

What's in your backyard?



As a resident of Malibu, you know that you live in one of the world's most beautiful coastal areas. Many of you have walked Malibu's sandy beaches, surfed our world famous waves, sailed up the coast, taken your children to see tide-pools, or watched a brilliant sunset from the headlands. You also probably know that the waters off the coast of Malibu are home to a fantastic array of marine life. You may have seen some of these creatures – spiny lobsters, sheephead fish, sea stars, bottlenose dolphins, kelp crabs – while wading, stand-up paddle boarding or diving. Or maybe you were content to appreciate 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 was 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 like ASBS benefit both the people and coastal environment of Malibu by providing:

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



Humpback Whale

**City of Malibu
Environmental Sustainability Department**

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*Help prevent water quality pollution.
Report illicit discharges.
24hr Hotline: (310) 359-8003*



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City of Malibu
Environmental Sustainability Department



Areas of Special Biological Significance

Malibu, California



www.MalibuCity.org



Protect Malibu's Area of Special Biological Significance

Understanding Areas of Special Biological Significance



In order to help maintain natural water quality within some of 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). No pollutants are allowed to be discharged within these protected areas. Today, there are 34 such areas – sometimes referred to as

State Water Quality Protection Areas – in California. Malibu is home to the largest ASBS, No. 24, which was designated by the State in 1974. ASBS No. 24 stretches twenty

four miles along the coast from Latigo Point beyond county line to Laguna Point near Point Mugu, covering about half of the Malibu coast.

California Sheephead



Gerick Bergsma 2010/Marine PhotoBank

Purple Sea Urechin



Solving the Pollution Problem

In Malibu, there are several factors that can negatively impact the health of the ASBS, including:

Runoff.

Stormwater runoff: As rain washes over streets, parking lots and lawns it can pick up numerous pollutants, pesticides, and other contaminants that we leave there each day. Eventually, this stormwater makes its way to the ocean, potentially sending a toxic cocktail, including motor oil, pet feces, cleaning products and debris, into the sea. The discharge of stormwater into an ASBS is only allowed if the discharge will not compromise the protection of ocean waters for beneficial uses.

Dry-weather runoff: The pollutants that are left on the street and in our yards may also reach the beach in dry-weather conditions if there is runoff leaving someone's property. Water from excessive irrigation, misdirected or broken sprinklers, car washing and surface cleaning are the most common sources of dry-weather runoff and may similarly transport the abovementioned pollutants to a storm drain or creek and then to the ocean. All dry-weather runoff that carries pollutants is prohibited from discharging to the ASBS.

Litter. Unfortunately, many people 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.

Inadvertent discharge of sewage and waste into marine areas can release disease causing agents into the ocean and alter the water's chemical composition. As a result, wastewater and pollutant discharges are not allowed in any ASBS.

Gray water connections that drain to the beach or a storm drain may compromise the health of the ASBS and are prohibited. Nothing should enter a storm drain, catch basin, creek, public drain or private drain to the beach except rainwater.

City Efforts

The City applied for and received Proposition 84 funding to install facilities that can catch and treat some runoff before reaching the ASBS. The City will construct these facilities at storm drains on

Wildlife Road and Whitesands Place on Point Dume, and along Broad Beach Road. The projects are anticipated to be completed in 2014. The funding also provides for a Coastal Preservation Specialist, a position dedicated to conducting education and outreach with the Malibu community regarding the ASBS.



Ochre Sea Stars

Steven F. Lee

Your ASBS Needs YOU.

- Keep an eye out for wet curbs and wet streets during dry-weather. If you see runoff leaving your property, determine where it is coming from and stop the flow.
- Create landscaping that captures runoff instead of contributing to it! Check out www.oceanfriendlygardens.org for info.
- Efficiently irrigate plants and avoid overwatering. Use smart irrigation controllers.
- Use dry methods to clean-up your yard, driveway and patios instead of hosing down areas.
- Pick up and properly dispose of your pets' waste (including horses).
- Minimize the use of chemicals in your yard, home, and daily life.
- Never drain your pool to the street, storm drain, catch basin, creek, stream or beach.
- Always report illicit discharges and spills you observe to the City as soon as possible.

24hr Hotline: (310) 359-8003