

The Bay Foundation (TBF) and the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC) are partners in the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program (SMBNEP), one of 28 entities that comprise the National Estuary Program. TBF is a non-profit environmental group founded in 1990 to restore and enhance the Santa Monica Bay and local coastal waters. The SMBRC is a locally-based, non-regulatory state entity which is charged with overseeing and promoting the SMBNEP's Bay Restoration Plan.

Q4 2017 Special Edition: Annual Report

DIRECTOR'S LETTER

2017 in a word, dynamic! In the following pages you'll find some featured stories resulting from the efforts of the SMBNEP. Significant progress was made to inform and adapt to climate change related stressors. New infrastructure, funding and partnerships developed to advance the restoration of ecosystems, recovery of wildlife, and promote public health. In addition, the SMBNEP kicked off a strategic planning effort that will close at the end of 2018 that will result in a revision of our Bay Restoration Plan serving as our guiding document for the coming 5-20 years. These were but some of the accomplishments achieved in 2017 for the benefit of the environment that is coastal Los Angeles. Lastly please join us, follow us on line and look for our quarterly Baywire to stay informed and involved. See you soon! — **Tom Ford**

PROJECT REPORTS



TBF Marine Team in Palos Verdes Peninsula on R/V Xenarcha.

A Hearty Welcome to our New Research Vessel Xenarcha

In July we gained a new addition to our TBF family. Welcome the R/V Xenarcha! R/V (Research Vessel) Xenarcha named after a large fish (genus of the Broomtail Grouper) is the first boat owned by the foundation. She is a very capable vessel that can support our diverse marine programs and handle bigger seas than the skiffs we've traditionally used. This vessel will take our new ROV "R2Deep2" into the deep to search for important habitats, expand our range for kelp forest restoration, deploy equipment to collect chemical and physical oceanographic data, and to deck spawn and outplant vulnerable abalone species.

Warmer Waters Mean More Sharks?

The Bay Foundation is assisting with California State University Long Beach's Shark Lab, run by Dr. Chris Lowe, by providing them with three new acoustic receivers. The new receivers were placed in the northern part of Santa Monica Bay (Malibu Pier to Zuma Beach) to help inform research and the public about the movements and residency of tagged white sharks within Santa Monica Bay. So far these receivers have detected one juvenile female white shark in mid-August that was initially tagged off central Baja California. These receivers



Research diver servicing receiver.

are also detecting other tagged fish, like a Giant Black Seabass tagged off Catalina Island. The often overlooked shovelnose guitarfish has been detected, too. For more information, please [click here](#).



Girl scout troop members pull invasive weeds from the LAX Dunes.

People Love the LAX Dunes!

In 2017, TBF with partners, the Friends of the LAX Dunes (FOLD) and Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA), recruited over 600 volunteers to participate in monthly community restoration events. This program combines hands-on restoration efforts and educational elements to foster an attitude of stewardship and increase environmental awareness within the local community. Volunteers are briefed on the site's unique and important natural history, its short but colorful social history, and why protecting and restoring it is crucial to the local and regional biodiversity. Hundreds of species have been documented at the dunes, many unique to the area

such as the threatened California legless lizard and federally-list El Segundo Blue Butterfly. For more information, please [click here](#).



A native sand verbena plant grows along the fence at the Santa Monica Beach Restoration Pilot Project.

#CAWildBeach Project Brings Dunes, Plovers & Plants...& Lots of Excitement!

One year ago, TBF and the City of Santa Monica implemented an innovative beach restoration pilot project to create natural habitat and evaluate soft-scape protection measures to increase coastal resiliency. Several early successes, include native plant growth, the formation of small sand dunes, and the discovery of the first documented federally-endangered Snowy Plover nest in LA County in over 69 years! The project provides an important case study as we evaluate the benefits of a wild beach in the context of shoreline protection and sea level rise, and existing recreational use. For more information, please [click here](#).



David Witting of NOAA Restoration Center with green abalone.

