

Perceptions of our Coastal Resources Update:

2012 Update of the CSU Channel Islands Coastal Public Opinion Survey

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Overall Survey Goals:

1. Document coastal (Santa Barbara, Ventura & LA Counties) residents' understanding and valuation of coastal resources/issues, with a particular interest in:
 - coastal wetland restoration
 - fisheries management efforts
 - protected area use
 - perceptions of resource trends
2. Establish long-term baseline of public opinion

Methods:

- 2012 sampling from September 19th through October 9th
- random face-to-face encounters in public spaces in English (max of 25 surveys per location)
- participants were volunteers, not compensated

2012 Surveys (mean \pm 1SD)

- **1,436 respondents**
- residents in their current Zip Code for 13.8 ± 11.75 years
- 36 ± 1.2 years old, ranging from 12 to 90
- even distribution of household income categories
- 70% reported voting regularly
- biased towards college graduates (51% had a college degree or better)

Relevant SMMC/MRCA Results in Brief:

Are we managing California's coast well?

Yes: 25% No: 44% I don't know: 36%

How often do you visit natural areas?

Daily: 11% Weekly: 31% Monthly: 29% Few times a Year: 24%
Once a Year: 3% Less Frequently than Once a Year: 3%

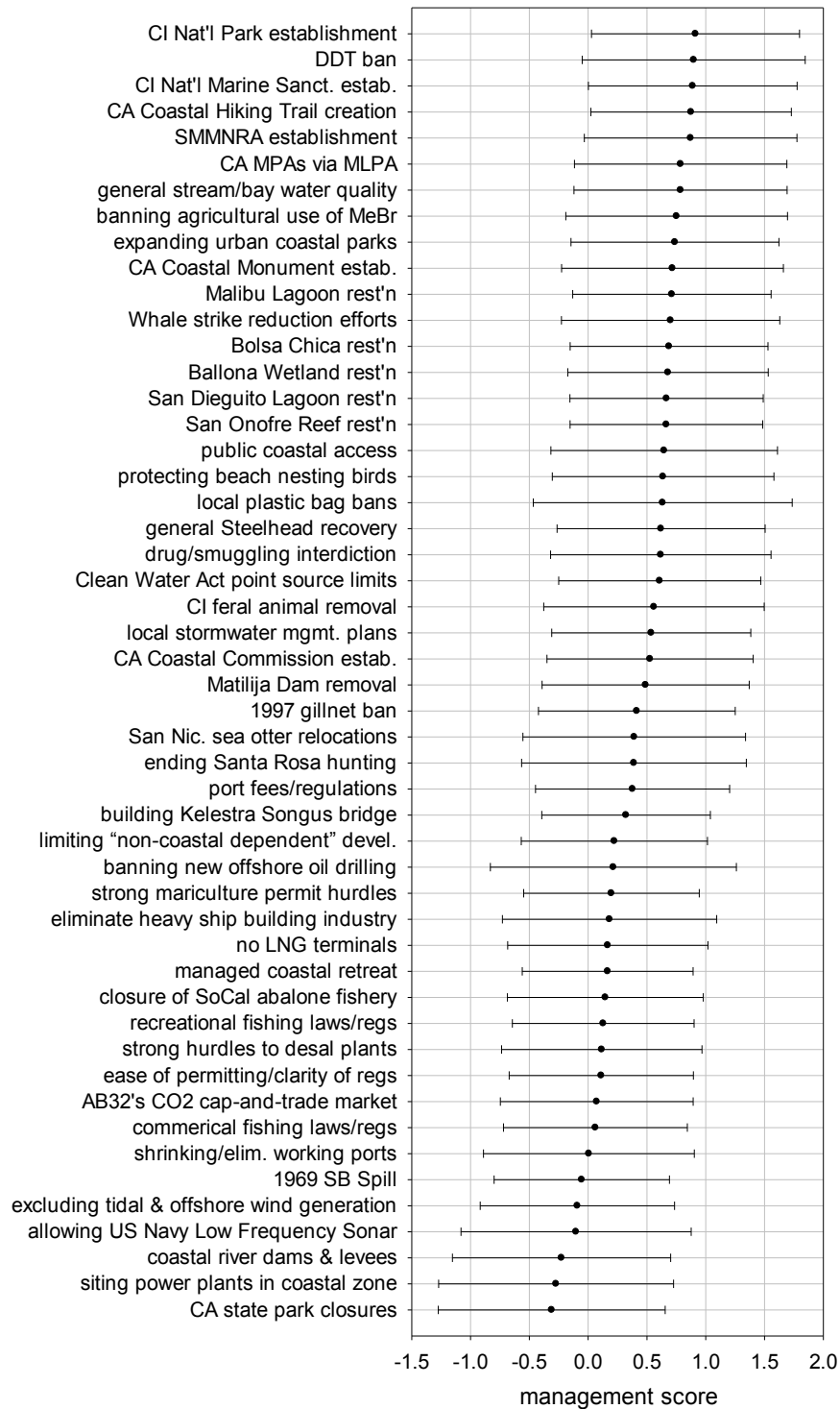
Which institutions have you heard of?

