

## Coastal Research Institute Makes Exciting Progress

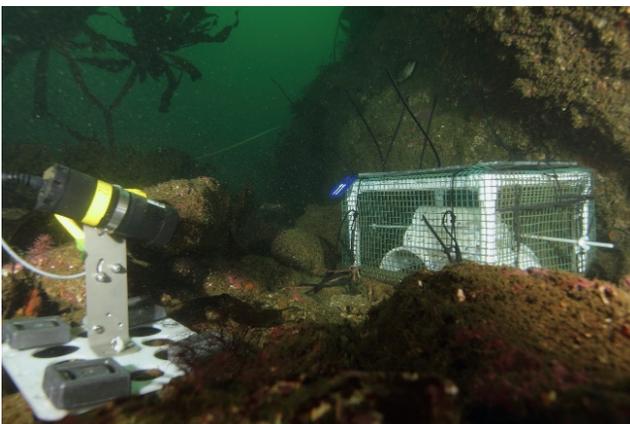
Scientists and student researchers at Loyola Marymount University's Coastal Research Institute (CRI) are partnering with The Bay Foundation (TBF) to implement ongoing scientific research across a broad range of programs and projects.



While local COVID-19 restrictions impacted several research projects, exciting progress was made over the summer and early fall. Work studying harmful algal bloom phytoplankton species, microplastics, climate modeling, beach characterization studies, native plant-microbes, and additional research has continued.

Additionally, CRI is partnering with the Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors and California State Parks to conduct a Site Suitability Model project to inform living shoreline projects.

## 562 White Abalone Outplanted

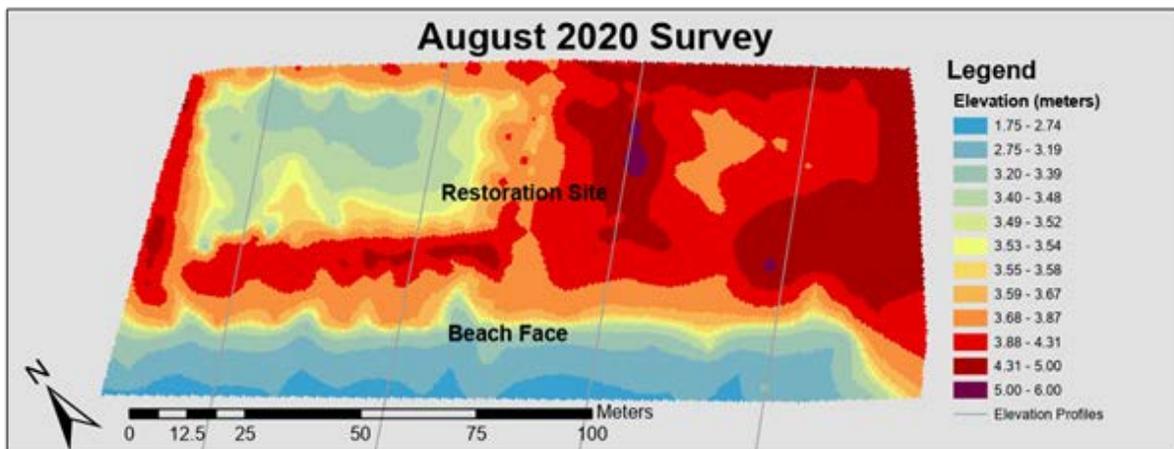
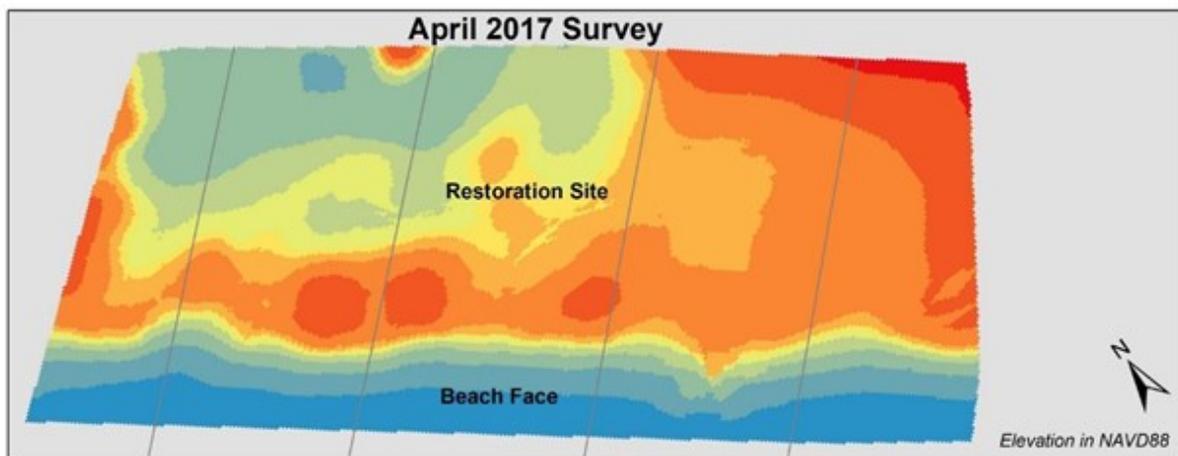


