



Ventura Shellfish Enterprise Site Planning Meetings

The Ventura Shellfish Enterprise (VSE) is a collaborative effort to secure leases for twenty 100-acre parcels from the California Fish and Game Commission for offshore shellfish cultivation. The Ventura Port District will hold the leases for growing areas and grant subleases to commercial shellfish growers. Individual growing sites will be located in state waters (within three miles of the coast) and be placed only in areas with sandy bottom and sufficient depth for the deployment of growing lines. As a first step toward defining individual growing sites, an approximately 20,000-acre Area of Interest suitable for shellfish cultivation was identified using a geographic information system-based spatial planning program (Fig. 1).

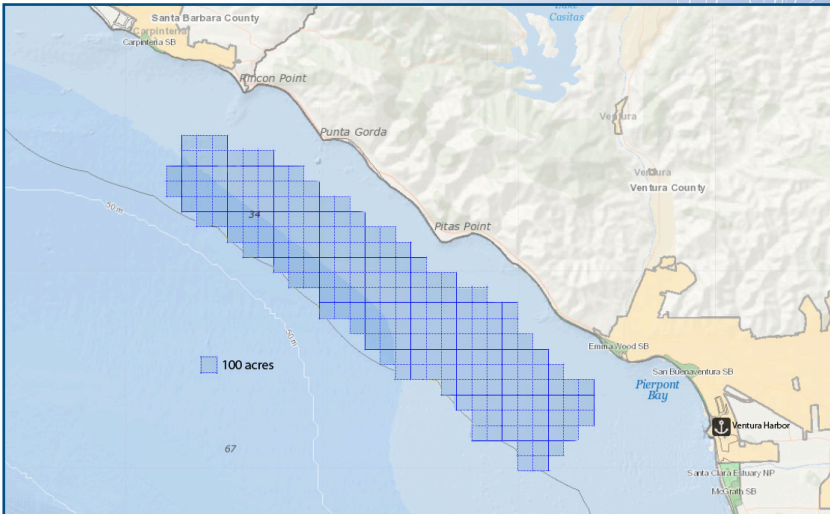


Figure 1. Area of Interest Location. Each of the project's twenty proposed 100-acre growing plots would encompass one of the outlined squares in the grid. The combined lease sites would occupy about 10% of the shaded Area of Interest.

VSE recognizes that while the Area of Interest is ideal for shellfish aquaculture based on a variety of factors, it includes commercial and recreational fishing grounds, and is home to a broad array of sea life, including marine mammals, fishes, and seabirds. The interest area also receives marine traffic from commercial and recreational boaters.

To better understand these potentially competing interests, the Port District will host a series of site planning meetings to help guide the identification of lease locations within the much broader Area of Interest shown

in Figure 1. All interested parties are invited to participate in three interactive and highly collaborative site planning meetings that will be held in June, July, and August 2017.

To support stakeholder participation in these meetings, the Ventura Port District will utilize SeaSketch, a cutting-edge, map-based system that was specifically designed to promote efficiency, inclusiveness, and collaboration during the spatial planning process (for more information, visit www.seasketch.org). During each planning meeting, SeaSketch will be used to visualize information, promote the generation and exchange of ideas, gather feedback on different site location scenarios, and provide for the use of mapped data during site selection. The use of SeaSketch at each site planning meeting will establish a productive and interactive forum for all participants to share and track ideas as they evolve. SeaSketch participation features allow these discussions to be linked directly to spatial plans and specific geographic-based information, with the evolution of ideas stored online for future reference and dialog. *(continues over)*

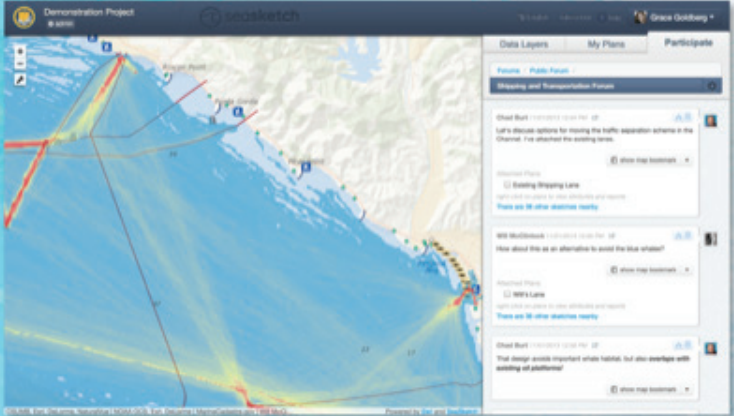


SeaSketch has been applied in over 80 separate siting situations and was used by NOAA to facilitate its efforts to reduce the risk of vessel strikes to whales migrating through the Santa Barbara Channel. It is also recognized by the National Ocean Service as the best available tool for facilitating marine siting decisions.

EXPLORE
Mapped Data

EXPRESS
Ideas and Opinions
In The Form of Sketches

DISCUSS
The Merits of Design



Visit seasketch.org to learn more about SeaSketch and its developers at the McClintock Lab at UCSB

Register for Site-Planning Meetings

The dates, locations, and descriptions of site-planning meetings will be posted on the VSE website in June 2017. To register for attendance, follow these 5 easy steps:

1. Enter **www.venturashellfishenterprise.com** in your web browser.
2. Click the **<Get Involved>** tab at the top of the home page.
3. Click the **<Upcoming Workshops>** menu option on the right side of the **<Get Involved>** page.
4. Scroll down to the planning workshop(s) you wish to attend and click the blue **<Register for workshop>** link that appears under the workshop description.
5. Type your email address in the fields of the pop-up window and click the **<Submit>** button. You will receive an email containing a direct link to the workshop registration form.

The site planning meetings are intended to be progressive in nature, from initial planning discussions and idea generation, to collecting comments and proposed revisions to a range of options. You may also elect to share feedback and view updated information online by using the SeaSketch web-based features. Information on the use of these remote features will be posted on the VSE website in June 2017.