

## ***Seeking Local Leaders to Discuss Your Fishing Community's Health and Well-being***

***We are interested in hearing from fishermen -- in your own words and assessments -- how your ports, communities, and industries are doing; what challenges and opportunities your fishing community faces; and how you have been affected by MPAs.***

### **Project Overview and Focus Group Conversations**

- The goal of this study is to gather and communicate information about the health and well-being of commercial and CPFV fishing communities in California, including impacts from MPAs, from the perspective of fishermen.
- During each focus group conversation, we will use a Community-Expert well-being tool to guide fishermen through questions about the health and well-being of your fishing community on a number of factors such as infrastructure, health of fish resources, state of markets to sell catch, regulatory conditions, job satisfaction, and outcomes from the implementation of MPAs.
- In Summer/Fall 2020, we plan to hold online focus group conversations with commercial and CPFV fishermen in California's 24 port complexes. These conversations are anticipated to last approximately 4 hours (5 hours for the pilot port), with compensation provided.
- Information gathered from focus group conversations will be submitted to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Ocean Protection Council to inform the state's 10-year management review of California's MPA network.

### **Why Might Fishermen Want to Participate?**

- A key goal of this study is to convey fishermen's perspectives to managers and decision-makers, so that information about the unique challenges and opportunities facing fishing communities is included in discussions about MPA and fisheries management. State and federal fishery policy directs managers to consider fishing communities in their decision-making processes.
- Summaries from focus group conversations will be made available to fishing communities so this information can be available to help with ongoing or future strategic planning and development activities.
- Another outcome of this study will be a publicly available interactive tool that includes data from all 24 port complexes, including trends in landings, value, and participation. *An example of this interactive tool is available here: <https://mpahumanuses.com/data-viewer.html>.*

### **Project Team and Funding**

- The Project Team includes Humboldt State University researchers, Ecotrust, and Strategic Earth Consulting. Visit our website [mpahumanuses.com](https://mpahumanuses.com) to explore our project overview, additional project resources, and meet our Project Team.
- Project funding is provided by the California Ocean Protection Council and California Department of Fish and Wildlife's MPA Monitoring Program as part of the 10-year management review of California's MPA network.

***Interested in joining us? | Send an email to [jocelyn@strategicearth.com](mailto:jocelyn@strategicearth.com) or call 707-832-4088***