



Revealing the Hidden Bay: Scientific Coalition Releases San Francisco Bay Subtidal Habitat Goals Report

Final Report Is Available: State and federal agencies have released a groundbreaking new **San Francisco Bay Subtidal Habitat Goals Report** that outlines a bold vision for the hidden part of the Bay Area.

The San Francisco Bay Subtidal Habitat Goals Project is led by the California Coastal Conservancy/Ocean Protection Council, Bay Conservation and Development Commission, NOAA Fisheries and Restoration Center, and the San Francisco Estuary Partnership. The Subtidal Habitat Goals Report and interactive maps are accessible and available online.

The 50-Year Plan is non-regulatory and presents a strong vision for how to move forward with science-based subtidal research, protection, and restoration, through an adaptive phased project approach to learn more about subtidal ecosystem services, functions, and interactions between habitat types.

The Report is the first time that comprehensive information about submerged areas in the bay has been compiled. The Report includes:

- Broad regional goals for Science, Protection, and Restoration of underwater habitats in the bay, with detailed and specific objectives and actions for implementation over the 50-year planning horizon.
- Six subtidal habitat types were considered: soft substrate (mud, sand, and other mobile substrates), rocky areas, artificial substrates (pier pilings, docks, etc.), shellfish beds, seagrass beds, and seaweed beds. The report also includes recommendations for intertidal mudflats, sand beaches, rocky shorelines, and oyster and eelgrass beds.
- GIS maps were compiled from existing data sets, and show habitat distributions, stressors of concern, and targeted restoration areas.
- Cross-habitat goals focus on recommendations to better deal with climate change impacts, invasive species, marine debris, oil spill response, and public awareness and involvement with subtidal areas.
- Habitat integration goals focus on ideas for better improving design connectivity between high priority tidal wetland sites and offshore subtidal areas, to reduce

habitat fragmentation for species that migrate between freshwater, wetlands and the open bay.

Visit www.sfbaysubtidal.org for more information, or contact:

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