

A CHANGING ENVIRONMENT, A CHANGING ECONOMY **Exploring the Historical Relationship between the Elkhorn Slough Environment and the Working Waterfront**

Elkhorn Slough has undergone dramatic change over the last century. Federal, state, and local agencies currently are weighing possible restoration alternatives for the Slough. Understanding how changes in the environment have affected businesses and activities on the working waterfront is vital to understanding the potential economic impact of future changes in the slough.

The Coastal Ocean Values Center at The Ocean Foundation, the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve (ESNERR), and the National Ocean Economics Program (NOEP) are working together to develop a better understanding of the links between the ecosystem health of the Elkhorn Slough and the economic vitality of the working waterfront.

OUR GOAL is to work with business owners and other key individuals on the working waterfront to interpret economic data, and to identify linkages between changes in business activity and changes that have occurred in the Elkhorn Slough environment.

We plan to collaborate with a variety of businesses to collect historical and current data on business activity, especially activities that are directly tied to the environmental condition of the Slough. Once these data are compiled, they will be compared with historical ecological data to explore how changes in the Slough's environment have influenced local businesses.

The results of our work will inform the local businesses and the restoration efforts by:

- establishing a baseline of economic activities that depend upon Elkhorn Slough including: **commercial and recreational fishing, boating, aquaculture, kayaking, wildlife viewing, and beach going**
- determining how economic activity on the working waterfront has changed over time
- establishing and understanding changes in environmentally-dependent activities in and around Elkhorn Slough
- understanding how people use the estuary and nearby coastal areas
- exploring how restoration, regulation, and management alternatives could affect local businesses and recreation in the Elkhorn Slough area

WE NEED YOUR INPUT, KNOWLEDGE, AND WISDOM

The economic indicators project is an on-going research effort over the next two and a half years. **If you are interested in learning more about the economic indicators project, please contact the Project Manager, Allison Chan at (424) 731-0650 or allison@coastalvalues.org, Principal Investigator Dr. Linwood Pendleton, linwoodp@coastalvalues.org, Co-Principal Investigator Judith Kildow, jtk@mbari.org, or Scott Norris, Research Assistant for the National Ocean Economics Program, scott@mbari.org.**

