



Comprehensive Monitoring Program Released for Santa Monica Bay



Front cover of the Comprehensive Monitoring Program plan.

In April, Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program (SMBNEP) released the [Comprehensive Monitoring Program \(CMP\)](#) for Santa Monica Bay. The CMP is a scientific monitoring plan to assess the status and trends of seven habitats across the Bay and its watershed. Monitoring data resulting from the implementation of this plan will help provide critical information to manage the Bay and its natural resources effectively. The 2021 CMP also incorporates detailed information produced as part of SMBNEP's climate change vulnerability assessment for the region, including recommended monitoring indicators to understand climate impacts and an assessment of data gaps for each habitat type. This collaboration of over 35 expert scientists leverages monitoring work by many partner agencies, universities, and others to assess the condition of the Bay and inform future State of the Bay Reports.

Introducing the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program Logo!

SMBNEP is thrilled to share its new logo. This logo centers balance of human, animal and plant life, water, and land. The abstract landscape is comprised of curved, simple lines portraying the Southern California coast and Pacific waters we all love and have the responsibility to safeguard. This design is about harmony, life, and good SoCal vibes. [Kevin Coochwytewa, graphic designer and art director](#), created it.



SANTA MONICA BAY
NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM

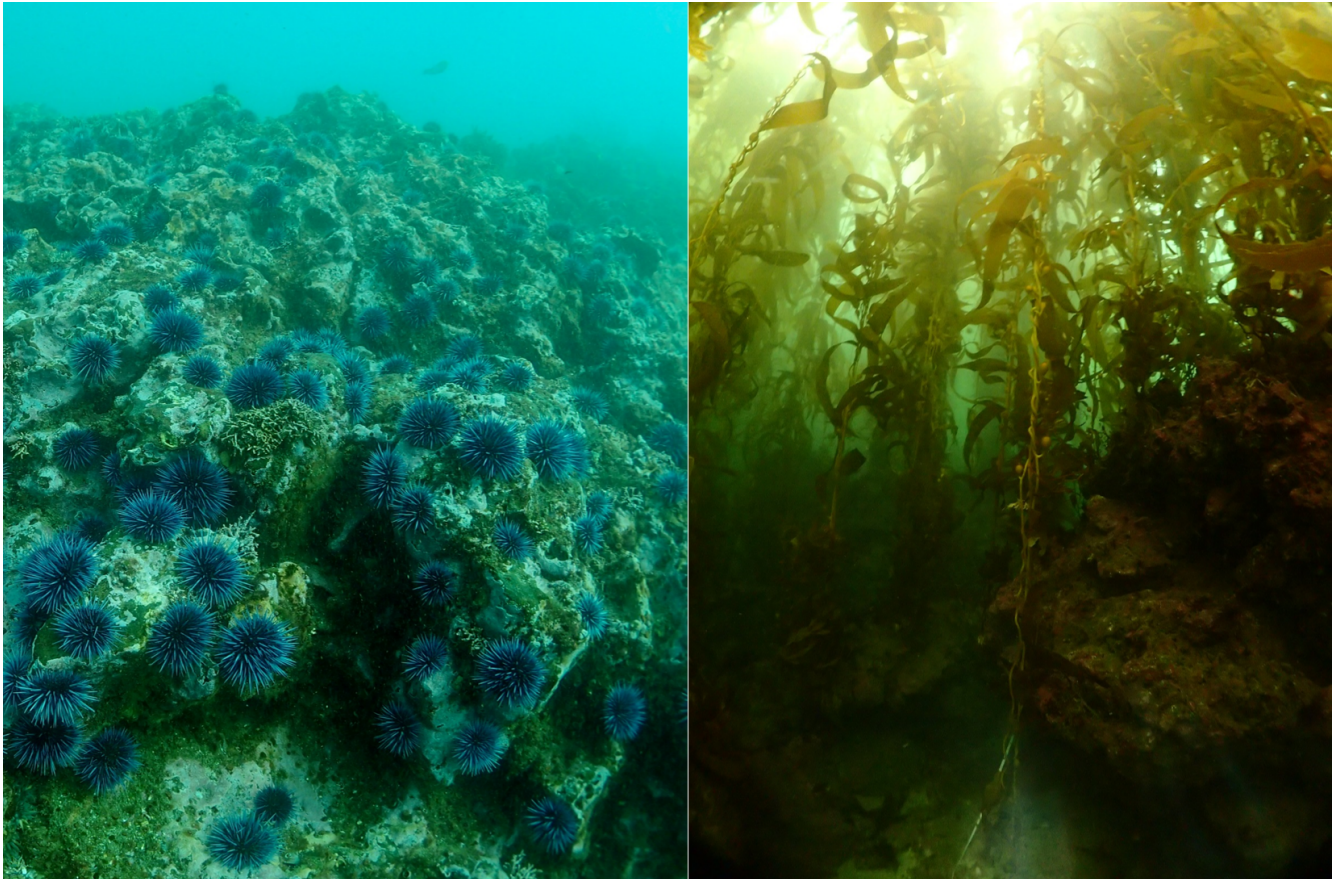
Restoring Our Beaches

The [Manhattan Beach Dune Restoration \(MBDR\) project](#) and [Los Angeles Living Shoreline Project \(LA-LSP\)](#) aim to increase the resiliency of shorelines through the restoration of coastal habitats and implementation of nature-based protection measures against sea-level rise and coastal storms. For more information and relevant project documents, such as the Restoration and Monitoring Plans, please visit the [MBDR](#) and [LA-LSP](#) webpages. The Bay Foundation (TBF) anticipates implementation to take place this Fall-Winter 2021 along with project partners, the Los Angeles Conservation Corps, and members of the public. To get involved, please check the project webpages for updates and keep a lookout for community restoration event opportunities on [TBF's Events page](#). These projects would not be possible without our partners, the Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors, the City of Los Angeles, the City of Manhattan Beach, and funding through the State Coastal Conservancy.