Coastal Commission: 61% Coast Guard: 84%
Boating & Waterways Dept.: 34% Coastal Conservancy: 41%
State Lands Commission: 23% OPC: 12%
(Former MMS Agencies:) BOEM: 4%, BSEE: 3% NOAA: 37%
Santa Monica Bay Rest'n Comm.: 27% Pac. Fish. Mgmt Council: 16%
SMMC: 34% MRCA: 18% *Fake category 1: 5% Fake category 2: 7%*

What recreational activities do you participate in on or near the coast?

Walking: 63%	Wildlife viewing: 29%	Boating: 12%
Eating/drinking: 48%	Driving: 29%	Sailing: 10%
Swimming: 47%	Surfing: 20%	Diving: 8%
Playing: 43%	Pole Fishing: 19%	ORVing: 6%
Exercising: 42%	Music playing/listening: 17%	other activity: 4%
Sun bathing: 40%	Kayaking: 16%	Horse riding: 4%
BBQing: 37%	Creating art: 14%	Spear fishing: 3%
Camping: 30%	Sports: 13%	Hunting: 2%

Please score the following management efforts very neg. (-2) to very pos. (2):



The above values are means \pm 1 SD. Please note that the Kelestra Songus category is fabricated and therefore represents an estimate of the error (0.32 ± 0.72) of this poll question.

Public Opinion Poll

We are conducting a public opinion poll as part of our class at California State University Channel Islands. Thank you for consenting to participate by completing this brief questionnaire. The survey takes approximately 12 minutes to finish. It will be used to gauge public opinion about topics we are discussing in our class. If you have any questions or are interested in our results, please contact our professor Dr. Sean Anderson: (805) 437-8984 or Sean.Anderson@csuci.edu. Thank you again!

1. Do you know of any “wetlands” (marshes, bogs, swamps, *etc.*) within 50 miles of your home?

Yes No Unsure

2. If you do, please name up to three of these wetlands:

3. Which phrase best describes “ecology”? (choose only one)

- environmentalism
- the study of plants and animals in their environment
- the study of problems with the environment
- other (_____)
- don't know / unsure

4. Have you ever heard of “habitat restoration” or “ecological restoration,” the attempt to return damaged natural areas to their original state?

Yes No Unsure

5. If you have, name up to three ecological restoration projects:

6. Global Climate Change is a major problem we need to address now. (choose only one)

agree disagree don't know / unsure

7. How much of a threat to Californian wetlands are the following:

(please rank these options 1 thru 4; 1 = greatest threat, and 4 = lowest threat)

- Pollution
- Exotic plants and animals
- Excessive hunting/fishing/collecting
- Habitat fragmentation/destruction

8. How much of a threat to California's coastal areas (beaches, oceans, estuaries, *etc.*) are the following: (please rank these options 1 thru 4; 1 = greatest threat, and 4 = lowest threat)

- Pollution
- Exotic plants and animals
- Excessive hunting/fishing/collecting
- Habitat fragmentation/destruction

9. I use the following sources for my news: (choose all that apply)

- newspaper magazine internet other (_____)
- television radio I don't know / unsure

10. How have California's wetlands changed over the last 150 years? (choose only one)

- decreased stayed about the same increased I don't know

11. If you believe wetlands have changed, by how much have they increased or decreased?

- (choose only one)
- 1-20% 21-40% 41-60% 61-80% 81-100%

12. When I purchase seafood in a market or restaurant, I ask where it comes from: (choose one)

- always or nearly always
- occasionally I do not eat seafood
- rarely
- never don't know / unsure

13. Overall, California is adequately managing our coastal and marine resources. (choose only one)

- agree disagree I don't know / unsure

14. The correct response to Hurricane Katrina-spurred flooding of New Orleans was/is to rebuild:

- (choose only one)
- entire city most of the city parts of the city none of it I don't know / unsure

