

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative



Summary of Tribal Data Collection Efforts

Presented to the MLPA North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group

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Purpose

To develop a dataset for tribal uses that would help inform the MPA planning process

To help the tribal representatives on the RSG provide additional information to the process

To build a collaborative relationship with traditional cultural users in the study region



Background

Tribal presence on the coast (Pomo, Miwok, Ohlone, others)

- Important consideration, lacking spatial data on where cultural uses occur and what resources are gathered
- Two RSG tribal representatives not sufficient to represent entire geography and numerous tribal groups in the region



Outreach to Tribal Community

- I-Team worked w/ RSG's tribal reps to organize an "information sharing" workshop
- Tribal reps and others worked to notify and invite members; about 25 people at workshop
- Knowledge exchange
 - I-team provided information on MLPA; many tribal members not very aware of the MPA planning process
 - Tribal members shared their thoughts on the process, described types of historic and cultural uses, and discussed potential impacts of MPAs to their traditional use of coastal resources



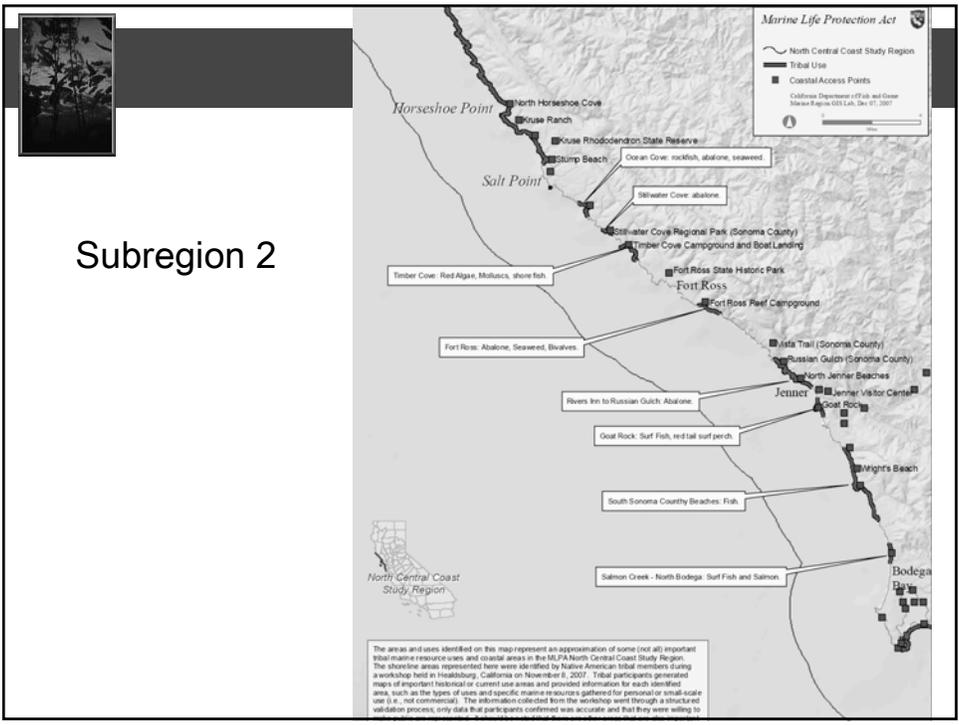
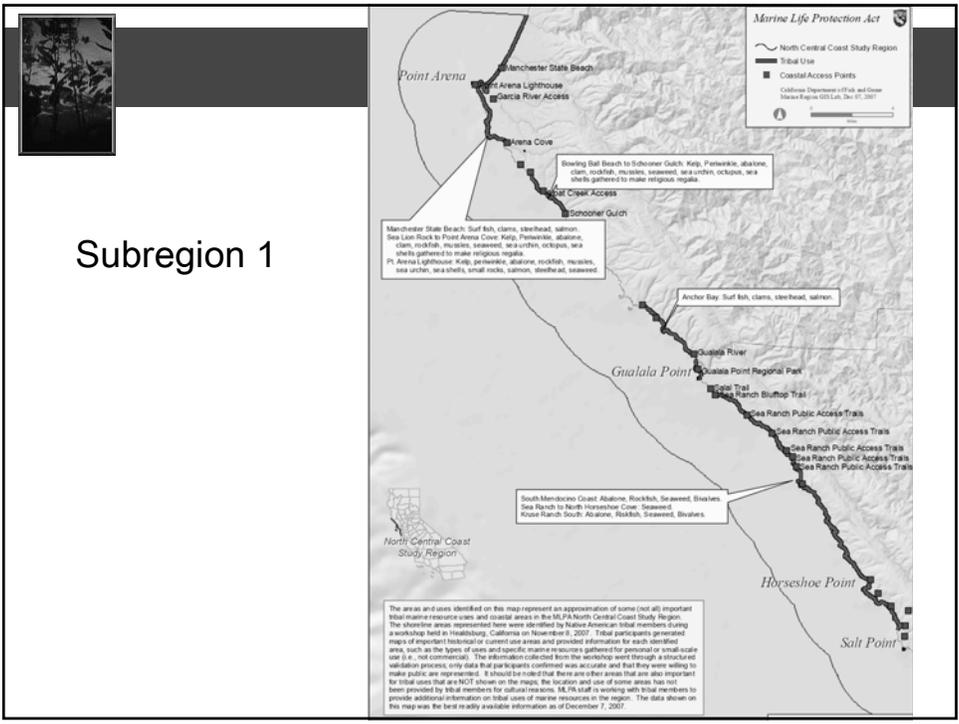
Collecting the Data

