

High- and Low-Energy Marine Surveys: Making Sense of California's New Geophysical Survey Permit Requirements

Prevention First

Long Beach, CA

October 2014



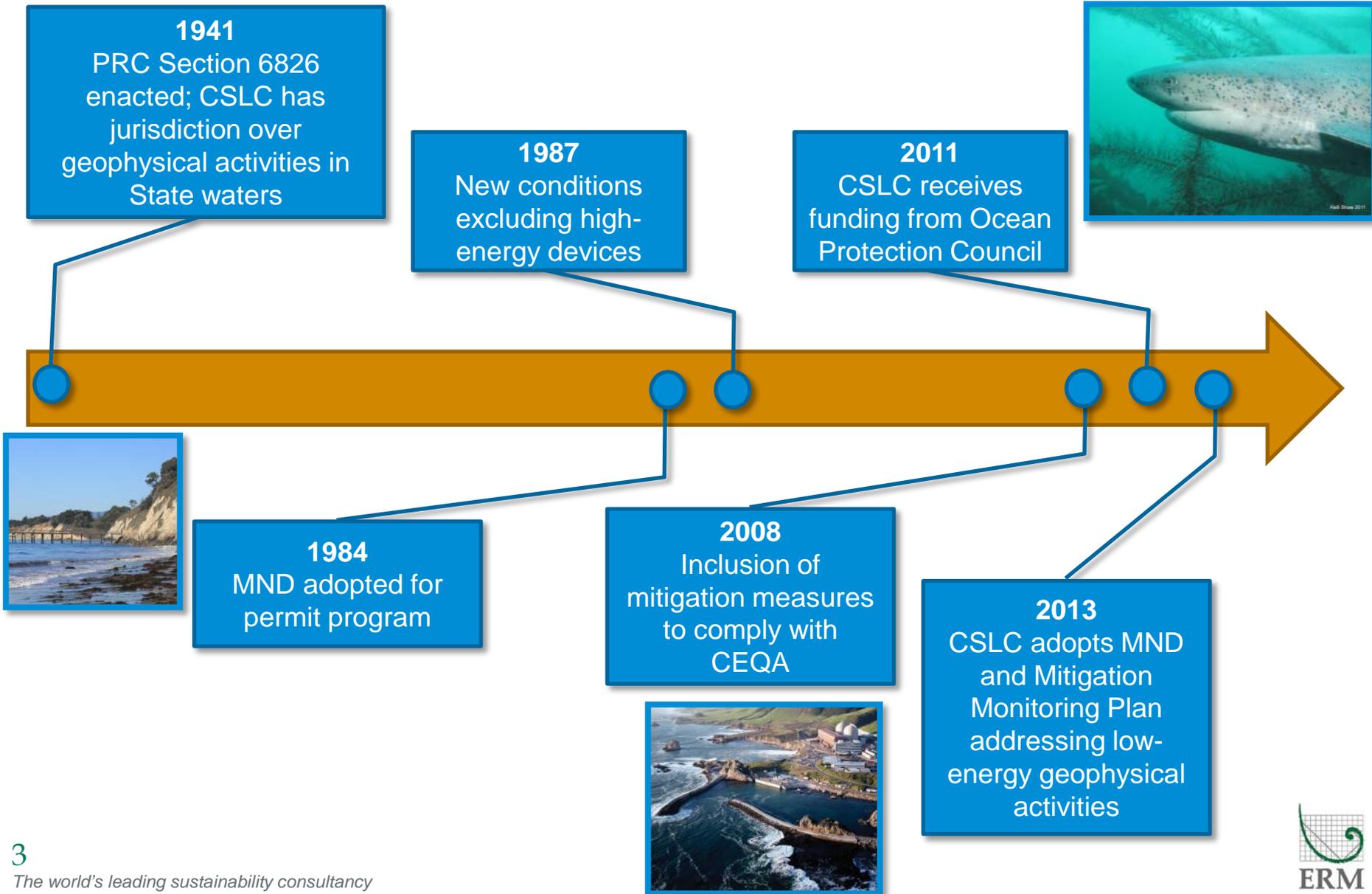
Presented by
Denise Toombs, ERM
Kelly Keen, CSLC

