

Update

Marine Protected Area Management Program e-news

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Issue 1



MEET THE MYSTINUS

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is happy to announce the deployment of its new research vessel, the *R/V Mystinus*. This purchase was made possible with funding from the [California Ocean Protection Council](#).

Based out of Monterey, this 29 foot vessel is well equipped to support researchers in collecting ecosystem and fishery monitoring data. It can accommodate up to eight scientific divers and includes a functional work deck with rack storage for 24 tanks, a camera/data/work table, and dive doors. It is also equipped for hook-and-line or trap sampling, small remotely operated vehicle or instrument deployment, and acoustic remote sensing. *R/V Mystinus* is the ideal small vessel to support nearshore coastal research from Pigeon Point (Santa Cruz County) to Lopez Point (Monterey County.)

The first partnership trip will occur with the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. A small team of photographers and videographers will be traveling to local MPAs to collect imagery for outreach materials. A formal process to request vessel time will become

available to CDFW partners engaged in MPA research and monitoring along the central coast at a later date, so stay tuned!

The new *R/V Mystinus* replaces the 30-year-old *R/V Melanops* and is expected to be of service to nearshore ecosystem and fishery monitoring work for decades to come!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Recent Publications

- *Outdoor California's* [article](#) highlights the unique sea-and-shore experience at Crystal Cove State Marine Conservation Area and State Park.
- Learn about California's new ecological impact assessment tool in this [peer-reviewed article](#) published in *PLOS ONE*.

Get Involved

Look into attending your local [Community Collaborative](#) meetings to understand what is going on in your local MPAs, and find out ways to get more involved.

This newsletter provides updates about the [MPA Management Program](#). California's MPA network is managed collaboratively through the MPA Management Program, which includes four focal areas: outreach and education, enforcement and compliance, research and monitoring, and policy and permitting.

QUESTIONS?

Please send all inquiries to ASKMPA@wildlife.ca.gov



LEARN!

Watch this [video](#) to learn how MPAs work to protect our resources.