

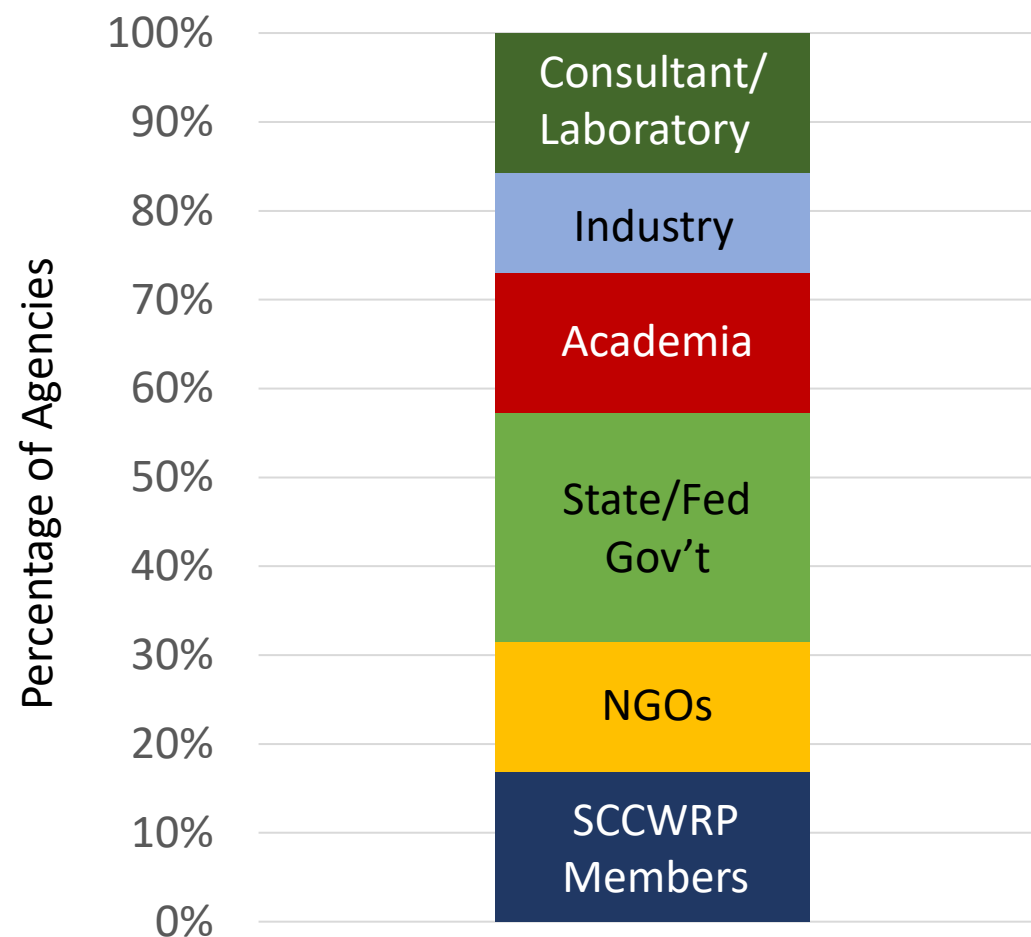
Southern California Bight 2023 Regional Monitoring Program: Commission Update

Karen McLaughlin
March 3, 2023



Participation in Bight Program Remains High

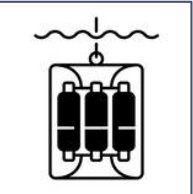
- 94 agencies participating
- All sectors represented
- Broad participation ensure region's highest priorities are addressed
- Consensus among sectors gives added meaning to products