Agenda

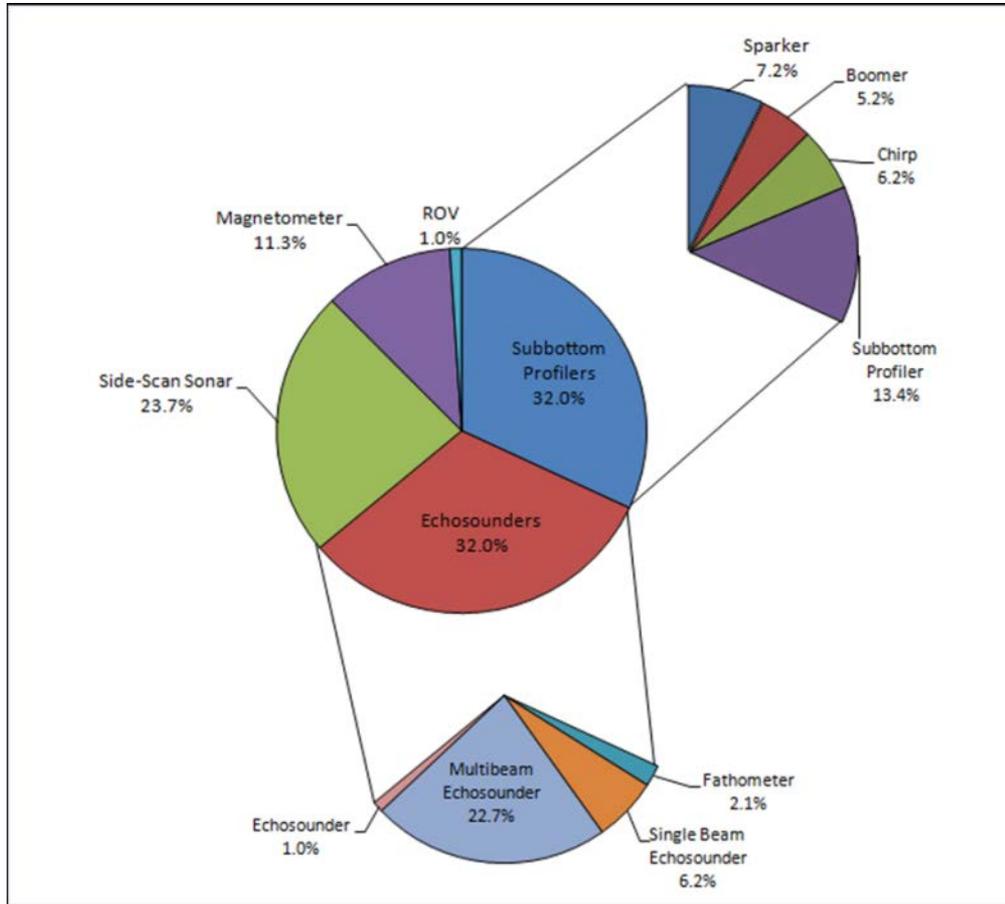


- Brief History of Offshore Geophysical Permit Program
- Basis for Updated Program: Low-Energy Surveys
- Program Coverage
- Environmental Concerns Addressed
- Requirements for Operators
- Q&A

