Propeller Club | 2026

OceanWell

A California Solution to a Global Problem

Rethinking Water Supply



Robert Bergstrom
CEO OceanWell

Nov 2026

OceanWell News



NPR

Underwater desalination project moves forward in California

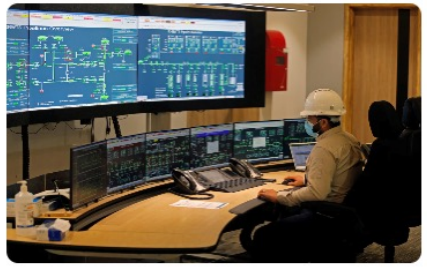
Robert Bergstrom, CEO of OceanWell, says his company's desalination pods that had been tested at a freshwater reservoir near Los Angeles are a step



LA Times

New desalination technology being tested in California could lower costs of tapping seawater

A new deep-sea desalination technology is undergoing testing in Southern California. Water



Wall Street Journal

The World Is Running Out of Clean Water. This Technology Promises to Fix It.

Deep-sea desalination is on the cusp of providing a source of clean water from the Caribbean to the Emirates



PR NewsWire

Las Virgenes Municipal Water District and OceanWell Pilot Innovative Subsea Water Farm Technology

OceanWell, a water technology company, and Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD) launched



LA Times

Is Southern California prepared to avoid a 'Day Zero' water crisis?

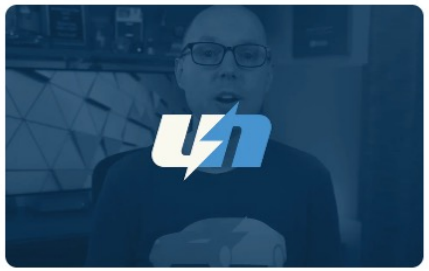
Over the last century, Southern California has grown and thrived by accessing water from faraway sources including the Colorado River, the Eastern Sierra's



H2O Global News

H2O Global News Magazine: Rethinking Desalination

Released quarterly, our Digital Magazine will be bringing the biggest news features from the water and wastewater industry



@UndecidedMF

How Deep Sea Water is Now Drinkable

How Deep Sea Water is Now Drinkable. Freshwater may soon flow from the deep sea to drought-stricken coastal cities. A handful of companies are betting that crushing deep sea pressures can replace the energy-



abc7 News

Bay Area company develops new technology that holds promise of safer desalination practices

An experimental technology now in testing holds the promise of revolutionizing California's depleted water



Sifted.eu

What is behind the underinvestment in water tech?

Despite the recognition of water tech as a promising investment for addressing climate challenges, the sector has not attracted substantial funding. Water's ubiquity might be its own worst enemy. Why worry



GreentechLead

Water technology deals: OceanWell, Intelligent Design, Nano Infusion

OceanWell is competing in XPRIZE's $119 million challenge with its deep-sea desalination technology. Utilizing modular pods at 400-meter depths, the

The Problem:

Global Water Shortfalls

Only 1% of earth's water is drinkable 5 Billion People will face water shortage by 2050

The water is in the oceans, but old school desalination has too many failings:

- High Energy Costs and Carbon Emissions
- Widespread Resistance
- Strong Brine
- Kills marine life
- Large Coastal Footprint