15. Offshore oil drilling off of the California coast should be: (choose only one)

- expanded continued as now (only existing leases drilled/pumped)
- reduced eliminated I don't know / unsure

16. Which of the following institutions have you heard of? (mark all that apply)

- California Coastal Commission Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority
- California Coastal Conservancy California Ocean Protection Council
- California Dept. of Boating & Waterways California State Lands Commission
- National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration Coast Guard
- Rotation Commission for Ocean Protection (aka Solkov Commission)
- Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission Bureau of Ocean Restitution
- Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Pacific Fishery Management Council
- Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (formerly part of Minerals Management Service)
- Bureau of Safety & Environmental Enforcement (formerly part of Minerals Mgmt Service)

17. When was the last time you visited any of the California Channel Islands (either the island itself or the surrounding waters)? (choose only one)

within the last 24hrs within the last week within the last six months
 within the last year more than a year ago never been to any

18. If you have visited any of the Channel Islands, which have you visited? (mark all that apply)

San Miguel Santa Rosa Santa Cruz Anacapa
 Santa Barbara San Nicolas San Clemente Santa Catalina

19. The health of California's coastal ocean is better now than 60 years ago. (choose one)

agree disagree I don't know / unsure

20. California's marine fisheries are healthier and more abundant now than 60 years ago. (choose one)

agree disagree I don't know / unsure

21. It is safe to eat seafood from:

Gulf of Mexico: agree neutral disagree unsure / I don't know
California: agree neutral disagree unsure / I don't know
Alaska: agree neutral disagree unsure / I don't know
Japan: agree neutral disagree unsure / I don't know
China: agree neutral disagree unsure / I don't know

22. After the tsunami-induced meltdown of the Japan's Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant, my attitude towards nuclear power plants in the coastal zone:

became less supportive didn't change became more supportive unsure

23. The San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station in southern Orange County has been indefinitely shut down since January due to extensive wear of hundred of cooling rods and a very small radiation leak. Since this San Onofre problem, my attitude towards nuclear power plants in the coastal zone:

became less supportive didn't change became more supportive unsure

24. Which of the following should be used in determining the value of natural areas? (mark all that apply)

Natural Beauty Ecology Uniqueness Endangered Species
 Economics Recreation other (_____)

25. Current laws protecting endangered species need to be: (choose only one)

eliminated made less severe kept the same expanded I don't know

26. Which phrase best characterizes the motivations of most scientists? (choose only one)

- objectively seek to understand nature
- engage in weird activities, often of little use to people
- pursue their own interests, often ignorant of the consequences of their work
- want to influence public policy

27. How often do you visit natural areas (e.g. forests, beaches, mountains)? (choose one)

- daily
- weekly
- monthly
- a few times a year
- once a year
- less than once a year

28. What was the last natural area (e.g. a forest, a beaches, a mountain) you visited before today?

29. I typically eat seafood: (choose only one)

- daily
- weekly
- monthly
- a few times a year
- once a year
- never

30. Over the past 7 days, how many ounces of seafood did you eat (note: a serving the size of a deck of playing cards weighs about 3 ounces)? Approximately _____ ounces.

31. Which recreational activities have you engaged in at (or near) the coast in the past 6 months?
(mark all that apply)

- sailing
- power boating
- BBQ/fires
- camping
- surfing
- diving
- playing
- exercising
- swimming
- wildlife viewing
- riding horses
- fishing
- spear fishing
- drinking/dining
- attending sport event
- hunting
- ORVing
- walking/hiking
- sun bathing
- attending music/theater/art event
- kayaking
- driving for the fun of it
- paint/photography
- other (_____)

32. Commercial fishing off of California's coast is:

- overregulated
- regulated about right
- underregulated
- I don't know

33. Which approaches to protect fish and shellfish populations are you familiar with?

(mark all that apply)

- seasonal closures
- size limits
- gear limitations
- marine reserves (or MPAs)

34. What do you think of marine aquaculture (also called mariculture or fish farming)?

(choose only one)

- should be expanded everywhere
- should be reduced for many species / many places
- should be increased for many species / many places
- should be reduced everywhere
- should be eliminated everywhere
- don't know / unsure

35. How much of a threat to California's fish and shellfish are the following:
 (please rank these options 1 thru 6; 1 = greatest threat, and 6 = lowest threat)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pollution | <input type="checkbox"/> Habitat fragmentation/destruction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exotic plants and animals | <input type="checkbox"/> Ocean acidification |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Excessive hunting/fishing/collecting | <input type="checkbox"/> Temperature changes |