Brief History of OGPP



Basis for Updated Program

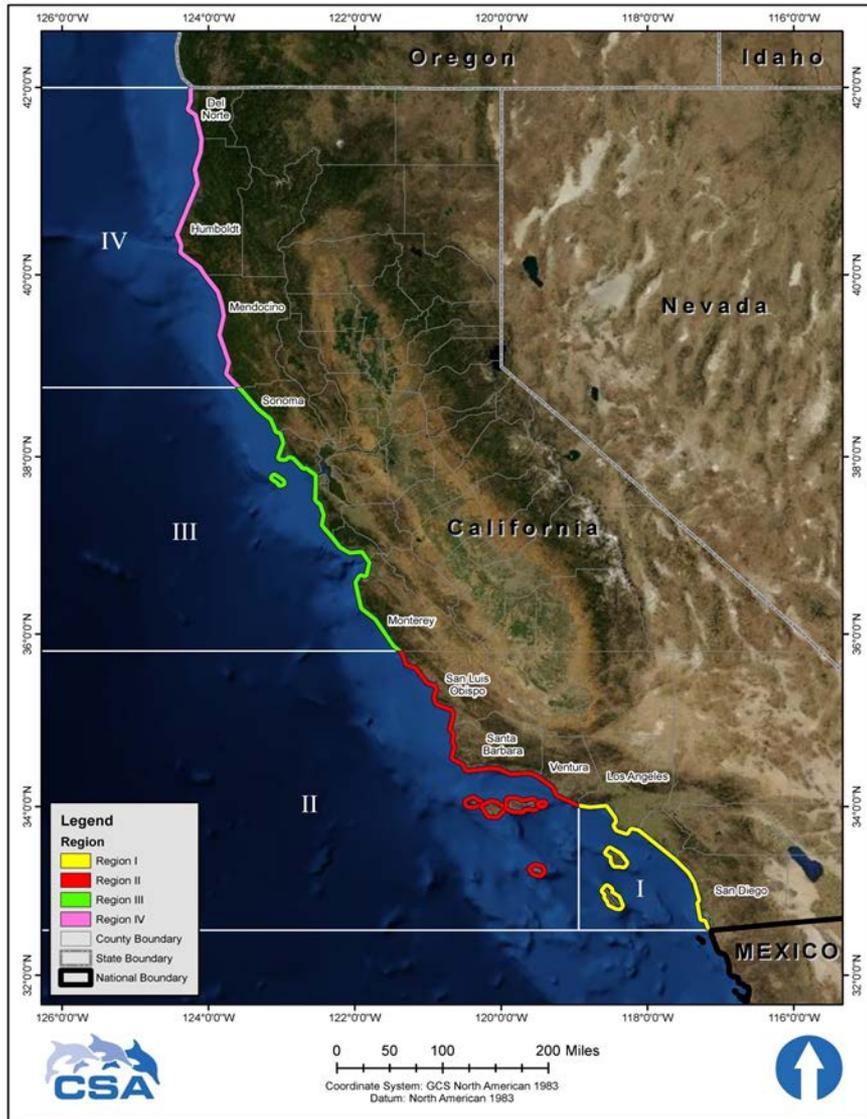


Low Energy Geophysical Survey Equipment Use (2008–2012)

Source: CSLC 2013

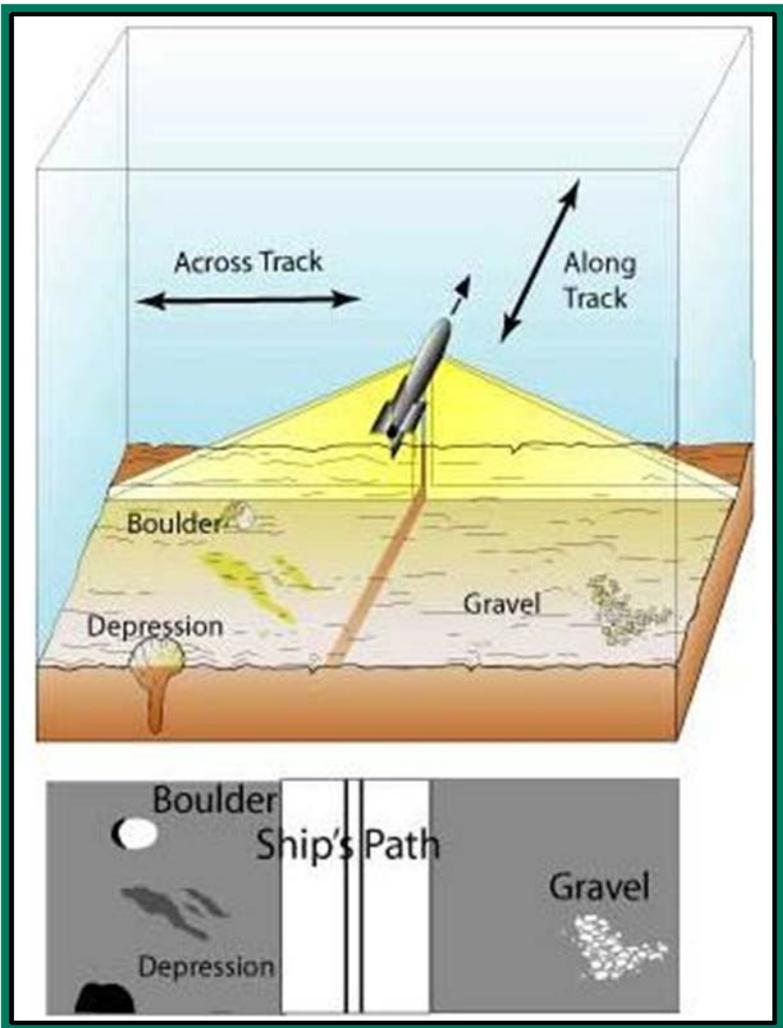
- Review of permitted activity between 2008 and 2012
- Up-to-date scientific research on underwater noise
- Ocean Science Trust peer review
- CEQA compliance through Adopted Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring Program (MMP)
- Permit program mitigations consistent with the MMP

