

Intertidal Biodiversity DNA Barcode Library Project

> December 2025 Susie Theroux, SCCWRP

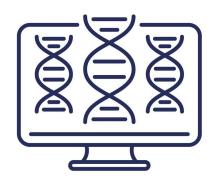
Background/Rationale

- In our last meeting, we discussed all the ways eDNA tools are being used to inform management decisions
 - Invasive and endangered species, biodiversity, bioassessment
- We also discussed challenges facing adoption of eDNA tools
 - Gaps in DNA reference libraries are one of the biggest roadblocks to broadscale adoption
- The Intertidal Project will help SCCWRP and California improve our capacity for DNA-based tools and assessments

Project Elements



DNA reference library



Develop interpretation tools



Assess biodiversity across the State

DNA reference library

• Goal:

Generate DNA reference sequences for thousands of intertidal taxa

Approach:

- Intensive, week-long sampling events at ~6 locations across the State
- Taxonomic experts on-site to ensure correct species identification
- Complemented by a statewide survey to pick up remaining species

• Products:

- A complete DNA reference library for intertidal environments
- Museum archives of voucher specimens for all species
 - A resource for California for decades
- Standardized protocols and manuals for future barcoding efforts

Data Dashboard

• Goal:

Create a data dashboard to make DNA reference library accessible and interpretable

Approach:

- Interactive dashboard with data, maps, interpretation tools
- Query data for species distributions and biodiversity maps
- Training to support use of the library for management decision-making

• Products:

- Interactive dashboard for data query and download
- Training materials for use and interpretation of DNA reference library

Biodiversity assessment

• Goal:

Illustrate the utility of the DNA reference library

Approach:

- Assessments of statewide biodiversity addressing management needs
- Specific assessment goals will be determined in partnership with the project's Advisory Committee

Potential Products:

- Statewide maps of biodiversity
- Identification of vulnerable taxa and biodiversity hot spots
- Evaluation of species range shifts

Project team

- This is an ambitious project with a large team
- We have brought together world experts to help us achieve these goals
 - Museum of Natural History of Los Angeles
 - Scripps Institute of Oceanography
 - UC Berkeley
 - California Academy of Sciences
 - Florida Museum of Natural History
 - UC Santa Cruz



Thank you!

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