**Golden Gate Collaborative Network**
**Thinkific MPA Online Module Docent Training**

**Frequently Asked Questions**
*February 9, 2022*

1. **What is the MPA Online Docent Training?**
   The online training provides an overview of the California Marine Protected Area (MPA) Network created for existing docent and educational programs to complement their current training. The training is intended to increase our coastal educator's knowledge about MPAs in the state. These Free online training courses were created for programs working to protect, conserve, and educate the public on California's Network of Marine Protected Areas.

2. **What does the training include?**
   This training is designed with a regional focus, North Coast, Central Coast, and South Coast that highlights MPAs in specific regions and includes a Compliance Guide for educators. The modules feature voiceovers, vidoes, key themes, quizzes at the end of each section, and links to further resources.

3. **How should the online training be used?**
   These modules were designed for people who interact with the public in the field, such as: field educators, docents, interpreters, and volunteers.

   The modules are intended to be used in conjunction with individual organization/agency training programs and should not be used as a standalone training resource. While there are region-specific details and highlights from specific MPAs, the organization/agency using them should also provide area and organization specific information to the trainees. These modules provide a great foundation of MPA knowledge that is intended to be built upon with many further resources provided within the training.

4. **How was the training created?**
   These training modules were created by the Golden Gate Collaborative working with the county-based MPA Collaboratives in the MPA Collaborative Network to develop a regional training for coastal educators to complement existing volunteer training programs.

   The development of the online training kicked off in November 2020. Multiple iterations of the training were completed in August 2021, following feedback and members from Northern, Central, and Southern California MPA Collaborative Network regions. The pre-final versions of the modules were reviewed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in January 2022 and final versions drafted in February 2022 for programming.

5. **Who can take the training?**
   Anyone can take the training, but it was designed specifically for existing educational programs in the state like: field educators, docents, interpreters, volunteers, and students. They could also be used in highschool or college level classrooms as a homework assignment or as onboarding training for interns or new staff. The modules are freely available online and may also be of interest to the general public and anyone looking to learn more about California's MPAs.

6. **How much does the training cost?**
   This training is free, thanks to a grant from the Ocean Protection Council's MPA Education and Small Grants Prog.

7. **Where is the training?**
   The training is online at mpacollaborativenetwork.thinkific.com. This free online classroom allows individuals to take the training at their own pace. The training is available for sign ups beginning Monday, February 14, 2022.

8. **How to log in?**
   When you visit the online training website, you will need to create an account. Select the Log In option in the upper right hand corner of the website and create an account. Use an email address that you are okay with receiving alerts and reminders about your progress.

   When you create a new account, you will be asked for your full name email address, and to answer some questions for the program including: 1) How did you hear about the program? 2) Are you a member of a docent program? If so, which program? 3) Which County do you reside in? 4) Are you a member of the MPA Collaborative Network?

   After completing the sign up, you will be routed to the landing page for the classroom and receive an email confirmation of your registration from MPA Collaborative Network (noreply@notify.thinkific.com) that includes the sign-in URL.

9. **Where do I start once logged in?**
   We recommend you begin taking the online courses in the below order:
   1. California MPA Overview
   2. Regional Training: Select the appropriate region based on where you reside, work, or volunteer.
      a. North Coast: *Del Norte to Sonoma counties*
      b. Central Coast: *Marin to San Luis Obispo counties*
      c. South Coast: *Santa Barbara to San Diego counties*
   3. Compliance Guide for Educators

10. **What happens at the end of each training module?**
    At the end of each of the training modules, you will receive a certificate of completion in your email box that you can present to you program as applicable.

11. **What happens if I can't finish the training at one time?**
    Save your progress and log out. The online module should remember your progress so you can pick up where you left off.

12. **Who would I contact if I lost my password?**
    Use the Thinkific platform to reset your password. The site is not monitored for technical support.

13. **Take the Survey**
    Give us your feedback for improving this training for the next phase! The course evaluations are programmed into the classroom and organized by role: students/volunteers and program managers. The course evaluations help us to make improvements to the online materials in the future.