywatch.org/">http://www.jellywatch.org/</a>
Leatherback Watch	<a href="http://seaturtles.org/article.php?id=2032">http://seaturtles.org/article.php?id=2032</a>
LightHawk	<a href="http://www.lighthawk.org/">http://www.lighthawk.org/</a>
LiMPETS	<a href="http://limpetsmonitoring.org/rocky_intertidal.php">http://limpetsmonitoring.org/rocky_intertidal.php</a>
Marine Debris Tracker	<a href="http://www.marinedebris.engr.uga.edu">www.marinedebris.engr.uga.edu</a>
Monterey Bay NMS VMP	<a href="http://montereybay.noaa.gov/getinvolved/volunteer/welcome.html">http://montereybay.noaa.gov/getinvolved/volunteer/welcome.html</a>
Morro Bay NEP VMP	<a href="http://www.mbnep.org/Help/volunteer_monitoring.html">http://www.mbnep.org/Help/volunteer_monitoring.html</a>
MPA Watch	<a href="http://www.otterproject.org/get-involved/volunteer/">http://www.otterproject.org/get-involved/volunteer/</a>
Phytoplankton Monitoring Program	<a href="http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HEALTHINFO/ENVIRONHEALTH/WATER/Pages/PhytoplanktonMonitoringProgram.aspx">http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HEALTHINFO/ENVIRONHEALTH/WATER/Pages/PhytoplanktonMonitoringProgram.aspx</a>
REEF	<a href="http://reef.org/programs/volunteersurvey">http://reef.org/programs/volunteersurvey</a>
Reef Check CA	<a href="http://www.reefcheck.org/rcca/rcca_home.php">http://www.reefcheck.org/rcca/rcca_home.php</a>
Seabird Protection Network	<a href="http://www.seabirdprotectionnetwork.org/">http://www.seabirdprotectionnetwork.org/</a>
Shorebird Monitoring (Morro Bay)	<a href="http://www.morrocoastaudubon.org/p/mcas-shorebird-monitoring-program.html">http://www.morrocoastaudubon.org/p/mcas-shorebird-monitoring-program.html</a>
SPLASH	<a href="http://www.splashcatalog.org">http://www.splashcatalog.org</a>