

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 16, 2017

To: Harbor Commission

From: Scott Riedman, Waterfront Director

Subject: **Baseline Monitoring Report, Southern California Marine Protected Areas**

RECOMMENDATION:

That Harbor Commission receive a report from the Ocean Science Trust on baseline monitoring studies of Marine Protected Areas in the South Coast Region of California.

DISCUSSION:

In 2012, following 18 months of stakeholder input, the state implemented a series of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) ranging from Point Conception to the Mexican border. Officials will present findings from baseline ecological studies of those MPAs and describe the process for measuring their success and management moving forward.

The presentation will highlight key findings from marine protected area (MPA) baseline monitoring, including information from the State of the California South Coast report, and how initial findings may contribute to long-term monitoring and inform adaptive management of the statewide network of MPAs. Additionally, the presentation will promote an upcoming Community Gathering to be held in Santa Barbara, along with four other locations through the South Coast, scheduled for the week of March 20-24.