

The Bay Foundation (TBF) and the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC) are partners in the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program (SMBNEP), one of 28 entities that comprise the National Estuary Program. TBF is a non-profit environmental group founded in 1990 to restore and enhance the Santa Monica Bay and local coastal waters. The SMBRC is a locally-based, non-regulatory state entity which is charged with overseeing and promoting the SMBNEP's Bay Restoration Plan.

## Q1 2018 Edition

### ***Kelp Restoration Year 4 Report is Now Available!***

In year 4 of the Kelp Forest Restoration Project, TBF has found encouraging results off our iconic southern California coast line. Off the bluffs of the Palos Verdes Peninsula, close to 80% of the diverse and productive kelp forests of Santa Monica Bay were lost mainly due to human actions like commercial and recreational fishing, sedimentation, urban runoff, and pollution. This led to approximately 150 acres of urchin barrens leaving the reefs bare and devoid of diversity. To date, we have spent a total of 304 days, or 7,298 hours(!), diving underwater for this effort; restored over 43 acres of reef, bringing back algae, invertebrates, and fishes to the region; and increased gonad biomass of red sea urchins by 150% in restored sites. For our restoration sites in year 4 alone, kelp canopy cover increased by 250%. In addition, fishery-targeted fishes showed dramatic density increases, and diversity indices for algae and invertebrates met or surpassed nearby stable reference kelp forests. [Click here](#) for report & appendices.



*Three Kelp Bass Enjoying a Revitalized Kelp Forest off Palos Verdes*

### ***Coastal Research Institute Summer LMU Interns!***

The Coastal Research Institute (CRI), a partnership of LMU's Seaver College of Science and Engineering and The Bay Foundation, has been making waves since its launch on November 9, 2017, with many student and faculty participants. CRI released the notice for the Summer Internship Program on March 2nd which will provide hands-on learning experiences using applied science in real world restoration and research projects for 10 students and three faculty fellows this summer and the 2018-2019 school year. This program supports ongoing restoration and monitoring projects being conducted by TBF, and supports the implementation of SMBNEP's Comprehensive Monitoring Program.



*Interns conduct water quality sampling fieldwork at Malibu Lagoon*

## **BRP Status**

SMBNEP has made substantial progress over the last few months on the revision of the 2013 Bay Restoration Plan, receiving significant input from SMBRC's Governing Board, Watershed Advisory Council, Technical Advisory Committee, and members of the public. Seven public workshops have been held (i.e. 3 GB, 2 WAC, 2 TAC). At this point, the revision process is into its second phase, where goals and actions for the new BRP are being drafted based upon the input from the workshops and interested stakeholders. Climate change is increasingly important to the SMBNEP and many of the new goals and actions have a tie to climate change adaptation.

Thanks to everyone for their heartfelt and thoughtful suggestions and advice! A special thanks to the SMBRC TAC for an especially productive meeting in February. The revision process will continue for the next several months. If you haven't already, please let us know of your priorities for the restoration and protection of our bay by completing [this survey](#).

## **SMBRC Governing Board Elections Results**

At the December 2017 meeting, Fran Diamond, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Board, was elected as the Chair of the SMBRC Governing Board. The Chair is elected for one-year terms, with no term limits, and presides over the meetings of the Governing Board and the Executive Committee. We thank Enrique C. Zaldivar for his two years of service as Chair since December 2015.

At the same meeting, the following were elected from the Watershed Advisory Council to serve on the Governing Board:

- Environmental / Public Interest: Heal the Bay and Los Angeles Waterkeeper
- Industry: Chevron
- At Large: Marina del Rey Anglers, Santa Monica Mountains Conservation District, and West Basin Municipal Water District

At the February 2018 meeting of the SMBRC Governing Board, current Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members were reappointed to the TAC. And also six Vice-Chairs were elected to serve on the SMBRC's Executive Committee (in alpha order by name):

- Charles Caspary, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
- Gloria Gray, West Basin Municipal Water District
- Sam Schuchat, Coastal Conservancy
- Timothy Lippman, County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's Office
- Bruce Reznik, Los Angeles Waterkeeper
- Sarah Sikich, Heal the Bay

Congratulations to you all and thank you for your service!

