



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Julie Du Brow, Communications
310-922-1301 ph
jdubrow@santamonicaBay.org

The Bay Foundation Enhances Boater Program with Vital Marine Protected Area Education

Los Angeles, CA (July 8, 2021) [The Bay Foundation's](#) (TBF) Boater Education and Outreach Program (BEP) is adding Marine Protected Area (MPA) education into its programming. The goal is to increase the knowledge of MPAs and compliance with associated regulations across Southern California's growing and evolving recreational boating and angling communities, whose actions can easily impact the health of the ocean environment. To increase access to the program, several educational resources are now provided in both English and Spanish.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) website states, "*The need to safeguard the long-term health of California's marine life was recognized by the California Legislature in 1999 with the passage of the [Marine Life Protection Act](#). This Act aims to protect California's marine natural heritage through establishing a statewide network of [marine protected areas](#) (MPAs) designed, created, and managed using sound science and stakeholder input.*" Today, California's MPA Network consists of 124 different MPAs, Recreational Management Areas, and Special Closures. These designated marine spaces create the nation's first statewide MPA Network, and the largest ecologically connected MPA network in the world. Together, they act as a natural underwater corridor to protect, conserve, and rebuild underwater ecosystems and marine life populations along California's coast.

In lieu of face-to-face education and engagement at large boat shows and marinas, TBF has implemented an interactive virtual outreach campaign with the goal to reach 5,000 anglers and/or boaters over a period of 18 months. Beginning this Spring 2021, the long-standing statewide [Dockwalker Program, led by](#) the California Coastal Commission's (CCC) and DBW's Boating Clean and Green Program, and implemented in Southern California by TBF, now incorporates MPA information into Dockwalker Trainings for its foreseeable future. And, in March of this year, TBF, CCC and California State Parks co-produced an online presentation featuring several experts, one of which included an MPA expert, called the California Clean Boating Network Meeting, reaching more than 185 individuals.

"Combining audience-specific resources with consistent engagement, to both introduce and increase knowledge retention rates about MPAs, is truly significant," says Tom Ford, CEO, The Bay Foundation. "Integrating MPA content into existing programming pairs perfectly with our ongoing efforts and directly supports our mission to conserve and rehabilitate natural resources. This work will deliver results and help to build outreach capacity for years to come."



TBF's Community Engagement Program (CEP) has also newly created the following educational resources as virtual outreach tools available for Southern California boaters and anglers:

[MPA & Fishing Intro Video](#)

With the assistance of the CDFW, TBF created a first-of-its-kind, user-friendly, animated video on California's MPA Network, breaking down each type of MPA and other conservation areas in the network. This video was created to not only educate and empower boaters on MPAs and their fishing regulations, but to inform them of compliance through positive images showing how to correctly interact with MPAs. The video is available in both English and Spanish. ([English](#) / [Spanish captions](#))

[MPA Knowledge Review Quiz](#)

Want to test your knowledge? Take the [California MPA Knowledge Quiz](#)! This interactive engagement tool can take boaters, anglers, and recreational MPA users through a customized educational journey ending with a 'Quiz Score' and pairing you with a mystery marine creature. The quiz explores topics like the purpose, meaning, and impact of an MPA, the different types of MPAs and their regulations, and common fishing laws in California.

[Make Your Own Fishing Line Recycling Container](#)

To normalize and promote the behavior of recycling fishing lines amongst boaters and anglers, TBF created a do-it-yourself guide for making recycling containers for used fishing lines, and in the process, reuse household materials. Marine debris, like used fishing lines, contributes to ongoing marine pollution and endangers marine life in our oceans and MPAs. By using this recycling guide, anglers will not only be able to create their own fishing line recycling container, but will learn where the closest fishing line recycling station is, and where to find further MPA educational information.

In addition to virtual outreach through trainings and presentations, existing boater education resources were updated and published. Various educational materials provided to Dockwalkers and the public, such as [Tide Calendars](#) and a [quick reference guide](#), now include detailed information about MPA regulations and best practices in both Spanish and English. In partnership with the California Clean Boating Network (DBW, CCC, San Francisco Estuary Partnership) TBF has also spread the word about MPAs to thousands through published articles in *The Changing Tide* newsletter. The statewide newsletter features environmentally-friendly boating tips, place-based boating destinations, and programs and services related to clean boating.

This work is funded by the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) and Coastal Quest and developed in collaboration with CDFW, California State Parks and CCC.



About The Bay Foundation (TBF)

The Bay Foundation (TBF) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit environmental group founded in 1990 to restore and enhance the Santa Monica Bay and local coastal waters (from the LA-Ventura county line to the Palos Verdes Peninsula). The Bay Foundation is a partner in the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program along with the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission and many other organizations. TBF works collaboratively with a broad group of stakeholders, including government agencies, industry, environmental groups, and community members. TBF engages scientists and conducts research while mentoring student interns and volunteers in conjunction with the Frank R. Seaver College of Science and Engineering through the Coastal Research Institute at Loyola Marymount University. (TBF: www.santamonicabay.org, CRI: lmu.edu/cri)

About the Ocean Protection Council (OPC)

As a Cabinet-level state policy body nested within the California Natural Resources Agency, OPC plays a unique role in coordinating the activities of ocean-related agencies to improve the effectiveness of state efforts to protect ocean resources. OPC advances the Governor's priorities for coastal and ocean policy and works broadly to advance healthy coastal and ocean ecosystems for current and future generations. OPC's mission is to protect California's coast and ocean by advancing innovative, science-based policy and management, making strategic investments, and catalyzing action through partnerships and collaboration. Click here for more information about [OPC](#) and California's [MPA Management Program](#).

About Coastal Quest

Coastal Quest is a 501(c)(3) non-profit working collaboratively with partners to build resilient coastal communities for people and nature. We support communities in action. Coastal Quest's mission is to create lasting solutions to protect, sustain, reduce threats to, and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of our coastal environments for present and future generations. Coastal Quest administers the Marine Protected Area (MPA) Outreach and Education Small Grants Program. This competitive grant program, funded by the Ocean Protection Council and private donors, provides support to organizations serving many priority communities to increase MPA stewardship, engagement, compliance, and leadership. For more information on Coastal Quest and the MPA Small Grants Program, visit their website (www.coastal-quest.org).