Fort Bragg
& An Emerging Blue Economy

Collaborative Action for Coastal Resilience

Presented by:
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Local Context: Fort Bragg, CA

- Geographically isolated, rural community with +/- 7,000 people residing in city-limits, and +/- 20,000 people coastal area.

- Historically, the economy relied heavily on resource extraction – primarily logging and fishing. Today the economy relies on tourism.

- Unsustainable past practices, shifting regulations, changing demographics, and climate impacts have caused declines in heritage industries - exposing fragile ecosystems and the socio-economic vulnerability of community members who depend on them.

Sea Grant
CALIFORNIA

CITY OF FORT BRAGG
CALIFORNIA

The City partnered with CA Sea Grant to host a four-day event to explore the potential for developing a sustainable blue economy in and around Fort Bragg.

And in the process of coordinating the Blue Economy Symposium & Learning Festival, a regional coalition emerged:

noyo ocean collective +

Founding Members:

City of Fort Bragg

Mendocino Community College

Noyo Center for Marine Science

Noyo Harbor District

Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians

West Business Development Center

www.NoyoOceanCollective.org

So, what is the Blue Economy?

The Blue Economy is about sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods and jobs, and healthy marine ecosystems.

Emerging Industries

Established Industries

A Rising Tide Lifts All Boats: Leadership, Partnership & Collaboration

Description	Partners	Award
Noyo Harbor Blue Economy Visioning, Resiliency and Implementation Plan	City of Fort Bragg Noyo Harbor District CA Sea Grant	$898,000 CA Coastal Commission
Icehouse and Expanding Markets for Commercial Fleet	Noyo Harbor District West Business Development Center	$3.2 Million CA Economic Development Department
Ocean Science Facility Concept Design and Business Plan	Noyo Center for Marine Science West Business Development Center	$825,000 Economic Development Administration
Oneka Desal Buoy Pilot Project	City of Fort Bragg Oneka Technologies	$1.49 Million CA Department of Water Resources
Pacific Coast Ocean Restoration Initiative (PCOR)	The Nature Conservancy (lead) Coalition of partners include Mendocino College Workforce Development Curriculum	$18 Million National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration

…and more!

Description	Partners	Award
N. Harbor Circulation Plan	Mendocino Council of Governments Mendocino County City of Fort Bragg Noyo Harbor District	$250,000 Caltrans
Noyo Harbor Mooring Basin Design	Noyo Harbor District	$750,000 CA Coastal Conservancy
City of Fort Bragg Municipal Broadband Utility	City of Fort Bragg CA Public Utilities Commission CA Department of Technology	$478,995 LATA Grant $10,300,000 FFA Grant
Pacific Coast Ocean Restoration (PCOR)	+/- 25 statewide partners	$18,000,000 NOAA
Noyo Beach & Noyo Headlands Restore and Steward in Partnership with Tribal Community *(Visioning Phase)*	City of Fort Bragg Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians, Tribal Members residing on Noyo Point Road, Kai-Poma	$ TBD Ocean Protection Council Coastal Conservancy

Noyo Harbor Blue Economy Visioning, Resiliency & Implementation Plan

A Roadmap for Climate Resiliency

Site specific technical studies include:

- Sea Level Rise, Tsunami Hazards, and Erosion Resiliency Strategy
- Aquaculture Feasibility Study
- Harbor Facilities Conditions Assessment
- Parcel Inventory and Land Use Assessment
- Special District Analysis

Beneficial Reuse of Dredge Materials, Restoration and Co-Stewardship with Local Tribe & Community

Dredging Context

USACE handles dredging of the federal channel (suction dredge) on a 3-5 year cycle with an average of 26,500 cubic yards removed. Dewatering cell is located on Noyo beach and can hold 60,000 – 70,000 cubic yards.

Noyo Habor District is the non-federal sponsor and provides disposal site.

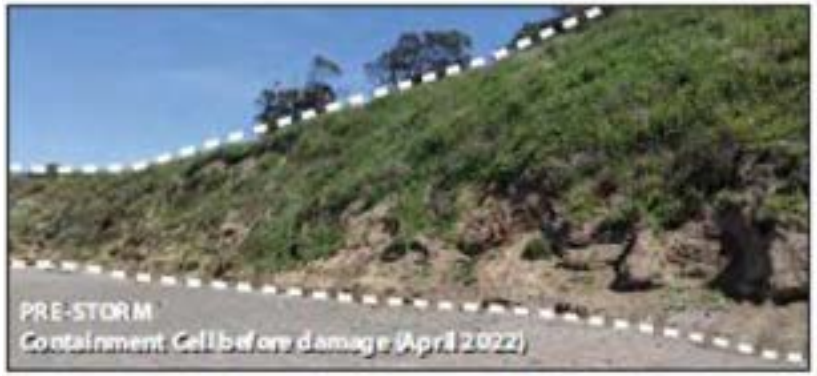
Site Context

Noyo Beach is within Fort Bragg city limits and leased by the Noyo Harbor District. The site's only access is via a County road, and the beach is overlooked by Tribal owned land. The dewatering cell is at risk to increasing wave action and sea level rise. This sediment containment cell is also capping an indigenous round house.

Proposed Project

Identify a near shore placement for dredge materials - USACE is considering two sites that would keep materials within the natural beach building system. Downsize and retreat dewatering cell. Develop emergency access, pedestrian bluff top connection from Coastal Trail, and restore habitat. Establish ongoing stewardship in partnership with local tribe and community.