Artistic perspective renderings (5 years post-restoration) for the Los Angeles Living Shoreline Project at Dockweiler Beach (top) and the Manhattan Beach Dune Restoration project (bottom).

Kelp Restoration Project



Pre-kelp restoration (left) and post-kelp restoration (right).

The TBF Marine team, alongside its partners Vantuna Research Group, NOAA Fisheries, Cal Poly Pomona, and local sea urchin harvesters, has worked over the past decade to restore and monitor Palos Verdes's kelp forests. Kelp forests in this area were once abundant, supporting over 700 species of marine animals. Over time, purple sea urchins dominated this landscape, preventing kelp growth and subsequent marine life from thriving. Through urchin harvesters culling purple sea urchins, the marine team and partners began to assess whether kelp was able to return.

A [recent paper from Occidental College's Vantuna Research Group](#) shows that culled areas resulted in rapid kelp growth, and the growth of other understory algae. Additionally, urchin gonads, also known as the high-value sushi product, uni, grew in size, benefiting the local urchin harvesters greatly. Restoration of these forests not only provides habitat to hundreds of local species, but also sequesters carbon, improves water quality, and revitalizes local fisheries. The marine team continues to monitor and restore kelp forests with our new partner, Sea Trees, as a result of these successful efforts. To capture a fuller picture of this project check out this mini-doc on [CCN's program "Call to Earth"](#).

Highlights from the Coastal Research Institute's Summer Programs

Loyola Marymount University's (LMU) Coastal Research Institute (CRI) students and faculty scientists have been busy this spring and summer conducting research in support of SMBNEP's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) and Comprehensive Monitoring Program plan. Sixteen LMU internship students, six faculty, four interns from Marymount High School, and TBF staff have been participating in research such as filling data gaps for sandy shores



CRI student intern Dina (right) conducting field research.

as part of the beach characterization study, modeling the effects of increased ocean temperatures on marine species, understanding harmful algal bloom species in the Santa Monica Bay, and much more. Students are excited to be back in the field. Additionally, CRI is partnering with scientists from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pepperdine University, LA County Department of Public Works, and The Ocean Cleanup on research relating to nearshore fish and reducing marine trash.

