" Ecologically Sensitive Beach Maintenance "

On January 14, 2004 at Pepperdine University in beautiful Malibu, please join Karen Martin, Professor of Biology and Dennis Simmons, Beach Manger for the City of San Diego, for a FREE presentation on beach maintenance practices in sensitive habitat areas to be followed with a round table discussion of the issues and impacts that are common to all Beach Managers in Southern California.

Schedule: 9:45a - 10:00a Arrival on campus, coffee and donuts
10:00a –11:30a Presentations, Q & A
11:45 a– 1:00 p Round table discussion, Lunch

In 2002 and following up in 2003 Dr. Karen Martin of Pepperdine University conducted a study that was funded by a California Sea Grant and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, on the impact of beach grooming practices on grunion spawning activity on the beaches in the City of San Diego. The goals of the study were to:

1) assess the population of grunion spawning on San Diego beaches;
2) gauge the impact of beach maintenance procedures during the grunion spawning season and
3) determine if the existing modified procedures that were followed during the season did in fact eliminate or minimize impact on the grunion while continuing an extensive grooming protocol on the beaches.

This work will continue in 2004 with volunteer beach monitoring efforts expanding throughout southern California.

RSVP to DJSimmons@sandiego.gov and kmartin@pepperdine.edu by Monday, January 12.

Maps to Campus:
http://www.pepperdine.edu/main/VisitorInfo/VisitorInformationMalibu.htm
Parking is free. Ask for a permit as you enter at the kiosk. Go to the Cafeteria in Tyler Campus Center, where you will be directed to the meeting room.

This informal seminar is supported by California Sea Grant College, NOAA, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the City of San Diego, and Pepperdine University. There is no charge to participants.

Southern California Sand Symposium:
“Ecological Sensitive Beach Maintenance”
Statement of Purpose

At this initial gathering of beach managers we affirm a commitment to:

Meet on a regular basis.

Communicate with one another on topics of mutual interest.

Recognize both recreational and ecological values in the sandy beach habitat.

Seek “best practices” methodologies for maintenance and management activities on beaches.

Disseminate relevant ecological information from scientific studies.

Issues to address for future meetings:

Ecological issues:

- Grunion
- Nesting birds
- Kelp removal
- Kelp breaking down in place
- Kelp flies
- Sand invertebrate fauna
- Migratory and shore birds

Recreational issues:

- Kelp presence: visual and aroma
- Kelp flies
- Restrictions on access, activities
- Enhancement of wildlife interactions
- Safety

Grunion Grooming Protocol At-A-Glance

1) Grunion season runs from March to August, usually peaking in April through June.
2) Grunion run shortly after the new and full moons.
3) Grunion eggs remain above the water line in the sand for their entire incubation period.
4) It is very difficult to find eggs unless you look for them immediately after a run. Look for evidence on the sand before noon.
5) "Grunion Greeters" will be monitoring runs at night in some areas.

SO—

<u>In areas where grunion run :</u>

Set the high tide lines on the morning after the first run of the series.
See the grunion run calendar from Calif. Dept. of Fish and Game.
In 2004, dates are Mar. 8, 22; Apr. 7, 21; May 6, 20; June 4, 19; July 5, 19; Aug 2; 17

Mark this line with a grooming line or kelp.

Groom only above this high tide mark.

Re-set the grooming line only after the next semilunar tide, every two weeks.

Do not groom into the intertidal zone, below that tide mark, as long as grunion eggs are present in the sand, two weeks beyond the last run.

Questions / Comments / Concerns about grunion and monitoring efforts:
Please contact Dr. Karen Martin, Pepperdine University
310-506-4808, kmartin@pepperdine.edu
www.grunion.org