Pre-Storm Containment Cell Wall


PRE-STORM
Containment Cell before damage (April 2022)

DRUING STORM
Containment Cell hit by wave action (January 2023)

POST-STORM
Containment Cell eroded (Jan. 2023 - Police Dept. Photo)

PRE-STORM
Containment Cell before damage

DRUING STORM

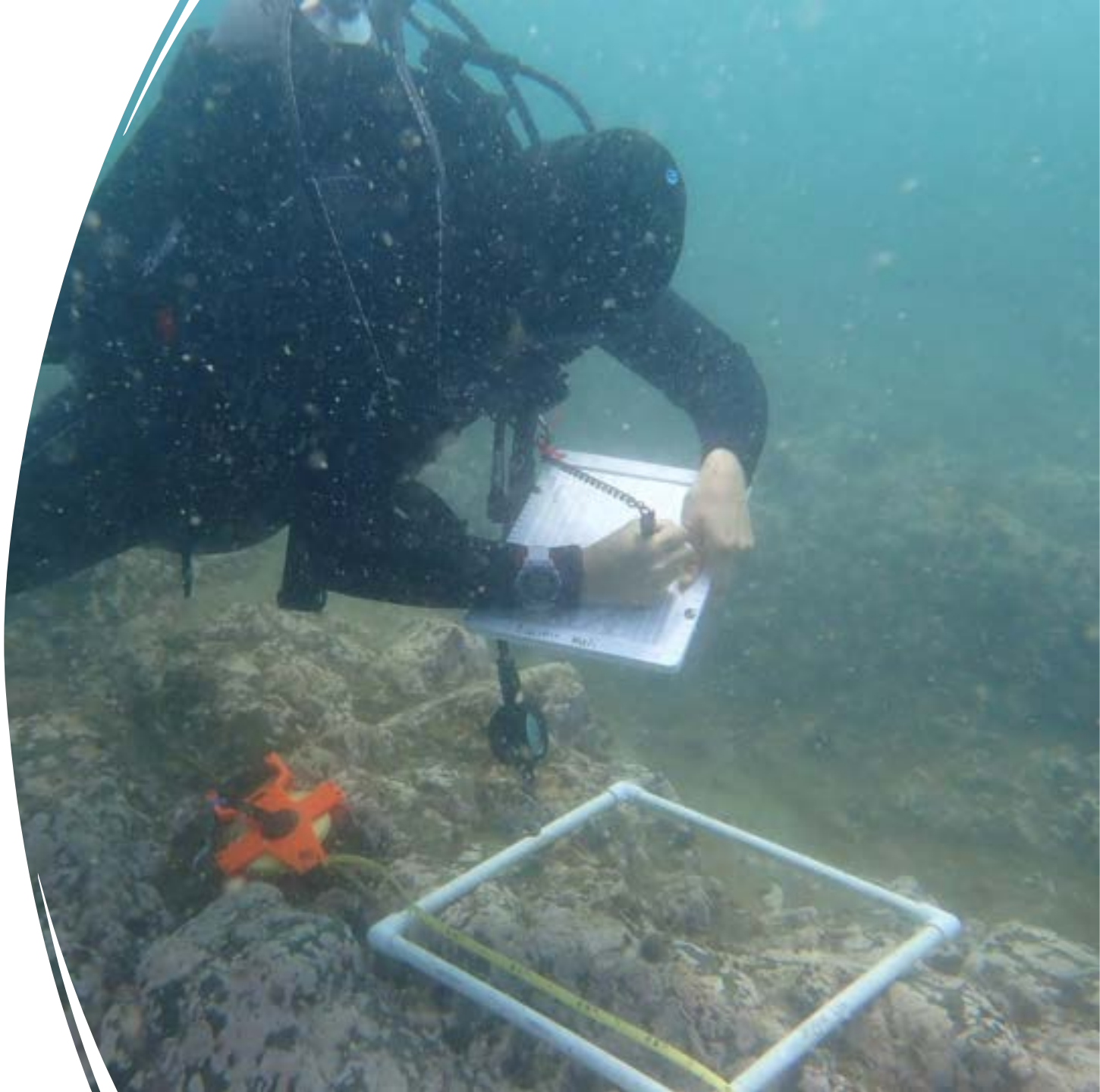
POST-STORM
Containment Cell eroded (Jan. 2023 - Police Dept. Photo)

Mendocino Coast College Workforce Development

blueSTEM Education & Workforce Capacity Building

Our vision is to train local people to enter marine and climate focused jobs at every level. We are looking to support immediate needs/opportunities; while simultaneously advancing long range planning to ensure we're developing capacity for generations to come.

Curriculum developed and approved. Initial student pilot will launch Fall 2026.



Aquaculture

Restorative Aquaculture

Create local capacity to support current and future restoration efforts.

Commercial Aquaculture

Actively supporting two new urchin ranching ventures in Noyo Harbor.

Developing an Economic Impact Study to justify how an investment in ocean water intake infrastructure would support economic development on the former Georgia Pacific Mill Site.

Municipal Broadband Utility

Designed, constructed, operated and maintained as a public utility.

The City is deploying underground, fiber-to-the-premise digital infrastructure that connects to the California Middle Mile Initiative.

Fast, reliable and affordable broadband connectivity to every property in city-limits.

Thank you, CSBPA!