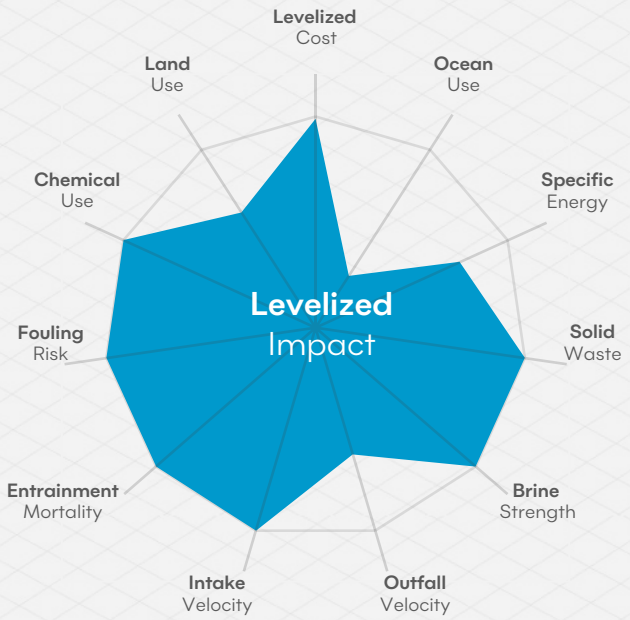
OceanWell

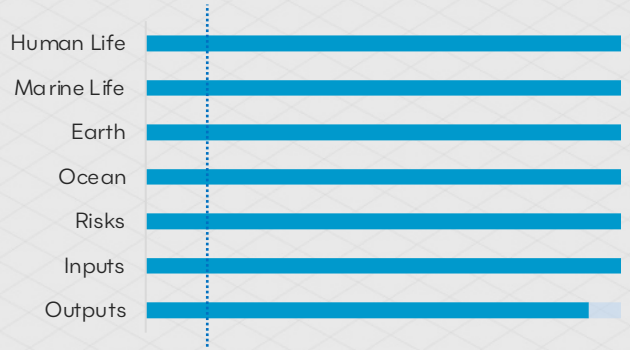
OceanWell

Old-School Desalination vs OceanWell

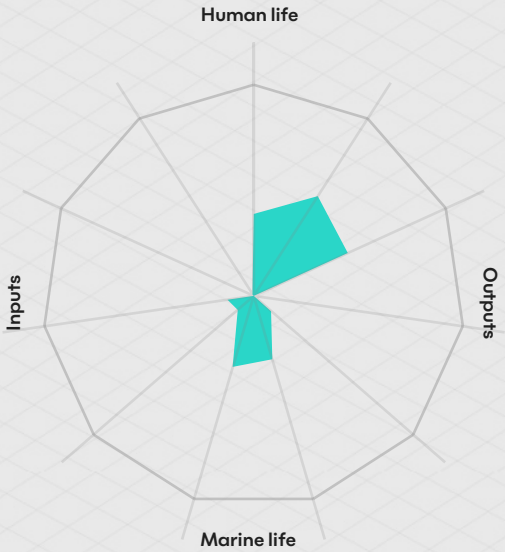
- **Human Life:** levelized cost, specific energy, solid waste, land use, ocean use, chemical use, freshwater quality
- **Marine Life:** ocean use, entrainment mortality, brine strength, intake velocity, outfall velocity
- **Earth:** land use, specific energy, chemical use, entrainment mortality, solid waste, brine strength, intake velocity, outfall velocity
- **Ocean**: ocean use, chemical use, entrainment mortality, solid waste, brine strength, intake velocity, outfall velocity
- **Risks**: land use (i.e., coastal footprint), ocean use (i.e., offshore distance, sea floor footprint, sea surface footprint), chemical use, fouling risk, sea level rise
- **Inputs**: specific energy (i.e., energy use), land, use, ocean use, chemical use, entrainment mortality, intake velocity
- **Outputs:** specific energy (i.e., emissions), land use, ocean use, solid waste, brine strength, outfall velocity

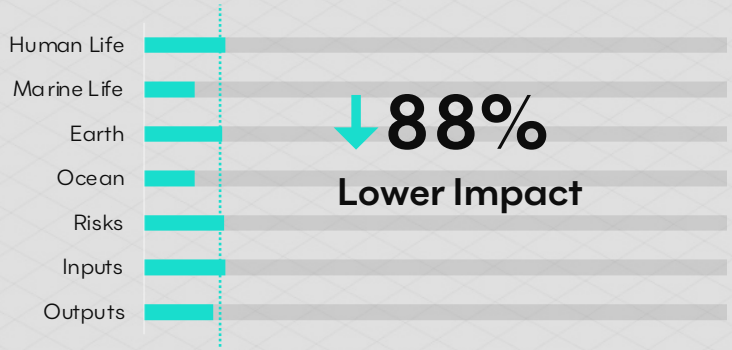
Old-School Desalination





OceanWell





88%
Lower Impact

LifeSafe™ Desalination in the Deep Sea

A Modular, Nature-Based Solution

The world's best option to bolster water resilience efforts, while safeguarding marine life and protecting the coast.