## **We Love Our Dockwalkers**

Are you passionate about keeping our oceans free of pollution? The statewide [Dockwalker program](#) continues its boater engagement efforts with five *free* local workshops to become a certified Dockwalker, now through May! Equipped with the main



*Grateful boater receives boater kit from a dockwalker to help reduce ocean pollution*

engagement tool, the Boater Kit, Dockwalkers connect with boaters at docks, launch ramps, waterfront areas throughout local harbors and at boating events. This face-to-face interaction has proven to be a successful way to motivate behavior change for improved water quality and sustainable boating. The newest Boater Kits reflect our pollution prevention efforts

with materials made from non- or low-toxic materials, everything is printed on recycled paper with soy-based inks, and the content “folder” can be easily disassembled and used as an oil absorbent. The Dockwalker program is coordinated by TBF, California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways, and California Coastal Commission’s Boating Clean and Green Program. To become a Dockwalker volunteer, please email Victoria Gambale at [vgambale@santamonicabay.org](mailto:vgambale@santamonicabay.org), or sign up [online](#).

### ***TBF Expands Role at LAX Dunes, is Recognized with Partners FOLD and LAWA***

We need your volunteer spirit this year! TBF has signed a one-year agreement with the Los Angeles World Airport (LAWA) to conduct monitoring and continue restoration at the LAX Dunes. The LAX Dunes are the largest remaining coastal dune community in southern California. TBF monitoring will assess the extent of LAWA’s restoration efforts and provide reports with recommendations. Continued restoration will include monthly and special volunteer events, student internship projects, and expanded outreach efforts. Our next LAX Dunes event is April 7th. Please [click here](#) to sign up for this event or any others in April (Earth Month!) or May!

A hearty congratulations to the Friends of the LAX Dunes, for their “Outreach, Education and Community Involvement” Environmental Achievement award from Airports Council International-North America (ACI-NA). The award also recognized TBF alongside LAWA, as partners committed to volunteerism and eco-conscious community engagement.

### ***Engaging Teacher-Leaders to Spark NextGen’s Coastal Science Passion***

The Coastal Research Institute is launching the Coastal Science & Stewardship for Teacher-Leaders, or [CSSTL](#), at LMU. This summer program offers teacher-leaders the opportunity to practice the interdisciplinary

skills they need to teach the science of the shoreline and how their students can engage in community-based restoration projects. The teachers will learn—with support from LMU researchers, TBF coastal scientists, and fellow teacher-leaders—how to engage their K-12 students in exploring natural systems in the coastal zone, how to conduct student-driven questioning, and encourage community-based learning. Teachers can [sign up now](#) for a week-long program (June 18-22) that will take place at LMU and at TBF projects sites such as the Santa Monica Beach and Malibu Lagoon.

### ***Join TBF Outside!***

TBF offers regular volunteer opportunities at these locations. EARTH MONTH beckons – bring a friend!!

- Culver City Rain Garden
- LAX Dunes
- Malibu Lagoon
- Stone Canyon Creek
- Dockwalker Trainings  
*\*Only through May!\**

Please check TBF’s [Events Page](#) for dates, times, brief descriptions, and who to contact.

TBF also works with corporations and other organizations for group volunteer days. Please contact Rod Abbott ([rabbott@santamonicabay.org](mailto:rabbott@santamonicabay.org)) if you’d like to plan such an event.

