# Southern California Bight 2018 Regional Monitoring Program

*Report to SCCWRP Commission*

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# Overview of the Bight Program

- Bight started as a pilot program in 1994
  - This is the sixth survey
- Bight is continually evolving
  - Elements added to address new management questions
- Bight has been held up as a national model for a Regional Monitoring Program
  - Reputation for success in translating science to management

# Goal of Today's Talk

- Describe Bight '18 elements
  - This is your opportunity to provide feedback while we are still in the planning process
- Status of planning efforts
- Schedule for field campaigns

# Bight ‘18 Elements

- Sediment Quality
- Harmful Algal Blooms
- Ocean Acidification
- Trash
- Microbiology

# Sediment Quality

- Characterize sediment quality impacts by habitat type using multiple lines of evidence
  - How wide-spread? How severe? Is it getting better or worse?
- Measure bioaccumulation of contaminants in edible fish tissue
  - Is it safe to eat the fish?
- What's New: Pilot new screening tools for contaminants of emerging concern

# Harmful Algal Blooms

- Marine HABs:  Measure Domoic Acid concentrations in shelf sediments
  - Are sediments a source of DA?

- Freshwater HABs: Characterize impact of cyanotoxins on shellfish at the marine/freshwater interface
  - What is the risk of cyanotoxins on the marine environment?

# Ocean Acidification

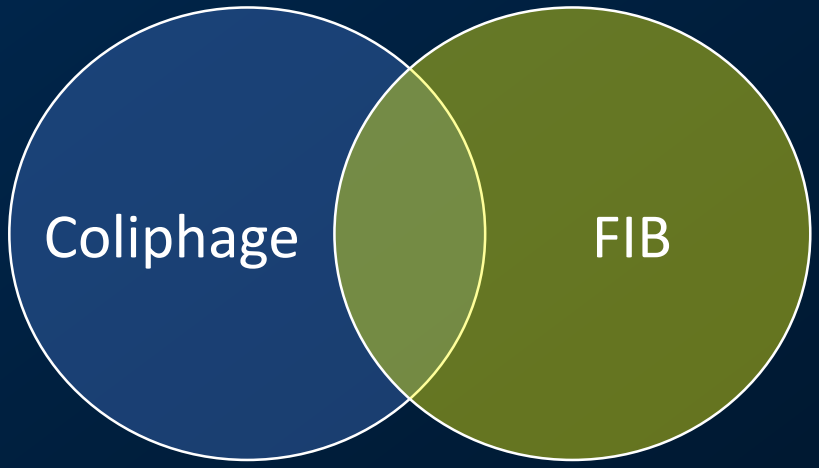
- Characterize carbonate chemistry of Bight continental shelf waters
  - Status with respect to known thresholds? Trends?
- Assessment of biological impacts
  - Do we see biological impacts?  Where? When?
- What's new: Developing new indicators and new metrics

# Trash

- Characterize distribution of trash on the seafloor
  - How much? How wide-spread? What types? Trends?
- Characterize distribution of trash in streams
  - How much? How wide-spread? What types?
  - Trends related to recent policy actions?
- What's New: pilot new technologies for trash assessments

# Microbiology

- Understand implications of new EPA coliphage standards for beach water quality assessments
  - Compare coliphage to fecal indicator bacteria




- What's new: pilot new standards before they hit prime time

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# Four-Step Process to Field Launch

1. Generate monitoring questions

2. Develop study design

3. Match study design to available effort
   - Workplan

4. Pre-survey Quality Assurance and Information Management
   - QA Plan, Intercalibrations
   - Field and Laboratory Manuals

# Planning is on Track

| Element | Questions | Study Design | Match Effort | Pre-survey QA & IM |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Sediment Quality** | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | progress |
| **Harmful Algal Blooms** | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | progress |
| **Trash** | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | progress |
| **Ocean Acidification** | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | progress |
| **Microbiology** | ✓ | ✓ | progress | progress |

# Field Program Schedule

- Sediment Quality
  - July – September ‘18
- Harmful Algal Blooms
  - Domoic Acid: with Sediment Quality
  - Cyanotoxins: October ‘18 – January ’19
- Ocean Acidification
  - January 2019 – November 2020
- Trash
  - Seafloor: with Sediment Quality
  - Streams: with Stormwater Monitoring Coalition March ’18 – June ’18
- Microbiology
  - July – September ‘18

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# Are You Getting What You Need From Your Program?

- Do the elements adequately capture your immediate management needs?
- Is there anything we can refine to make the program more valuable?
- What is the feedback you've received from your staff?

# For More Information…

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