17 Patent Families

13 Utility Patents (41 Intl filings, 13 allowed)

4 Design Patents (16 Intl filings, 13 allowed)

400 Meters Deep

4,000 m^3/day per pod

8-m diameter

30-year life

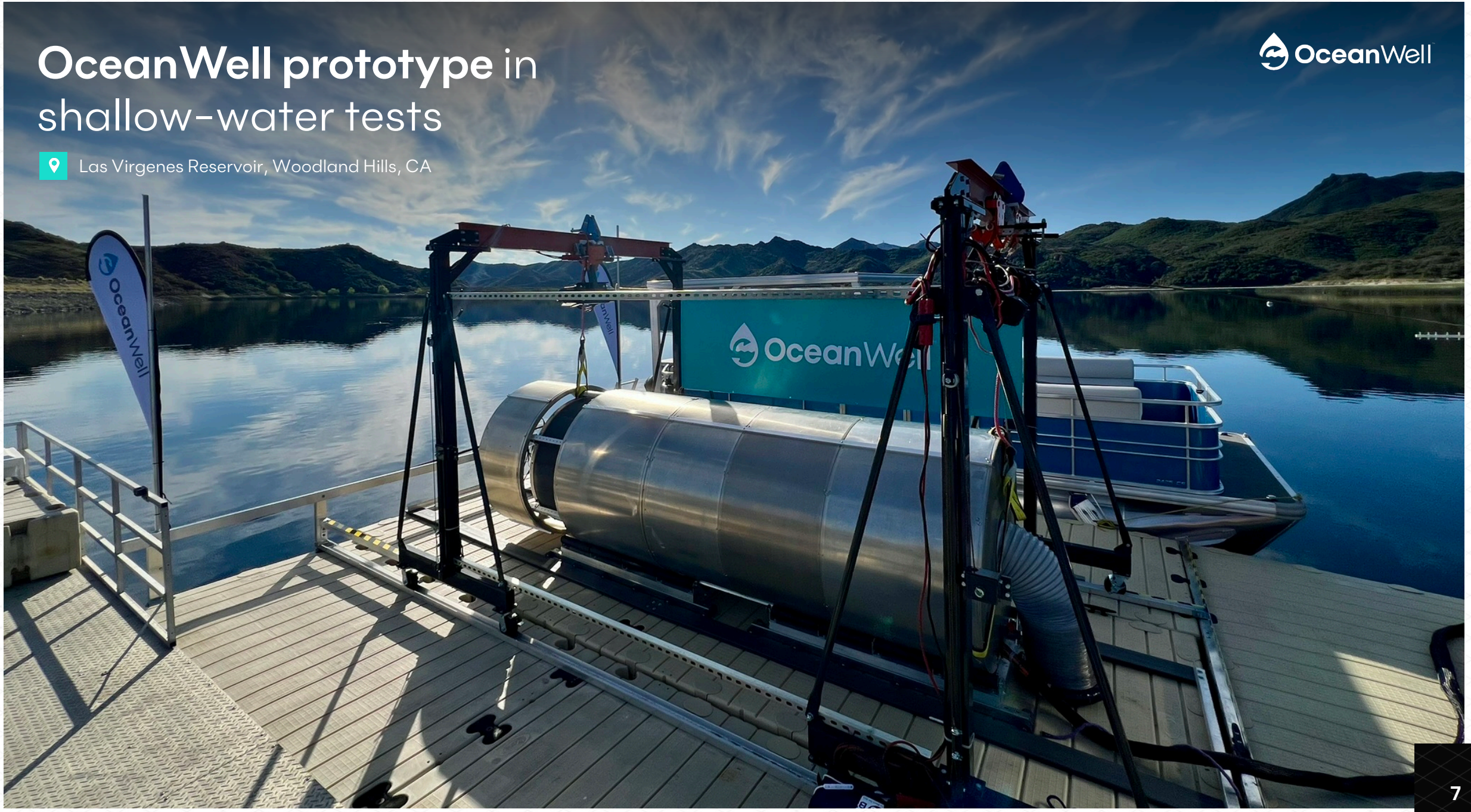
Water Farm #01

- **5.2 Miles** South of Malibu
- **15 Pods** Initially
- **Grows to About** 60 Pods