*Time lapse cameras monitor outplanted abalone and predator movement. Photo credit: Dave Witting (NOAA)*

TBF's abalone restoration project implements a multifaceted approach to research and development with the ultimate goal of restoring abalone populations to Santa Monica Bay. TBF maintains two abalone aquaculture facilities located at the Southern California Marine Institute where it advances research on captive and wild abalone care, spawning, and larval cultivation techniques. In October 2020, TBF and our partners outplanted 562 endangered white abalone to the Palos Verdes rocky reefs. Although delayed due to COVID-19 complications, **this event marks only the second time this species has ever been outplanted to the wild.** Scheduled monitoring and outplanting events will continue to inform the success of this project moving forward.

## Santa Monica Beach Dune Restoration Pilot

The Santa Monica Beach Dune Restoration Pilot Project, implemented in December 2016, aims to restore three acres of beach to a healthy and thriving ecosystem which in turn serves as a climate change adaptation mechanism for both humans and wildlife. This project restricts grooming to a three-acre area, allowing vegetation to grow and encouraging sand hummocks to form on the perimeter of and within the project area. The magnitude of dune growth can be visualized in the accompanying topographic maps or digital elevation models displayed below. **In some areas, elevation has increased by approximately a meter.** Dune growth and elevation change are vital for increasing resiliency to sea level rise and storm surges along our shoreline. TBF is looking forward to Year 5's impact, in addition to growing its dune restoration projects across Santa Monica Bay's coastline.



Topographic maps of restoration site from Year 1 (top) and Year 4 (bottom).

## Engaging SoCal Boaters Online



The Boater Education Program continues to engage Southern California boaters virtually on environmentally responsible boating habits. The program has leveraged social media channels to reach recreational boaters with an incentive to potentially receive a free California Boater Kit after participating in a brief interactive “[Clean Boater Questionnaire](#).” This questionnaire will help us better understand boaters’ awareness of environmental boating laws and best management practices.

As of October 2020, **more than 150 recreational boaters** have shared their knowledge through our online interactive questionnaire.



## Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo – Construction Complete!

The Pure Water Project, recommended for Proposition 12 funding by the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC), consists of constructing a 100 gallon-per-minute, indirect potable water reuse demonstration facility that will produce up to six million gallons of local, drought-resistant water supply per day. In September 2020, the Las Virgenes-Triunfo Joint Powers Authority held a virtual grand opening of the facility, which serves to test and maximize the processes that will be used in a full-scale facility as well as educate the public on closing the sustainability loop.

For more information, visit [ourpureh2o.com/learn-more/demonstration-project](https://ourpureh2o.com/learn-more/demonstration-project).

## Media



- The **City of Santa Monica celebrates** 4 years of the Natural Dune Beach Restoration Project.



- Don't miss **'A Taste of the Sea: Nature Documentary 'The Delicacy' Dives into Humankind's Obsession with Sea Urchin Uni'** in The Argonaut.



- Read about The Bay Foundation's kelp restoration work in **'Palos Verdes Reef Restoration Project begins again this week'**.
- Learn more about TBF and partners work to restore kelp via NOAA: **'Three Partner-Driven Projects Restoring Polluted California Habitats'**.
- **Watch Harbor WildWatch's Cocktails & Fishtails** episode on kelp restoration featuring Tom Ford.

## Featured Facebook Photo



The Bay Foundation

September 17 · 🌐



It's #CoastalCleanupMonth! If you're planning to safely participate, consider visiting one of our beach restoration sites for a self-guided cleanup. Leave a comment below if you visit one of our project sites or tag us 😊.

Visit this link to learn more about TBF's Living Shoreline Projects  
<https://www.santamonicabay.org/.../bea.../beach-restoration/>



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## 2020 SMBRC Governing Board Upcoming Meeting

As a result of the COVID-19 emergency, meetings will occur solely via remote presence.

- **December 8, 2020** – The link for the [Governing Board meeting](#) will be posted approximately one week in advance of the meeting.

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Visit Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program websites:

**[SMBRC](#) and [The Bay Foundation](#).**