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CHARTER FOR REEF SCIENCE COMMITTEE

WHY IS THIS MISSION NEEDED OR WHY IS IT IMPORTANT

This committee is primarily interested in the long-term science for S2R as well as at each sink site, including monitoring life before and after a sinking, monitoring any pollutants. These types of studies have never been done on previously reefed vessels. It is important to document populations of the various species, growth rates, leaching of any heavy metals, etc.

DESCRIPTION OF WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE

1. Work with government agencies such as DFG and NOAA and with any other recognized groups deemed pertinent to develop criteria for the planning and implementation of studies to provide baseline flora and fauna studies at each sink site. Develop/approve methods necessary to conduct studies/facilities.
2. Install quadrats and transect lines and instruct local volunteers in proper fish counting methods.
3. Plan and place permanent transects and quadrats on each vessel for ongoing studies and conduct those studies.
4. Develop the knowledge and capability to identify any potential non-native species that may be introduced to the site by the ship.
5. Review any ships chosen for reefing to identify potential invasive species before the ship is delivered.
6. Plan for the use of the information gathered by various studies to enhance California Ships to Reefs outreach and informational meetings
7. Work with local stakeholders near each sink site for the development of educational programs (public aquariums, school districts, etc.)

DEFINE SUCCESS FOR THIS COMMITTEE

1. Post-reefing study criteria is developed and appropriate structures are in place to support ongoing studies.
2. Potential non-native species have been identified and ships cleared for sinking.
3. Ongoing relationships with local stakeholders have been established.

OVERALL PROJECT: For the duration

SKILLS/PEOPLE OR EQUIPMENT NEEDED TO ACCOMPLISH MISSION OF COMMITTEE

Marine biologists, oceanographers, researchers via web or other means (liaison with research/technical library committee), technical writers, reef check certified divers (or those willing to get certified), u/w photographers, u/w videographers, permitting (liaison with other committees), people experienced in curriculum development (liaison with education/research committee)