



baywire

News and Updates from the Governing Board of
the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission

BAYWIRE **January 2013 Edition**

SMBRC Governing Board Elects New Chair for 2013

New Year, New Chair! We are pleased to announce that Micheál O'Leary was elected by the Governing Board in December to serve as Chair for the 2013 term. A native of Dublin, Ireland, Chairman O'Leary is the owner of two pubs in the region and is a long-time city council member and former mayor of Culver City. "The protection of natural resources has always been and continues to be a priority of mine," said O'Leary. "As someone who has lived half my life on an island, I have always had a great appreciation and respect for the ocean that surrounds us. I look forward to leading the board in this coming year as we continue to protect the Santa Monica Bay watershed for generations to come." O'Leary was appointed to the Governing Board by the West Side Cities Council of Government and has served on the Governing Board for four years. The term for SMBRC chair is one year, with no term limits.

As Micheal O'Leary takes the reigns as chair of the Governing Board, we say goodbye to our chair of five years, former Santa Monica Mayor and City Councilmember Richard Bloom. We appreciate his dedication and that of his staff to the SMBRC over the last half decade and wish him well in his new endeavor as the newly-elected California State Assembly Member for the 50th Assembly District. Assemblymember Bloom will serve a new district comprised of a large part of the West side of Los Angeles County, within the Santa Monica Bay watershed. We look forward to Assemblymember Bloom's continued leadership on environmental issues in our region. Congratulations and welcome back!

Members of the California State Assembly and Senate serve as ex-officio, non-voting members of the SMBRC Governing Board.

SMBRC Governing Board Vice-Chairs Elected to Serve on Executive Committee with Chair

Along with our new Chair, six vice-chairs were elected by their peers on the SMBRC Governing Board at the December meeting. We are also pleased to welcome the 2013 vice-chairs:

Liz Crosson, Los Angeles Waterkeeper
Fran Diamond, Los Angeles County Regional Water Quality Control Board
Mike Gin, Mayor, City of Redondo Beach
State Senator Ted Lieu
Sarah Sikich, Heal The Bay
Ron Smith, Director, West Basin MWD

The chair and vice-chair comprise the Executive Committee, which is charged with working with staff to develop agenda items and discuss issues for upcoming Governing Board meetings. Vice-chairs serve one-year terms, with no term limits.

2013 SMBRC Governing Board Meeting Dates Are Set!

The SMBRC Governing Board meets on the 3rd Thursday of the even-numbered months from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Del Rey Yacht Club. So mark your calendars now!

The 2013 Meeting dates are:

- February 21
- April 18
- June 20
- August 15
- October 17
- December 19

The Del Rey Yacht Club is located at 13900 Palawan Way, Marina del Rey CA 90292.

For additional information concerning any meeting, please contact Scott Valor at 310-922-2376 or by e-mail at svalor@santamonicabay.org . You may also visit our website at www.smbrc.ca.gov .

Marina Del Rey Anglers Appointed to SMBRC Watershed Advisory Council

The Marina Del Rey Anglers (MDRA) was appointed to the SMBRC Watershed Advisory Council by unanimous vote of the Governing Board at the December meeting.

The MDRA was founded in 1975 and incorporated in 1986 as a non-profit organization. The MDRA's purpose is to promote fishing activities and environmental conservation. The organization runs the oldest fishing competition on the west coast, which helps to fund its philanthropic and conservation activities. The MRDA also operates a white seabass nursery.

The Watershed Advisory Council is the broad stakeholder body of the SMBRC. The primary responsibility of the Watershed Advisory Council is to advise the Governing Board on Bay restoration priorities for funding, planning, project implementation, monitoring and further research.

Fisheries in the Santa Monica Bay – Highlights of a Presentation to the Governing Board

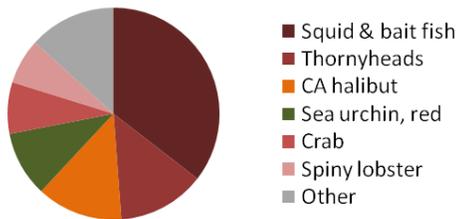
Some of Santa Monica Bay is closed to most types of commercial fishing, making it a sport-fishing haven. Recent interest in allowing commercial lobster fishing inside Santa Monica Bay and off the leeward side of Catalina caused the SMBRC Governing Board to consider a resolution that would support making no changes to the existing regulations. It took no action in October, but asked staff to prepare a presentation on local fishing for the next meeting. Lia Protopapadakis, marine scientist and staff expert on fisheries, gave the presentation at the December meeting.

