

**Southern California Bight
Regional Marine Monitoring:
“The Bight Program”**

SCCWRP Commission Meeting

Dec 10, 2021

Bight Will Be 30 Years-Old in 2023

- **First survey in 1994 and occurs on a five-year cycle**
 - Implemented our seventh survey in 2018
- **Pioneered the philosophy of integrated and coordinated monitoring**
 - Around 100 agencies participate
- **Question focused**
 - Some parts remain constant from survey-to-survey
 - Some parts are new and unique every survey
- **Takes a year to plan**
 - Up to four years to complete

Context Is Important

- **The Bight Program is a national leader in Regional Monitoring**
 - Perpetually the highest ranked research area by CTAG
- **Provides “big picture answers” to some of the most challenging issues**
- **The integrated nature of Bight monitoring forces interaction**
 - Quality assurance for technical staff
 - Issue prioritization across competing agendas
 - Consensus on answers and actions

What Has Bight Accomplished?

- Backbone of routine monitoring programs
- Independent QA/QC testing of your programs
- Ongoing training and auditing
- New method testing, validation and training
- New technology evaluation for routine use
- Cumulative impact assessment
- Success of previous management actions
- New habitat exploration
- Reference condition characterization
- Technical foundation of new policies and programs
- Impaired water listing and de-listings

There Have Been Many Monitoring Elements In Bight History

- Bioaccumulation
 - Harmful Algal Blooms
 - Ocean Acidification
 - Microbiology
 - Sediment Quality
 - Trash
 - Marine Protected Areas
 - Rocky Reefs
 - Areas of Special Biological Significance
- Bight '18**
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We Are Gearing Up for Bight '23

- **Work with CTAG to identify elements of interest** **Mar '22**
- **Public kickoff meeting to recruit interest** **Sep '22**
- **Planning Committee meetings for each element** **Jan '23**
 - Study design and effort allocation
- **Technical Committee meetings** **Jun '23**
 - Workplans, logistics, QA, training
- **Launch!** **Jul '23**

Our Proposed Bight '18 Briefings

- **Today's meeting**
 - **Trash**
 - **Harmful Algal Blooms**
 - **Bioaccumulation**

- **March meeting:**
 - **Ocean Acidification**
 - **Microbiology**
 - **Sediment Quality**

For Each Bight Element Presentation

- **Overview of Bight '18 questions and study design**
- **Summary of Bight '18s most important results and conclusions**
- **Potential future directions for Bight '23**
 - **Use this for our discussion with CTAG**
 - **Recruiting non-member participants**