

The Headwaters Grant Fund Grantee Self-Evaluation – Final Report

The information requested on this form will allow the Headwaters Fund to better understand its funding and report to the public. A positive or negative self-evaluation will not impact your future chances in applying for and obtaining Headwaters funding; thus, please be candid. We also will not rate or otherwise evaluate grantees in our public reports.

You must return this form within 30 days of your Final Quarterly Report to the Headwaters Fund. Headwaters Fund staff may contact you with further questions about your project. If you have any questions, please contact Headwaters staff. Thank you.

Today's Date: **February 4, 2011**

Organization Name: **Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District**

Project Title: **North Coast Pre-MLPA Community Based Socioeconomic Characterization and Risk Assessment**

Project Start Date: **January 19, 2010**

Project End Date: **December 31, 2010**

Please answer the following questions, using as much space as necessary on a separate page:

1. What were the project goals and were they achieved? Why or why not?

The project had two specific goals, both of which are assessed below.

Goal One: To take a systematic approach in detailing the pertinent socioeconomic trends, current conditions and vulnerabilities in the commercial and recreational fishing sectors that are most likely to be affected by the new proposed Marine Protected Areas.

Goal one was achieved. The project used a systematic approach consisting of archival document review and field research. The field research involved extensive interviews with fishery participants throughout the North Coast. Information collected was presented in two interim reports and a final report, as well as in presentations to the MLPA Initiative Blue Ribbon Task Force and the CA Fish and Game Commission. To best inform the MLPA Initiative process, the project placed considerable emphasis on the unique socio-economic characteristics of the North Coast. Specifically, the project reports emphasize the North Coast's relatively low level of fishing effort, yet high economic dependence on fishery related businesses. The project reports provide detailed and meaningful information regarding socioeconomic trends, current conditions and vulnerabilities in the commercial and recreational fishing sectors.

Goal Two: To use this information to inform the process of designing the MPA's so that negative economic impacts can be mitigated to the greatest extent possible.

Goal two was achieved. The information provided by this study was used in deliberations by the various bodies involved in the MLPA Initiative process including the Regional Stakeholder Group, Blue Ribbon Task Force and CA Fish and Game Commission. As

discussed above, the project reports focused on the unique socioeconomic characteristics of the North Coast. Largely based on this information, the North Coast was able to develop a Marine Protected Area (MPA) array proposal that continues to have support by diverse stakeholders including conservation advocacy groups, fishing organizations, mariculture businesses, CA tribes and CA tribal communities. This MPA proposal is also supported by twenty local government agencies, the MLPA Initiative Blue Ribbon Task Force and the CA Fish and Game Commission. In general, the MPA proposal is expected to have negligible socioeconomic impacts.

2. What are the lasting benefits of the project (provide quantitative and qualitative benefits)?

It is not practical to quantify the benefits of this project. However, a qualitative assessment is useful. In other MLPA Initiative regions there has been a high level of polarization among stakeholders and the Blue Ribbon Task Force has developed proposals that attempt to “balance” the desires of stakeholders (i.e., conservation advocates and fishermen). In general, the fishermen in these regions have been quite dissatisfied with the MLPA Initiative’s outcome and potential impacts to fisheries. The North Coast Region is the only region where a single, unified MPA proposal (the Unified MPA Proposal) has been developed. Additionally, the North Coast is the only region where an effort such as this project has occurred. If the project had not been implemented, then the well researched and detailed information regarding the North Coast’s unique socioeconomic characteristics would not be available. Without such information, it is highly uncertain that an MPA array which minimizes socio-economic impacts and is generally “acceptable” to the fishing community could have been developed. The Unified MPA Proposal is very likely to be adopted with only minor modifications. Implementation of this MPA proposal, which satisfies the requirements of the MLPA legislation and minimizes socioeconomic impacts, will certainly have lasting benefits to the North Coast. Furthermore, information provided by the project will be informative to future marine management efforts including marine spatial planning and more traditional fisheries management.

3. What challenges did you encounter during the project?

The MLPA Initiative process was continually changing in terms of timelines and ecological / economic considerations. Fortunately, the project team was flexible and able to adapt timelines and processes so as to best inform the MLPA Initiative process.

4. How will you continue the work started by this project?

The information provided by this project will continue to inform marine management activities. Additionally, this project should provide an example of how empirical information can be used to inform natural resource management decisions and to move stakeholders towards consensus.

5. What, if any, are your comments about working with the Headwaters Fund and its staff?

The Headwater’s Fund Board and Staff are thoughtful and always prepared to ask the right, hard questions. Administratively, the Headwater’s Fund staff does an excellent job of minimizing red-tape. It is a pleasure to work with the Headwater’s Fund.

Please attach any press releases, media stories, or other materials that have been published regarding the project/program funded by the Headwaters grant.

I, the undersigned, certify that the information reported in this document is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Name (print): DAVID HULL

Title: Chief Executive Officer

Signature: David Hull