

Thesis Proposal

Informing Oregon's Marine Protected Area (MPA) Baseline: Past and Present Tribal Uses of Marine Resources

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Goal: To provide marine protected area (MPA) managers with information on past and present tribal uses of resources in MPAs.

Introduction

- Native American tribes with coastal ancestral lands have gathered, hunted, and fished marine resources for millennia.
- In 2012, Oregon designated 5 marine reserves (MR), areas in which ocean development and harvest are prohibited.
- Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), paired with each reserve, have less stringent “take” restrictions.
- In other states (e.g., California) designation of MPAs and Reserves impact subsistence, ceremonial, and traditional uses leading to conflict over tribal use
- My master’s thesis will inform Oregon MPA management by documenting past (ancestral) and present (recent, within the current generation) tribal uses of marine resources

Importance

Oral histories can preserve historic species occurrence before over-fishing and patterns of migration and declines that may not be recorded elsewhere. Additionally, tribes are important stakeholders in the MPA process; including them in establishing baseline data may:

1) increase buy-in to the MPA process and 2) avoid issues about restrictions on resource “take” (Singleton, 2009); 3) facilitate tribal engagement with state agencies to protect marine resources for future generations.

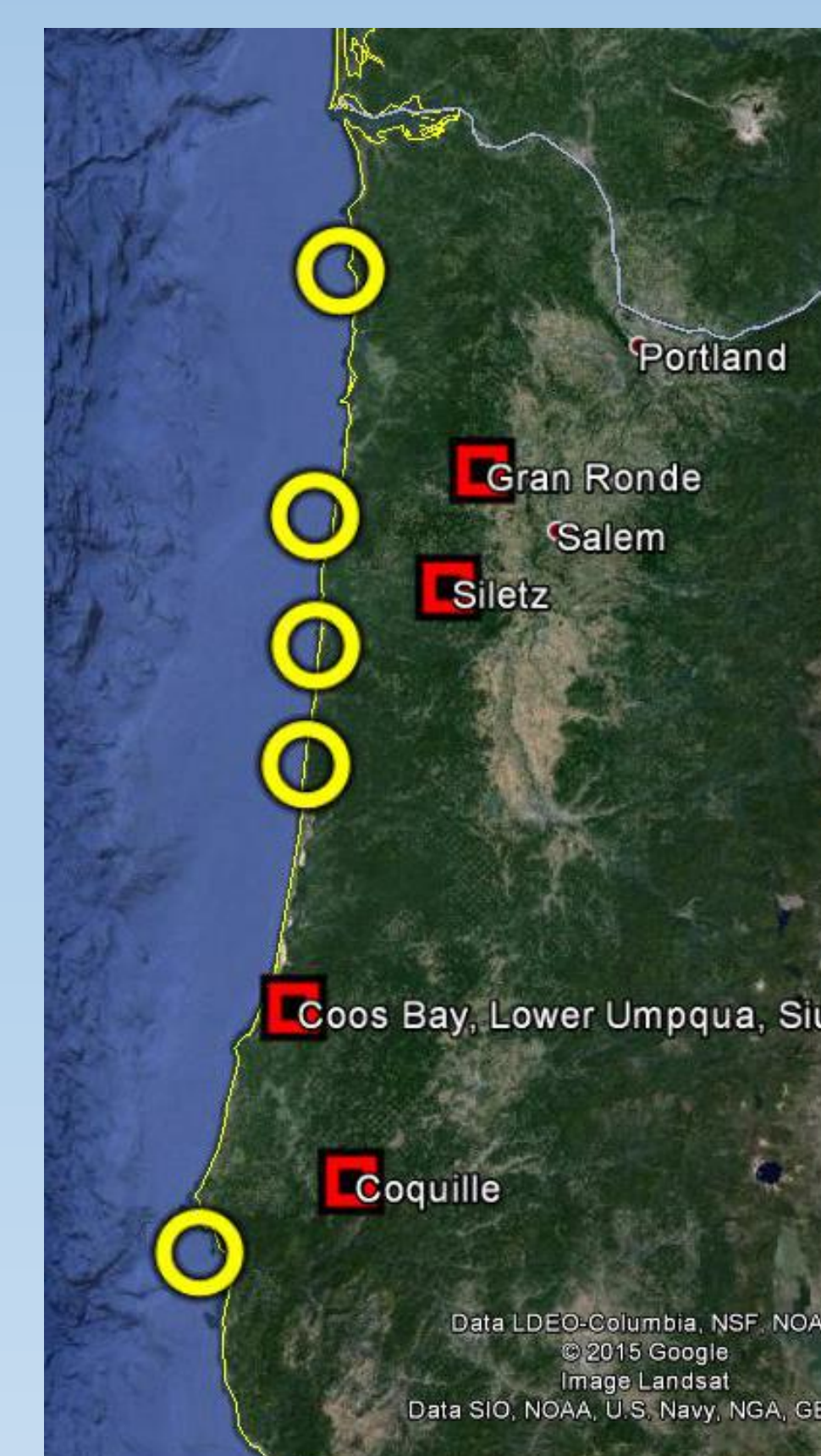


Figure 1: Approximate locations of Oregon's 5 Marine Protected Areas/Reserves and Indian Tribal lands (courtesy of Google Earth)

