

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

**SCCWRP Commission Meeting**

**March 4, 2022**

# Bight Will Be 30 Years-Old in 2023

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- **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

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- **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?

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- 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

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- 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

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- **Work with CTAG to identify elements of interest** **Mar '22**
  - Intersessional Research Planning before their June meeting
- **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

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- **December meeting**
  - **Trash**
  - **Harmful Algal Blooms**
  - **Bioaccumulation**
- **Today's meeting:**
  - **Ocean Acidification**
  - **Microbiology**
  - **Sediment Quality**

# For Each Bight Element Presentation

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- **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**