Seven Elements Moving Forward in Bight '23



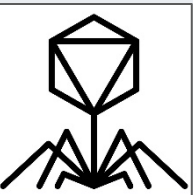
Sediment Quality



Water Quality: Ocean
Acidification & Hypoxia



Harmful Algal Blooms



Microbiology



Trash & Microplastics



Estuaries



Submerged Aquatic
Vegetation



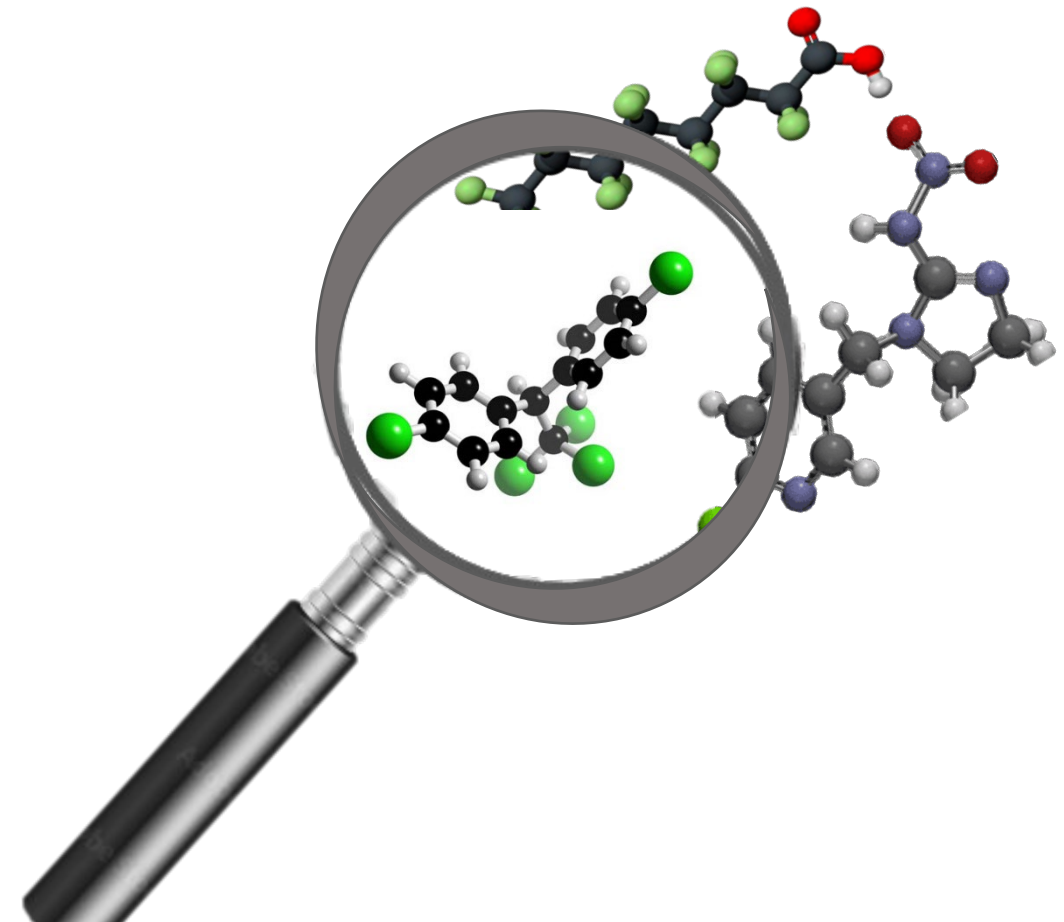
+ Bonus: Shellfish

What's New For Bight '23

- New indicators!
- New analytes!
- New habitats!
- New assessments!

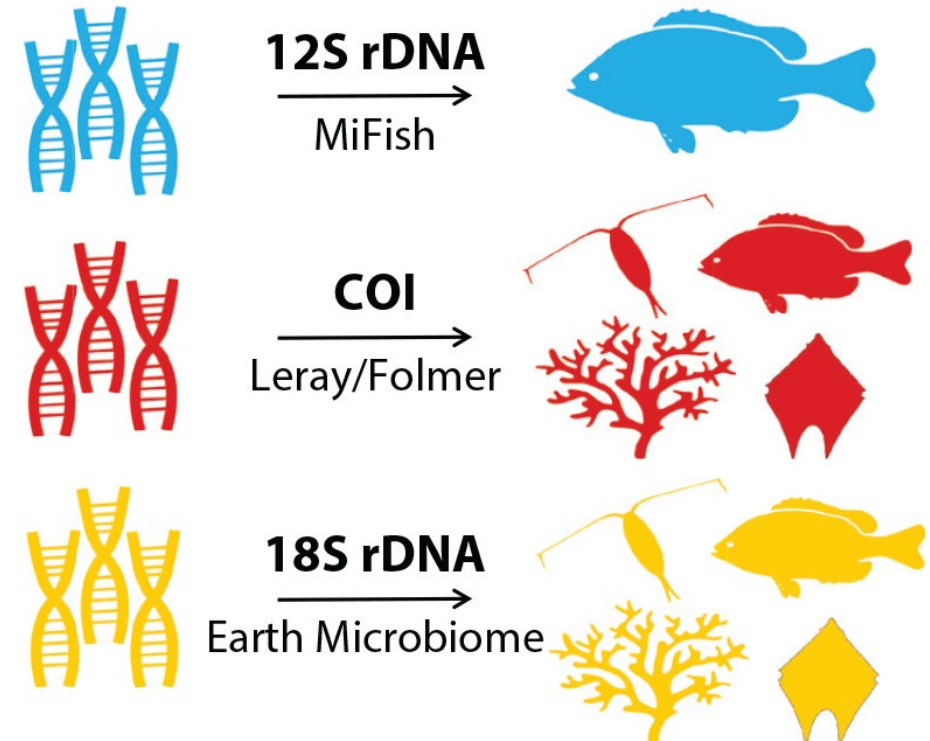
Investigating High Priority CECs in Bight '23

- Identified by Contaminants of Emerging Concern Expert Panel
- Do we have to worry about these CECs in sediments and tissues in the SCB?
 - PFAS
 - Microplastics
 - Neonicotinoids
 - Tire-wear compounds



Capturing SCB Biodiversity with eDNA

- Can we use eDNA to understand biological impacts of changing ocean chemistry?
- Evaluate species composition shifts relative to changing ocean chemistry
 - Habitat compression
- Nearshore and offshore
 - Partnership with CalCOFI



Investigating Eelgrass Beds in the SCB

- Where are they?
- What is their condition?
- What stressors affect them?



Regional Estuarine Assessment

- Regional integrated estuarine condition assessment
 - Overall ecosystem health, response to stress and resiliency
 - ~25 estuaries
- Sampling all estuarine habitat types
 - Subtidal, intertidal, marsh
- Multiple indicators and endpoints
 - Wildlife support, water quality, hydrologic buffering



Regional Shellfish Assessment

- Are shellfish safe to eat?
- Regional shellfish study
 - 30 sites, Bight wide
- Includes multiple indicators
 - Contaminants
 - HABs toxins- microcystins and domoic acid
 - Pathogens
 - Microplastics
- Human and ecosystem health endpoints



Planning Process is in Full Swing

1. Elements & monitoring questions
2. Study design
3. Effort Inventory
4. **Workplan and QA Plan**
5. **Method evaluation, QA/QC, training, intercalibrations, audits**
6. Information Management
7. Launch!



**We
Are
Here**

Questions?

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