Legend

- = Approximate Tribal Reservation Location
- = Approximate Marine Protected Area



Figure 2: Marine Reserve at Cape Falcon (Oregon Ocean Information)

Methods

Who:

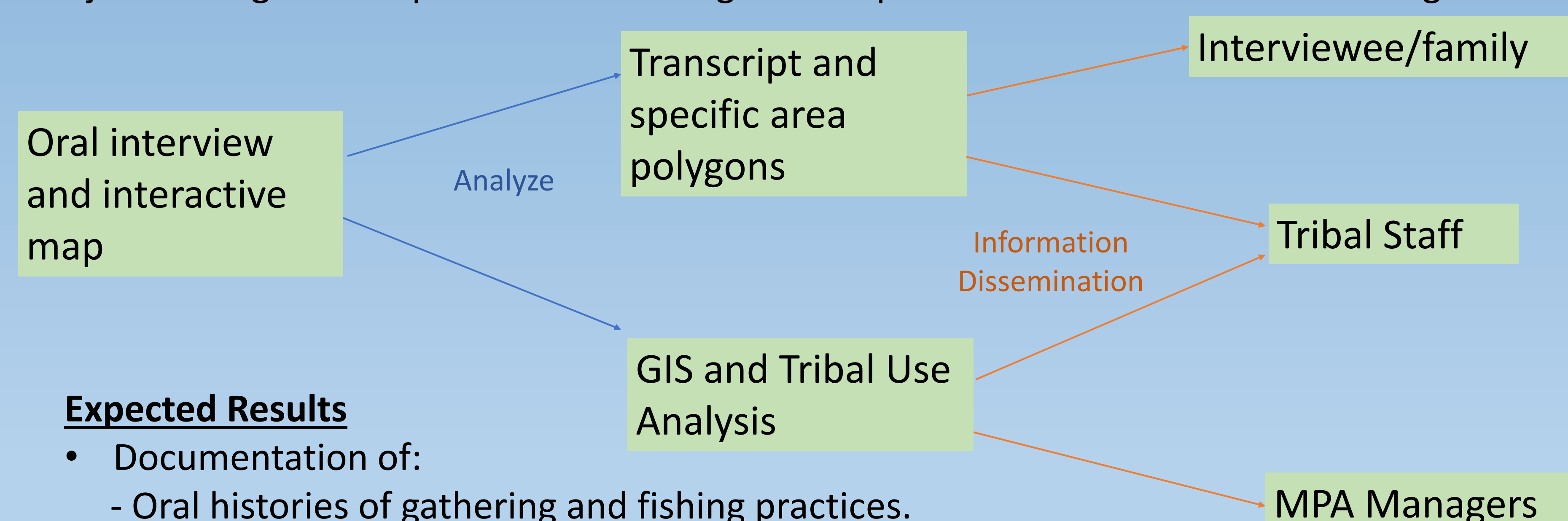
- Proposed tribes include the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, Siuslaw, Siletz, Grand Ronde, and the Coquille Indian Tribe.
- Target current fishermen/gatherers and tribal elders for interview.

Interview:

- Collect interview and survey data to document tribal peoples’ marine resource use on the Oregon coast in and near current and planned MPA’s and MRs.
- Use interview protocol developed for northern California’s MPA Baseline project (Rocha 2013): a mixture of long and short questions, and an interactive mapping exercise.

Disseminate Information:

- Collected data will capture a rich body of information on current and past tribal resource users.
- Audio record interviews to preserve and share them with family and/or tribal staff for use by tribes and in Oregon’s legislatively mandated MPA evaluation.
- Project findings will help OR coastal managers incorporate tribal uses into MPA management.



Expected Results

- Documentation of:
 - Oral histories of gathering and fishing practices.
 - General areas where species were found.
- Interviewees can receive a family copy of the interview.
- Results will be made available to tribal staff for their own marine planning uses.

References:

- North Coast: Traditional Ecological Knowledge of Keystone Marine Species and Ecosystems. Project Leader: Megan Rocha (Smith River Rancheria). As yet unpublished, more information at: <http://oceanspaces.org/projects/north-coast-traditional-ecological-knowledge-keystone-marine-species-and-ecosystems>
- Singleton, Sara. 2009. Native people and planning for marine protected area: how “stakeholder” processes fail to address conflicts in complex, real-world environments. Coastal Management. 37(5): 421-440. <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/08920750902954072>
- Oregon Ocean Information, Oregon Marine Reserves: Deeper Understanding. <http://www.oregonocean.info/index.php/marine-reserves-sp-26120>
- Oregon Blue Book, Oregon’s Indian Tribes. <http://bluebook.state.or.us/national/tribal/tribal.htm>