The fishing grounds around the Los Angeles area are important to both commercial and recreational fisheries in California. Locally important commercial species are: squid, sardines, spiny lobster, thornyhead (a type of rockfish), sea urchin, spot prawn, rock crab, and California halibut. Locally important recreational species are rockfish, sand bass, kelp bass, white seabass, tuna, California halibut, yellowtail, and spiny lobster. Surprisingly little information from our area is gathered about these populations, and even less is collected about the local fisheries. What data are available come with caveats. Both Federal and State agencies have a hand in managing these fisheries, which to the best of our knowledge are a mix of borderline or presumably stable stocks. Commercial fisheries that would likely gain fishing grounds if regulations pertaining to their fishery were changed are: market squid, sardines, spiny lobster, rock crab, and CA halibut. A copy of this presentation can be found on the SMBRC website at www.smbrc.ca.gov.

The SMBRC Governing Board opted to reconsider the resolution at the February meeting and asked staff to develop possible goals, actions, and milestones related to the many questions raised by this presentation for the 2013 update of the Bay Restoration Plan.

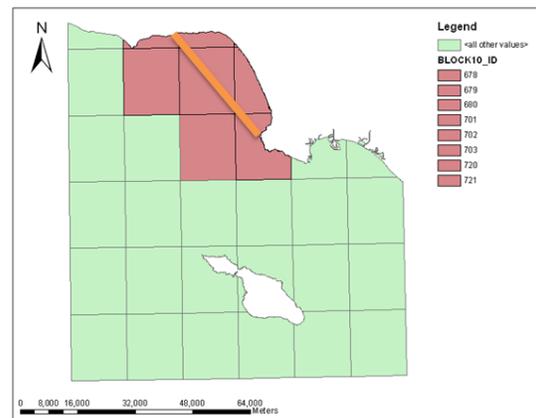
Valuable Commercial Species in the Bay

Value in SMB, 2012 (Total \$1.4 M)



DFG Commercial Fishing Block Data, 2012

Fishing Blocks that Intersect with the SMB Closure



Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation Passes State Audit With Flying Colors!

The SMBRF recently emerged from a detailed Department of Finance audit with flying colors! The California Department of Finance, Office of State Audits and Evaluations, has completed its audits of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation's (Foundation) grants funded in the last several years for work on our watershed, particularly at Ballona. For the SMBRF statement and link to the audit review, please visit

<http://www.santamonicabay.org/Audit%20Statement%20for%20web.pdf> .

SMBRC Executive Director, Staff, & Governing Board Member Receive Partnership Award from Conservation Districts



Each year the California Association of Conservation Districts gives a Partnership Award to the best major environmental project conducted with a local Conservation District. This year Karen Buhr, Executive Director of the CARCD and her Board of Directors, gave the Partnership Award to Dr. Shelley Luce, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission, Ms. Suzanne Goode, California Department of State Parks and Mr. Mark Abramson, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation for their outstanding work on the restoration of the Malibu Lagoon in partnership with the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains. As noted in the presentation of the awards by Melina Watts, RCDSMM, "Starting with a vision by Dr. Richard Ambrose, UCLA and with input from numerous local stakeholders and the Malibu Creek Watershed Council, it took many partners from many organizations many years to achieve the completion of the restoration of the Malibu Lagoon. The Board of Directors of the RCDSMM nominated Ms. Goode, Mr. Abramson and Dr. Luce for the CARCD Partnership Award because each of them provided the crucial ongoing and resolute leadership necessary to finish the project." Long-time President of the Board of the RCDSMM Dennis Washburn congratulated the winners.

New Communications contact!

Julie Du Brow was introduced as the new Communications Specialist for the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation. As Principal for *dubroWORKS PR+Marketing* firm since 2002, she specialized in local / regional / national campaigns for clients in the fields of green design, building/architecture, film, food, travel, publishing, visual arts, trade shows, and mobile entertainment. Prior to that, Julie spent 16 years in the Music Industry. She also volunteers her time with the U.S. Green Building Council-Los Angeles Chapter, and serves on the Steering Committee (Annual Gala) for the Architecture+Design Museum. Julie is a native Angeleno, and has a B.A. in Communications from UCLA.

“As a native, I’m grateful for the work that the SMBRC has done for so many years, and didn’t realize the scope until I began. And I know I’m not alone. So I look forward to making others as aware of the SMBRC as they should be in our efforts to garner support and move forward in collaboration with our partners on the BRP.

I also encourage the GB to please contact me if media contacts you for information or a quote. You may also direct them to me. Thank you.”

*You can see her expanded bio and *all the updated* bios at the Staff page on our website.

Feel free to contact Julie via email at JDubrow@santamonicabay.org or 213/576-6641 (310-922-1301 cell).

Check Out Our Website!

Please check out SMBRC’s website: www.smbrc.ca.gov . To streamline access to our Governing Board agendas, schedules, and staff reports, the new website features only information that is most critical to following the month-to-month activities of the SMBRC’s bodies.

In addition, Staff Bios have been updated and/or added, so please check out the Staff page at http://www.smbrc.ca.gov/about_us/staff.shtml. It’s good to know your people resources!

The SMBRC’s partner, the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation, continues to support their existing website at www.santamonicabay.org and includes links to Foundation activities, reports, and other information. If you have any questions or comments, contact Scott Valor at svalor@santamonicabay.org .