



Spent a day at the beach and call it work—volunteer for MPA Watch

The Otter Project & Monterey Coastkeeper are seeking volunteers to pilot MPA Watch, an exciting new monitoring project!

In 2007 California adopted its first network of Marine Protected Areas along the Central Coast. The network is a series of marine reserves and marine conservation areas—underwater parks where certain activities are not allowed.

MPAs are a cutting edge tool of ocean conservation—and we want to know how they work! We are looking for volunteers to help us pilot this project.

Volunteers will be responsible for collecting and recording data on near-shore ocean resource use. This will involve monitoring ocean activities at a specified site for 2 hour shifts. Shifts can be irregularly scheduled, but must be coordinated with a partner and committed to in advance.

Requirements:

- Ability to **spend** extended periods of **time outdoors** in unpredictable central coast weather.
- **Some** monitoring sites will require **moderate hiking**.
- Volunteers will be asked to use basic field technology (walkie talkies, gps and digital cameras) and web tools to share materials and information. No previous experience is necessary, but **a willingness to learn new tricks** is advisable!
- **Flexibility** is a must—this is a pilot project and volunteers will be asked to **help shape monitoring protocols** and **troubleshoot problems** in the field.
- Willingness to **sit on** or overlooking **the beach** on one of the **world' most beautiful coastlines** for several hours at a time!

Commitments:

- Volunteers must commit to a minimum of 2 hours a week for a 3 month period of time
- Volunteers must attend trainings
- Once volunteers are trained, monitoring times are flexible but must be coordinated with a partner

Sign up today! Come to our introductory meeting on **February 23, 2010 at 6:00 pm at the First National Bank Community Room, 615 Abrego St. Monterey**

To RSVP, please e-mail Heather@otterproject.org. Visit www.otterproject.org for more info!

The Otter Project *475 Washington St. Suite A * Monterey, CA 93940 * Monterey Coastkeeper