

Fitzgerald Special Edition



PROTECTING THE MARINE RESERVE TOGETHER

SUMMER 2012

LEARN MORE ONLINE:

- See maps of the Reserve, the ASBS, and the pilot projects
- View photos of the Reserve and the incredible sea life there, plus before-during-and-after shots of swale construction
- Read about the Reserve's history
- Find links to more great resources online, local groups, and upcoming events

For all this and more, visit

www.smchealth.org/asbs

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Partnering to Protect a Special Area

Have you visited the James V. Fitzgerald Marine Reserve (Reserve), and felt the ocean breeze, listened to the surf, or enjoyed looking at the birds, seals, tidepool creatures, and surrounding landscape?

It's an area worth protecting; and several different legal structures are in place to help do that (see page 3 article).



The Reserve includes 370 acres of intertidal and subtidal marine habitat below the high tide line and 32 acres of upland coastal bluffs with elevations up to 100 feet. San Mateo County Parks manages the Reserve area beginning 3 miles south from Point Montara to the south end of Pillar Point and 1,000 feet west into the ocean from the mean high tide line. The Department

of Fish and Game has authority below the mean high tide line.

The State Water Resources Control Board oversees the larger Area of Biological Significance (ASBS) that the Reserve fits within.

Because everyday upstream activities may affect the incredible diversity of life within the ASBS, the County is now

partnering with UC Davis, San Francisco Estuary Institute, and the San Mateo County Resource Conservation District on the Fitzgerald ASBS Pollution Reduction Program. Projects through 2015 will focus on keeping stormwater draining to the Reserve from nearby properties as clean as possible.

We need your help too.

Pollution Prevention Tips

If you visit, live, or work in Moss Beach or Montara, you can help protect the Reserve. How?

By remembering that everything that touches the ground can wash down storm drains to the ocean.

Tips:

- Garden with non-toxic pesticides and fertilizers
- Take your car to a commercial car wash
- Dispose of motor oil, paint and other chemicals properly
- Keep all dirt from construction projects on your property
- Pick up litter
- Pick up after your pet

Visit www.flowstobay.org for more!

Funding for this project has been provided in full or in part through an agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the State Water Resources Control Board, nor does mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.

How is this Special Area Protected?



Different sets of laws and regulations protect the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve and may affect you even when you aren't at the beach.

On the Shoreline

- Only visit the Reserve between sunrise and sunset
- Don't camp, set fires, or smoke
- No dogs or pets on the beach

- No collecting! Leave pails and nets at home, and shells and other keepsakes on the beach.
- No fishing
- Don't disturb plants or animals
- Don't turn over rocks— the creatures underneath are delicate
- Walk around tidepools, not through them
- Keep 300 feet from harbor seals
- Leave no trace behind

In Your Neighborhood

If you live upstream from the Reserve, there are steps you can take to make sure that rain, landscape irrigation, or car washing from your property does not impact the Reserve.

Visit www.flowstobay.org or www.smchealth.org/asbs for more!

Take a quick survey about the Reserve and enter to win prizes!

www.smchealth.org/asbs

Fitzgerald Pollution Reduction Program

Grant funding for this program is being provided by the State Water Resources Control Board. Three projects have already begun: stormwater management pilots, a storm drain inventory, and microbial source tracking study.

What Filters Best?

A variety of best management practices (BMPs) for stormwater are being installed and tested at ten locations near the Reserve. Vegetated swales and water filter devices are in place now, with a green parking lot makeover planned at

the Reserve.

Which Storm Drains?

A Storm Drain Inventory and Assessment was recently conducted by BKF Engineers, a local engineering firm. The study involved detailed GPS/GIS mapping and hydraulic modeling of the County storm drain system.

The goal of the study was to identify priority locations within the Reserve and ASBS watershed for installation of storm water filtration BMPs to remove pollutants from storm water and to identify

storm drain locations that are prone to flooding. The report was completed in May 2012 and will be used to help the County select BMP locations for the second phase of the grant.

What's the Source?

For the Microbial Source Tracking (MST) study, researchers from UC Davis will collect water samples from Martini, Kanoff, Montara, Dean/Sunshine Valley, and San Vicente Creeks. Genetic analysis will help to identify potential sources of fecal contamination (human, dog, bird, cow, or horse).



What Do All those Letters Stand For?

The James V. Fitzgerald Marine Reserve is an ASBS, part of an MPA, and part of a MS too! So?