CRI Welcomes Dr. Lambert Doezema

Beginning in May 2021, Dr. Lambert Doezema became the new co-Executive Director of Loyola Marymount University's Coastal Research Institute, alongside Tom Ford. Dr. Doezema is also the Director of the Environmental Science Program at LMU, and he conducts research on air quality and pollutants, including methane and volatile organic compounds. He brings extensive experience in teaching, mentoring students, administration, and conducting research to CRI. Dr. Doezema is looking forward to helping connect LMU faculty to research opportunities involving external



scientific partners and facilitating CRI's growth. We also celebrate Dr. James Landry as the outgoing co-ED for CRI. Dr. Landry's research aims to inform fate and transport of microplastics in nearshore environments, including assessing plastic type using infrared spectroscopy.

Two Informative Videos for SoCal Boaters

TBF's Boater Education Program is bringing awareness to marine composting toilet systems as a sewage waste disposal method for southern California boat owners by releasing an educational video. The video, titled, "[Consider a Marine Composting Toilet](#)", explains how the systems work, their benefits, and their disadvantages, all of which are important topics to assess when installing these systems on a boat. This convenient waste disposal solution supports environmentally responsible boating by design, avoiding the production of sewage and the use of a traditional holding tank altogether. The program has leveraged social media channels to reach and educate recreational boaters and anglers about the systems, and as of April 2021, the video has received more than 200 views.



With the assistance of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and with support from the California Ocean Protection Council and Coastal Quest, TBF's Boater Education Program created a first-of-its-kind animated video on California's MPA network, breaking down each type of MPA and other conservation areas within the network in an easy-to-understand manner. The video is called "[Fishing in California? Get Clear on Marine Protected Areas!](#)"; there is also a version available with captions in [Spanish](#). The video was created as an educational tool to help increase the knowledge of MPAs and compliance with associated regulations across Southern California's recreational boating and angling communities. The video not only educates and empowers boaters on MPAs and their regulations but also informs them of compliance on how to interact with these protected spaces while out on the water.



The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission Approves the Revised CCMP

On April 15, 2021, the Governing Board of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (Commission) approved the revised Comprehensive Monitoring Program, thus marking the completion of a major revision to the [Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan](#) (CCMP) of the SMBNEP. The CCMP provides a long-term framework for actions and strategies that address a range of environmental problems facing Santa Monica Bay, while recognizing and balancing the needs of the local community. Initiated in 2017 with extensive input from stakeholders, including members of the public, the revised CCMP builds upon previous priorities, actions, and successes while incorporating a new priority area: understanding and adapting to climate change impacts. Other components of the revised CCMP include the Action Plan, the Finance Plan, the Commission's Memorandum of Understanding (amended in 2020), and the Introduction Chapter.

The Commission's Proposition 50 Grant Program

On July 12, 2021, the Commission began accepting applications for the Commission's Proposition 50 grant program to support projects that restore and protect the water quality and habitats of Santa Monica Bay and its watersheds. Eligible projects include those that support one or more of the overarching goals of the [CCMP Action Plan](#) and provide comprehensive capability for monitoring, collecting, and analyzing ambient water quality. Priority will be given to projects that fulfill monitoring needs identified in the [Comprehensive Monitoring Program](#) of the SMBNEP. The deadline to submit project proposals is September 24, 2021. Visit the Commission's [Proposition 50 grant program webpage](#) for more information.

Upcoming SMBRC Governing Board Meeting Dates

- October 21, 2021
- December 14, 2021

As a result of the COVID-19 emergency, meetings will occur solely via remote presence until further notice. Visit the [Commission's website](#) for meeting access information, agendas, and materials.

Upcoming Community Restoration Events



The Ballona Wetlands Community Restoration Project focuses on removing invasive iceplant and other non-native vegetation that can impact native California plants such as pickleweed, salt grass, and alkali weed. **Participants will help to remove non-native plants by hand. We are excited to have everyone back!**

- September 8, 2021 - 9-11 am
- September 22, 2021 - 9-11 am

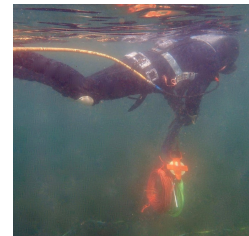
[Visit our events page for more information and to register.](#)

Get Involved!



Please contact Sara (scuadra@santamonicabay.org) if you are interested in volunteering for one of TBF's programs. Also, check TBF's [Events Page](#) for upcoming events.

Meet SMBNEP & Its Collaborators



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