

What's in your backyard?



As a resident or visitor of Malibu, you know that you are in one of the world's most beautiful coastal areas. You walk Malibu's sandy beaches, surf world famous waves, take your children to see tide pools, or watch brilliant sunsets year round. You also probably know that Malibu's coastal waters are home to a fantastic array of marine life. You may have seen some of these animals – spiny lobsters, sea stars, bottlenose dolphins – while diving, stand-up paddle boarding, or even while enjoying Malibu's serene ocean beauty from shore. Regardless of how you choose to experience it, you know that this area is special. It's your own oceanic backyard. It's home, for you and the marine life. But did you know that this area is so ecologically significant – and so vulnerable to damage – that it is designated by the State of California as an Area of Special Biological Significance (ASBS)?



Reaping the Benefits

When managed properly, protected ocean areas including ASBS benefit the Malibu community and coastal environment by providing:

- Healthy, biologically diverse ocean ecosystems for current and future generations to enjoy
- Protected environments for fish and other species to reproduce and flourish, which in turn helps maintain healthy fisheries
- Areas where scientists can study undisturbed ecosystem functions and apply this knowledge to other impacted areas
- Clean ocean water for our many coastal recreational activities



City of Malibu
Environmental Sustainability Department
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KEEP IT CLEAN
MALIBU

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City of Malibu
Environmental Sustainability Department



Areas of Special
Biological
Significance

Malibu, California



MalibuCity.org/ASBS



Protect Malibu's Area of Special Biological Significance

Understanding Areas of Special Biological Significance



To protect natural water quality in the most pristine and biologically diverse sections of California's coast, the California State Water Resources Control Board created Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS). There are 34 ASBS statewide, sometimes referred to as State Water Quality Protection Areas. Malibu is home to the largest ASBS, ASBS 24, which includes about half of the Malibu coastline. ASBS 24 stretches twenty four miles along the coast from Latigo Point to Laguna Point near Point Mugu. Pollutants, including polluted stormwater and runoff from residential and commercial activities, may not be discharged in these protected areas.



Alex Prins

Sources of Pollution

Runoff.

Stormwater runoff: As rain washes over streets, parking lots and lawns, it can pick up pollutants that we leave there each day. Stormwater can send a toxic cocktail of car chemicals, pet and wildlife feces, pesticides, cleaning products and debris into streams and the ocean. Stormwater may only flow into an ASBS if the discharge will not change the natural water quality needed to support life and recreation.

Dry-weather runoff: Pollutants built up on the street and in our yards can reach a drain, creek or the ocean, even when it doesn't rain. Runoff from irrigation, misdirected or broken sprinklers, car washing, surface cleaning and draining a pool are the most common sources of dry-weather runoff – all are prohibited activities citywide, but especially to the ASBS.

Litter. People often leave litter behind on or near the beach. Once litter reaches the ocean, it rarely comes out. Most litter, especially plastic, does not biodegrade and stays in the ocean for hundreds of years.

Discharge of Wastewater or Pollutants.

Spilled sewage and waste will release disease causing agents into the ocean that are a threat to public health. As a result, wastewater and pollutant discharges are not allowed in any ASBS. Gray water connections that drain to a storm drain or the beach may compromise the health of the ASBS, and are prohibited. Nothing should enter a storm drain, creek or private drain to the beach except rainwater.



City Projects

Green Streets: Projects on Wildlife Road, Whitesands Place and Broad Beach Road were constructed to capture and treat runoff and stormwater before it flows to the ASBS. Permeable surfaces were installed, and plants and special soils are used to naturally absorb, filter, and evaporate water to prevent pollution to the ocean.

Keep It Clean, Malibu: A mixed media outreach campaign was created to raise awareness about the ASBS and ocean protection. Through a series of quirky videos and public art, "Keep It Clean, Malibu" encourages everyone to be mindful of practices that generate polluted runoff. Learn more at KeepItCleanMalibu.com.



Your ASBS Needs YOU

- Keep an eye out for wet curbs and streets during dry-weather. If you see runoff leaving your property, determine where it is coming from and stop the flow. Report water waste at MalibuCity.org/WaterWaster
- Plant an Ocean Friendly Garden that captures runoff, filters pollutants and conserves water! Get started at MalibuCity.org/OFG
- Efficiently irrigate plants and avoid overwatering
- Skip the water and use a broom instead of a hose to clean your patio, driveway and sidewalk
- Pick up and properly dispose of your pets' waste
- Reduce chemical use in your yard and home
- Never drain your pool or other water feature to the street, storm drain, creek or beach
- Always report pollution threats to water quality to the City's 24hr Hotline at (310) 456-2489 ext. 311