36. Have you ever heard of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)? Yes No I don't know

37. The joint BP-federal response to the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico was:
 excellent good neutral bad horrible I don't know

38. Who is primarily to blame for the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico:
 (mark all that apply)

- BP Haliburton / other subcontractors federal government (regulators)
 federal government (congress) federal government (President)
 state governments American consumers no one/was an accident I don't know

39. After the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill, my attitude towards offshore oil and gas drilling:

- became less supportive didn't change became more supportive unsure

40. I have heard of the following in relation to seafood: (mark all you have heard of)

- MSC Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch Card Blue Ocean Institute Guide
 California Sustainable Seafood Initiative Dolphin Safe Sustainable Seafood
 Ty Warner Sea Center Sustainable Seafood Seafood for the Future Naturland
 SeaGT Purple-Green Certification Ninth Hour Guide FishWise

41. Please score your impression of these Californian management efforts.

management effort	Very Negative	Negative	Neutral	Positive	Very Positive	I don't know
Managed Coastal Retreat plans in the face of projected sea level rise.						
Limiting "non coastal dependent" construction in the coastal zone.						
Siting of power plants in the coastal zone (<i>i.e.</i> beaches, estuaries).						
Banning new offshore oil drilling in state/federal waters off of CA.						
Management of the 1969 Santa Barbara Oil Spill.						
Excluding tidal & offshore wind power generation from CA Waters.						
Opting to not build LNG (liquefied natural gas) terminals.						
Current California commercial fishing laws/regulations.						
Current California recreational fishing laws/regulations.						
Closing Southern California's Abalone fishery.						
The 1997 gillnet ban in marine waters.						
Strong hurdles to permitting of mariculture/aquaculture facilities.						
Creation of the California Coastal Commission.						
Ease of permitting/clarity of regulations (across all agencies).						
AB32's (Global Warming Solutions Act) cap-and-trade market for CO ₂ .						

management effort	V. Neg.	Negative	Neutral	Positive	V. Pos.	Don't know
Halting private, big-game hunting operations on Santa Rosa Island.						
Damming & leveeing of coastal rivers and streams.						
Banning use of DDT in the United States.						
Banning Methyl Bromide in California agricultural fields.						
Clean Water Act limitations on point source emissions.						
Local stormwater management plans.						
Local bans on disposable plastic bags.						
General efforts to improve water quality in streams and bays.						
Fees/regulation of our major commercial ports (i.e. LA-Long Beach).						
Establishment of the Channel Islands National Park.						
Establishment of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary.						
Establishment of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recr'n Area.						
Establishment of the California Coastal National Monument.						
Establishment of Marine Protected Areas in California state waters through the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) initiative.						
Expanding park/recreation areas in/near urbanized areas of the coast.						
Creation of a Coastal Hiking Trail.						
Restoration of Ballona Wetlands (Los Angeles County).						
Building the Kelestra Songus bridge and adjoining harbor.						
Restoration of Bolsa Chica Wetlands (Orange County).						
Restoration of Malibu Lagoon (Los Angeles County).						
Restoration of San Dieguito Lagoon Restoration (San Diego Co.).						
Restoration of rocky reefs off of San Onofre (San Diego County).						
Initial removal of Matilija Dam (Ventura County).						
Partitioning off areas of beaches for nesting birds.						
Steelhead salmon recovery efforts.						
Removal of non-native, feral animals from CA's Channel Islands.						
Sea Otter relocation program for San Nicolas Island.						
Allowing the US Navy to use Low Frequency Active Sonar.						
Closure/reduced hours of State Parks to manage budgetary shortfalls.						
Elimination of heavy ship-building industries.						
Interdiction efforts to capture drug and human smuggling vessels.						
Efforts to reduce/eliminate whale strikes by commercial vessels.						
Shrinking/eliminating working ports and harbors.						
Strong hurdles to desalination plants in the coastal zone.						
Protection of Public Access to the coast/sea.						

42. What is your zip code? _____ 43. Years you have lived at this zip code: _____

44. What is your occupation? _____ 45. Year you were born: _____

46. Your household's annual income: ___ < \$30,000 ___ \$30 to 60,000 ___ \$60 to 90,000 ___ > \$90,000

47. Do you vote regularly? ___ Yes ___ No 48. Gender: ___ Male ___ Female

49. What is the highest level of education you have attained?
 ___ Some High School ___ High School ___ some College ___ College ___ Post Graduate