### ***TBF Supports KCET’s Earth Focus Environmental Film Festival***

The KCET Earth Focus Environmental Film Festival on Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> in Santa Monica kicks off at 9:30 am with an environmental shorts screening from UCLA’S LENS program followed cclaimed films including *March of the Penguins 2: The Next Step* (10 am) , *Evolution of Organic* (11 am), *The Last Animals* (noon), *Jane* (2:30 pm) and closing with two new episodes of *EARTH FOCUS* (5 pm). Most films free. Celebs intros and Q&As after. [KCET.org/green](http://KCET.org/green) for tickets & info.

## In The News

[Ventura County Star](#) informed its readers about Dockwalker training in Channel Islands Harbor.

Switzerland's French-language newspaper [Le Temps](#) reports on kelp, its decline and kelp restoration efforts worldwide, including TBF's local project.

[The Argonaut](#) reports on the 1-year anniversary of the Santa Monica Beach Restoration Pilot Project, as native plants and birds are making a comeback.

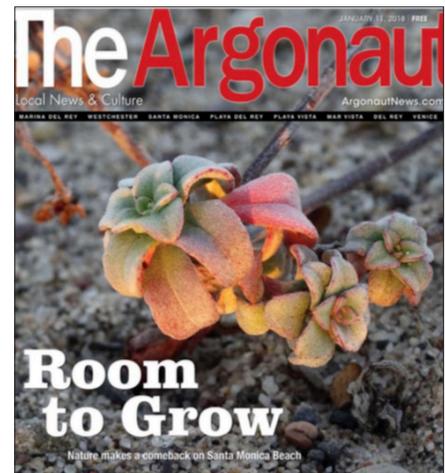
[Whole Life Times](#) shared TBF's and FOLD's work at the LAX Dunes, along with input from Patagonia about their volunteering.

TBF's Karina Johnston spoke with Renee Eng of Spectrum Cable's "[California in Focus](#)" on public interest in the Ballona Wetlands.

Great White sharks' increased presence in Santa Monica Bay were the focus of [Los Angeles Magazine](#) at the end of 2017, with TBF's Tom Ford offering input on kelp forests during an El Niño ocean.

[Santa Monica Daily Press](#) reported on the launch of the Coastal Research Institute, as did the [L.A. Loyolan](#) and [The Argonaut](#).

Learn about TBF's Table-to-Farm pilot program in Inglewood in this [Environmental Directions Radio](#) interview.



January 2018

## TBF INSTAGRAM PHOTO OF THE MONTH

"Whaddaya  
up to  
this week?"



*The inquisitive California moray eel visits the TBF Marine Team frequently on the reef. Moray eels actually have two sets of jaws which gives them a very powerful bite. Check out this Smithsonian video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=taguVjKRxtI>*

### ***Social Media is Important, Fun and Connects Us!***

If you're a social media maven or even a dabbler, we ask that you engage, share and use our Social Media avenues.

- Facebook: [@The Bay Foundation](#)
- Twitter: [@SMBRF](#)
- Instagram: [@TheBayFoundation](#)
- YouTube: "[The Bay Foundation](#)"

*Please go that extra step and invite colleagues, friends and family to also Like or Follow us.*

And did you know you can check out your local dining options via an interactive map of certified Clean Bay Restaurants on our site?

## **2018 SMBRC Governing Board Meeting Dates**

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.

The remaining 2018 meeting dates are:

- April 19
- June 21
- August 16
- October 18
- December 13 (2nd Thurs.)

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

For additional information concerning any SMBRC Governing Board meeting, please contact Dr. Guang-yu Wang at 213-576-6639 or by e-mail at [guangyu.wang@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:guangyu.wang@waterboards.ca.gov). You may also visit the SMBRC website at <http://www.smbrc.ca.gov/>.

## **Check Out Our Websites**

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

The Bay Foundation's website can be viewed at <http://www.santamonicabay.org/>. It includes links to Foundation activities, reports, and other information.

If you have any questions or comments, contact Dr. Guang-yu Wang at [guangyu.wang@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:guangyu.wang@waterboards.ca.gov) or Julie Du Brow at [jdubrow@santamonicabay.org](mailto:jdubrow@santamonicabay.org).