

## Historical Review of Monitoring in Southern California for the National Research Council

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### INTRODUCTION

The marine Board of the National Research Council determined that there was a national need for a comprehensive study of marine monitoring programs. The study design included at least two case studies on specific regions of the US where there was high public concerns and strong historical data bases on marine environmental monitoring. The Southern California Bight was selected as one such region and the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) was given the task to compile a review of monitoring in the region.

This compilation was designed to only include those programs that sampled the same locations for at least 3 years for such parameters as bacteriological contamination, water column quality, sediment contaminants and infauna, and epifauna including fish. On developing this data base it was noted that there were three primary categories of monitoring programs. Nearly all data gathering was conducted by municipalities discharging to the ocean, power plants using seawater for cooling, and state and federal agencies collecting marine life (primarily fish) to determine the dynamics of marine resources. A few industrial discharges directly entering the marine environment are also monitored.

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