The Many Shades of Abalone

White, Black, Red, Green, Pink, and Pinto Abalone were once abundant and an important part of life for First Nations and European settlers to the west coast. Fortunately, efforts being made up and down the state to save these iconic snails are as diverse as they are! Near the end of the 1900's, over extraction and disease brought southern California abalone to the breaking point, (climate change factors are also a concern). With leadership from NOAA and NMFS, TBF is conducting cutting edge work at our lab in the Port of Los Angeles, where we culture and develop techniques on red and green abalone. Off Catalina Island, we deck spawn green abalone to generate larvae for future efforts. Off Palos Verdes, our green abalone restoration is showing signs of success with increased densities and diverse size classes returning to the reef. For more information, please [click here](#).

Pumpout Nav App – information at Your Fingertips

California boaters have a new tool that makes managing boat sewage much more convenient. The Pumpout Nav, a free iOS and Android app, is designed for use while aboard the vessel. In just a few short months of releasing the app, we've seen over 1,430 user installs. This app automatically finds the boater's location, and suggests the closest pumpout stations on a map or as a list. Keeping your boat ship shape and taking care of the environment has never been easier. For more information, please [click here](#).

SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ONGOING PROJECTS OF SMBNEP

[Please click here.](#)

FINANCIAL SUMMARY (July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017)

[Please click here.](#)

SANTA MONICA BAY NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM – BOARDS & STAFF

[The Bay Foundation Staff](#)

[SMBRC – Staff Assigned](#)

[The Bay Foundation Board of Directors](#)

[SMBRC Governing Board](#)

[Santa Monica Bay Restoration Authority Board](#)

ABOUT US

[Please click here.](#)

Join TBF Outside!

TBF offers regular volunteer opportunities at these locations. The summer beckons – bring a friend!!

- Culver City Rain Garden
- LAX Dunes
- Malibu Lagoon
- Stone Canyon Creek

Please check TBF's [Events Page](#) for dates, times, brief descriptions, and who to contact.

TBF also works with corporations and other organizations for group volunteer days. Please contact Rod Abbott (rabbott@santamonicaabay.org) if you'd like to plan such an event.

Social Media IS Important, Fun and Connects Us!

If you're a social media maven or even a dabbler, we ask that you engage, share and use our Social Media avenues.

Facebook: [@The Bay Foundation](#) Twitter: [@SMBRF](#)

Instagram: [@TheBayFoundation](#) YouTube: ["The Bay Foundation"](#)

*Please go that extra step and invite colleagues, friends and family to also Like or Follow us.

And did you know you can check out your local dining options via an interactive map of certified [Clean Bay Restaurants](#) on our site?

2017 SMBRC Governing Board Meeting Dates

The SMBRC Governing Board meets on the 3rd Thursday of the even-numbered months from 9:30 to 1200 p.m. at the Del Rey Yacht Club. The meetings will be 30 minutes longer this year due to the need of extra time for conducting workshops during the Bay Restoration Plan (BRP) revision process.

The 2018 meeting dates are:

- February 15
- April 19
- June 21
- August 16
- October 18
- December 13

The Del Rey Yacht Club is located at 13900 Palawan Way, Marina del Rey CA 90292.

For additional information concerning any SMBRC Governing Board meeting, please contact Dr. Guang-yu Wang at 213-576-6639 or by e-mail at guangyu.wang@waterboards.ca.gov. You may also visit the SMBRC website at <http://www.smbrc.ca.gov/>.

Check Out Our Websites

Please check out the SMBRC website: <http://www.smbrc.ca.gov/>. To streamline access to the Governing Board agendas, schedules, and staff reports, the website features only information that is most critical to following the month-to-month activities of the SMBRC's bodies.

The Bay Foundation's website can be viewed at <http://www.santamonicabay.org/>. It includes links to Foundation activities, reports, and other information.

If you have any questions or comments, contact Dr. Guang-yu Wang at guangyu.wang@waterboards.ca.gov or Julie Du Brow at jdubrow@santamonicabay.org.