Program Coverage: Overview



- ✓ State marine waters, exclusive of granted lands
- ✓ Three-year statewide non-exclusive General Permits
- ✓ Low-energy geophysical equipment
- ✓ High energy devices (e.g., airguns) are prohibited

Program Coverage: Equipment



Equipment Type	Examples, Uses
Subbottom Profilers	Seismic reflection profile data
Echosounders, single- and multibeam	Site-specific bathymetry, seafloor features
Side-scan Sonars	Seafloor imagery
Multi-component Systems	Combined systems
Passive Systems	Magnetometer

Key Environmental Concerns

Impact-producing factors

Vessel Presence

Equipment Noise

Obstruction from Equipment

Light/glare from Vessels

Vessel Emissions

Potential for Accidents

Resources Affected

- ✓ Air/GHG emissions
- ✓ Biological resources
- ✓ Hazards/hazardous materials
- ✓ Recreation
- ✓ Commercial and recreational fisheries

Requirements for Operators

Pre-Survey Notification Package

- Written Notifications
- Marine Wildlife Contingency Plan
- Oil Spill Contingency Plan
- Notification of Equipment Used

Marine Wildlife Protection

- Onboard Monitors
- Operational Procedures (e.g., soft start, safety zones, restricted nighttime operations)
- Collision Reporting

Requirements for Operators, cont'd

Post-Survey Reporting

- Narrative of work performed
- Charts/maps of survey area
- Encounters with marine species, outcome
- Reporting of shutdowns, slow-downs for mammals in safety zone
- Collision events, disposition
- Monitor reporting table (Exhibit H)

Project-Specific Considerations

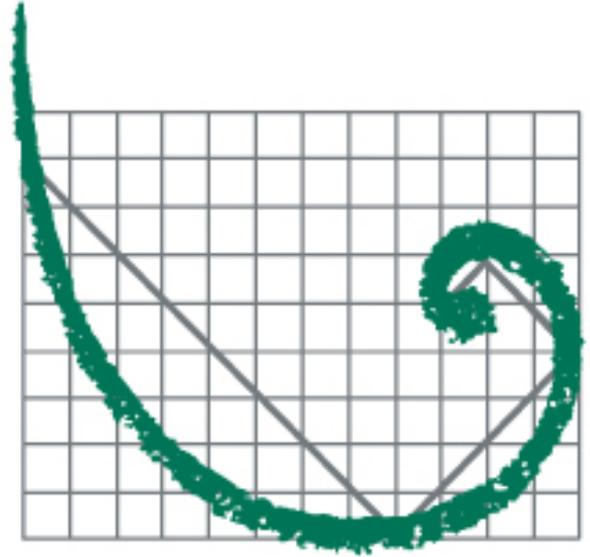
Communication with staff to discuss project-specific considerations.

Examples:

- Vessel size, ability to accommodate monitors
- Type of equipment and amendment to monitor requirement
 - >200 khz
 - <200 khz



Questions?



ERM

Thank you!