

## Q&S in the News.....

### SOCAL Range Essential Fish Habitat Assessment

Q&S recently completed the EFH Assessment for the U.S. Navy SOCAL Range Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The SOCAL Range Complex is a 120,000 square nautical mile area that includes four southern California Channel Islands. This EFH was one of the most wide-ranging and complex assessments prepared under the new fish habitat conservation requirements for Federal Agencies.

The Sustainable Fisheries Act (SFA) established a new habitat conservation tool: the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) mandate. The SFA requires that EFH be identified and mapped for each species covered under Fishery Management Plans. An Essential Fish Habitat Assessment, required for actions and activities in coastal waters with potential impacts to EFH, includes a description of the proposed action, an analysis of the effects of the action on EFH, and proposed mitigation, if applicable.

"This was a challenging project requiring a broad array of analytical and descriptive tools to depict the regional ecological setting and assess potential impacts of Navy activities", said Dr. Wolfson, Q&S Engineering Principal Scientist. "The Essential Fish Habitat Assessment concluded that adverse effects on EFH would not occur, and, given the proposed mitigation, Range operations would not significantly contribute to cumulative impacts. Q&S looks forward to helping our clients with similar, comprehensive ecological impact evaluations."

Dr. Arthur Wolfson joined the Q&S team back in 2007. He brings over 30 years of experience in marine ecology. Dr. Wolfson served as Principal Investigator of a study of Cortes and Tanner Banks off San Diego, California, a pioneering investigation of the ecology of outer continental shelf seamounts. He has led oil spill clean-up studies in San Francisco Bay and environmental impact studies of offshore oil and gas developments in southern California. Dr. Wolfson has performed endangered species consultations and essential fish habitat assessments covering marine mammals, birds, sea turtles, fishes, and, invertebrates. He is the foremost authority on beneficial uses of the ocean in southern California.

**Dr. Arthur Wolfson expertise includes:**

- > Data Analysis and Presentation
- > Scientific and Technical Writing
- > Environmental Impact Analysis
- > Beneficial Use Assessment
- > Mitigation and Restoration
- > Endangered Species Consultation
- > Agency Interaction and Permitting
- > Administration and Management



### *About Our Organization...*

Q&S was founded in 1999, as a (HUB Zone / SDB / DBE) that provides added value / resources of a large firm, and flexibility / cost effectiveness of a small business. Q&S is dedicated to providing *Quality* and *Service (Q&S)* in the environmental, geotechnical, and oceanographic fields. Our definition of *Quality* is deliverables that meet or exceed expectations. Our definition of *Service* are deliverables that are provided on schedule, safely, and within the agreed upon budget.

Q&S maintains a strategic master service relationship with Gregg Drilling and Testing, a California based premier drilling firm, that allows Q&S access to over 45 drills, CPT rigs, and specialized testing equipment. Q&S provides on shore and offshore geotechnical services in the USA and Internationally.

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