ASBS stands for **Area of Special Biological Significance**. There are 34 ocean areas along the California coastline designated as an ASBS, which are monitored and maintained for water quality by the [State Water Resources Control Board](#). ASBS cover much of the length of California's coastal waters. They support an unusual variety of aquatic life, and often host unique

individual species. ASBS are basic building blocks for a sustainable, resilient coastal environment and economy.

MPA stands for **Marine Protected Area**. California maintains three kinds of MPAs: state marine reserves, state marine parks and state marine conservation areas. They are designated specifically to protect aquatic life, and often are associated with ASBS. MPAs are designated by the [California Department of Fish & Game](#) and the [California Department of Parks and Recreation](#).

Marine Sanctuaries (MS) are federally designated areas similar to national parks. They often cover vast areas and offer another layer of special protection for the aquatic life and water within their boundaries. They are managed by the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\)](#). There are four National Marine Sanctuaries off the coast of California. They often are associated with ASBS.

For the full list of native species used in the swales and more photos of all four sites, visit www.smchealth.org/asbs

Vegetated Swales - Beauty in Action

Problem: when water runs off of streets, parking lots and sidewalks quickly, it carries all sorts of pollutants to the nearby creeks and ocean with it, and can cause erosion as well.

Solution? Create a shallow ditch filled with native plants, called a vegetated swale. The swale will slow down and partially absorb the flow of stormwater, and remove pollutants before they reach the open waters nearby.

As part of the Fitzgerald ASBS Pollution Reduction Program, the County is testing different ways of constructing vegetated swales at four locations in Montara and Moss Beach.

Ocean Boulevard

The County contracted with Blue Sky Designs to design and install a vegetated swale. In the fall of 2011, gravel, dirt, and non-native plants were replaced with native



After

grass sod.

By this spring, the swale was lush and green, blending in beautifully and doing its work as a filter.

Juliana Avenue

The County contracted with Go Native to design and install a swale using an under drain system, permeable pavers, and a mix of native plants including grasses and wetland species.



During re-construction

At work on a rainy March day

Kids' Corner

Spotlight on Harbor Seals

Word Search

H	A	U	L	O	U	T	Z	A	W
B	R	O	T	J	H	U	E	X	A
M	P	I	M	V	C	F	V	K	T
A	N	Q	S	E	A	L	G	W	E
M	H	X	W	B	L	I	T	S	R
M	Y	P	I	U	D	P	U	P	I
A	O	Z	M	G	Y	P	T	O	L
L	F	O	R	A	G	E	F	T	Q
C	E	S	D	N	J	R	K	S	X
S	A	L	M	O	N	W	R	F	M



Seals catching some rays

FUN FACTS

How big are they?

From 4 to 6 feet long, and up to 310 pounds

What do they eat?

Rockfish, cod, herring, flounder, and salmon

Where do they sleep?

They can sleep under water (coming up for air every 30 minutes); but they like to doze in safe spots on land, called haulouts.

Can you find these?

Seal, flipper, pup, forage, water, haulout, salmon, swim, spots, mammal



Quick Quiz

What should I do if I find a seal pup alone at the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, or on any beach?

- A. Take it home
- B. Sing it a song
- C. Keep your distance
- D. Take a photo

For the right answer, check the bottom of this page

2012 Coastside Events

Half Moon Bay July 4th Parade

Dress as your favorite tidepool creature! with [Friends of Fitzgerald Reserve](#)

Coastal Cleanup Day Sept 15

Pitch in to pick up litter at Mirada Surf or another Coastside beach.

Visit [flowstobay.org](#) for full details

Pumpkin Festival Parade Oct 13

Dress as your favorite tidepool creature! with [Friends of Fitzgerald Reserve](#)

Stewardship Work Parties

First Saturdays and third Wednesdays, May through August.

Organized by [Coastside Land Trust](#)



Rangers unlock tidepool secrets

Workshop August 25

Protecting Coastal Watersheds

(Residential low impact development — LID)

Cypress Meadows 10 am - 1pm

343 Cypress Avenue, Moss Beach

Five focus areas:

1. Bioswales and Rain Gardens
2. Pervious Pavements and Permeable Pavers
3. Irrigation and Pesticide Use
4. Rainwater Harvesting and Gray Water Reuse
5. LID Features for Small Projects and MRP Requirements

Check online for additional events in your area
[www.smchealth.org/asbs](#)

Quiz Answer: C - stay back! Its mother is off finding food; and it needs to rest.