



# Media Release

## How Healthy Are California's Tide Pools?

*Find Out Through an Innovative New Web Portal*

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Sacramento** – “What is a tide pool?” “What lives there and why are they important?” “How healthy are they?”

These are three of many questions addressed by a new California web portal developed and launched today through collaboration between the Multi-Agency Rocky Intertidal Network (MARINe) and the California Water Quality Monitoring Council. The California Tide Pools Portal is a single-point, state-wide clearinghouse designed to make information readily available about rocky intertidal habitats, commonly known as “tide pools,” to scientists, agency decision makers, and the public.

Rocky intertidal zones, sometimes referred to as tide pools, are a diverse and unique ecosystem. Organisms living in tide pools have to deal with naturally harsh conditions such as spending time out of water and dealing with strong wave action. In addition, tide pools are impacted by human activities, such as overexploitation and trampling and are vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

Long term monitoring of these sensitive coastal habitats helps us better understand how tide pool plant and animal populations change over time and gives us information to help determine the condition of these ecosystems. The largest partnership of monitoring programs is the Multi-Agency Rocky Intertidal Network, which monitors over 100 different locations along the west coast of North America, a majority within California, using standardized procedures. MARINe is a consortium of local, state, and federal government agencies, universities, and private groups charged with coordinating and carrying out the monitoring program. At some locations, monitoring has been active since the 1980s.

“MARINe data are currently used across the state to answer questions about existing protected areas and impacts from pollution events. MARINe is committed to sharing the scientific information we collect with fellow scientists, resource managers, educators and the general public. This portal provides a great conduit for that,” said MARINe Manager Mary Elaine Helix.

Formed in 2007 by cooperative agreement between the California Environmental Protection Agency and the Natural Resources Agency, the California Water Quality Monitoring Council brings together water quality and ecosystem health information from a variety of organizations with specialized expertise in monitoring and assessment. The California Tide Pools Portal is part of the *My Water Quality* website at [www.MyWaterQuality.ca.gov](http://www.MyWaterQuality.ca.gov), under the Ecosystem Health-Ocean tab. Initially launched in 2009 by the Monitoring Council, this website houses the widest collection of water quality and aquatic ecosystem health data ever available about our state's lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands and ocean waters. The goal is to provide

timely information in an easy-to-understand manner for the public, environmental organizations, and water resource professionals.

More information on the California Water Quality Monitoring Council:

[www.MyWaterQuality.ca.gov/monitoring\\_council](http://www.MyWaterQuality.ca.gov/monitoring_council)

More information on the Multi-Agency Rocky Intertidal Network:

[www.marine.gov](http://www.marine.gov)

[www.pacificrockyintertidal.org](http://www.pacificrockyintertidal.org)

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