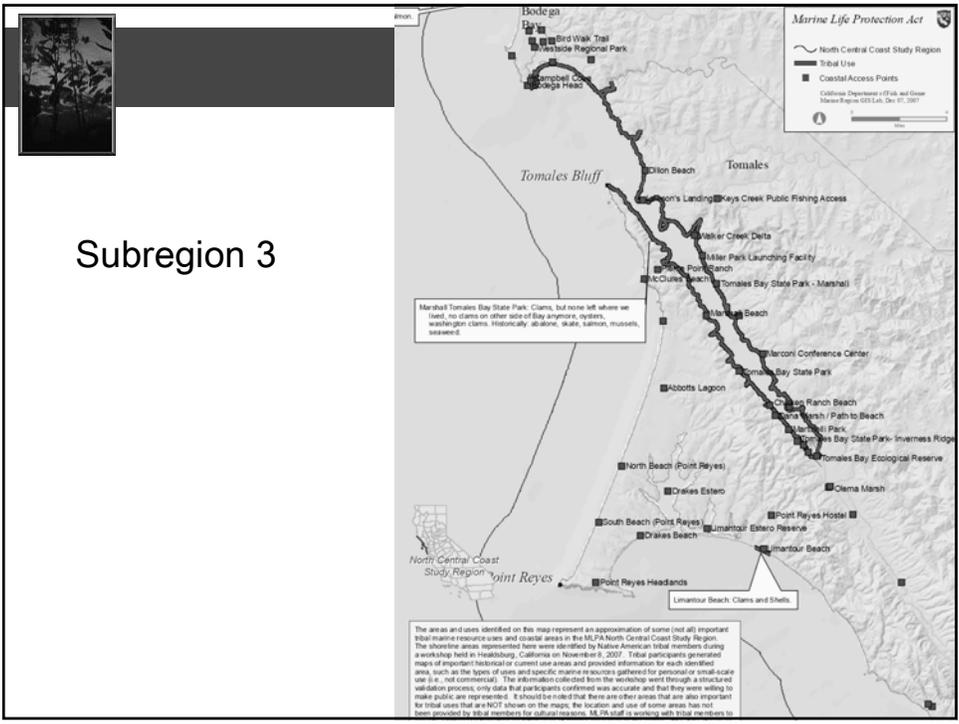
- I-team asked participants to help identify (map) areas of importance for tribal uses of marine resources
- Tribal members expressed the difficulties of participating in such a process; the entire coast is important and they consider themselves good stewards and low-impact users
- Some individuals agreed to identify some areas and uses that they were willing to share with public; other areas needed to remain confidential



Mapping and Validation

- Hand drawn maps put in GIS; staff compared data to original information
- Maps & data tables were sent back to participants. "Did we get it right?" Staff only used information that we confirmed and received permission to use.
- Final representation synthesizes information - shows areas of coastline identified by users and types of resources gathered
- Areas mapped represent a SUBSET of the areas of importance
 - For many areas there was no one who contributed knowledge (esp. central and southern part of study region)
 - Some areas have uses that are confidential
- Maps are DRAFT; staff still working to get more information





Key Points

- Sensitive information for tribes to share
- Do not usually discuss traditional use areas and ceremonial sites with outside groups
- Some chose not to participate or chose to leave information out for religious or cultural reasons
- RSG should consider potential impact to tribal uses; there are areas of overlap between DRAFT tribal use areas and proposed MPAs

Maps do not display all the areas in the study region important to tribes



Next Steps

- Striving to include representation of tribal uses in southern portion of region
- Continuing to reach out to tribal stakeholders
- Staff will update maps and data as new information becomes available