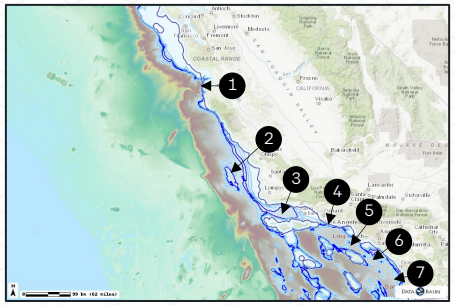
OceanWell prototype in shallow-water tests

Las Virgenes Reservoir, Woodland Hills, CA

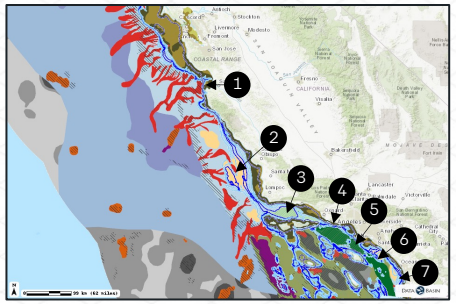


Offshore Siting Data along the California coast

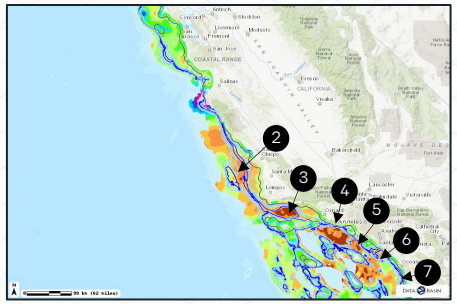
OceanWell



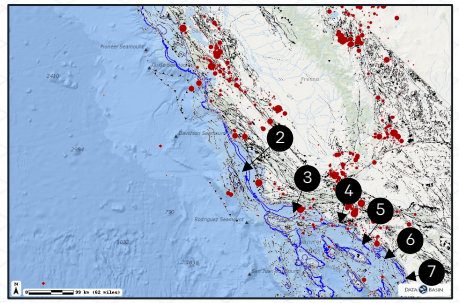
Subsea Bathymetry



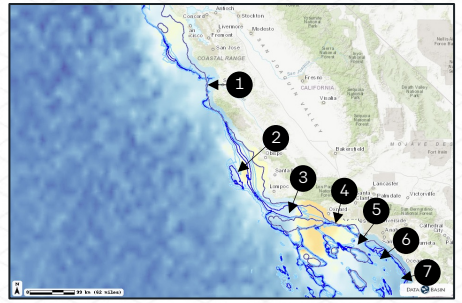
Seafloor Geomorphology



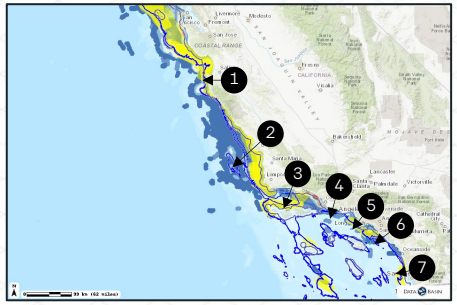
Seabed Substrates



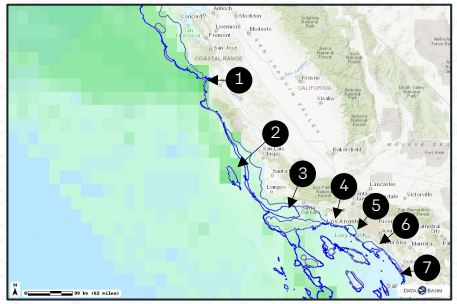
Seismic Activity



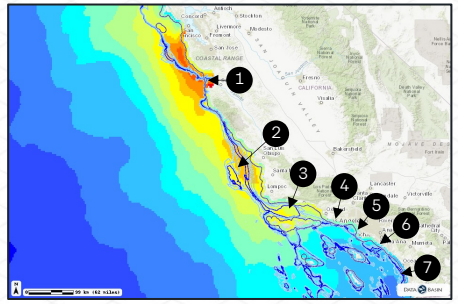
Upwell Currents



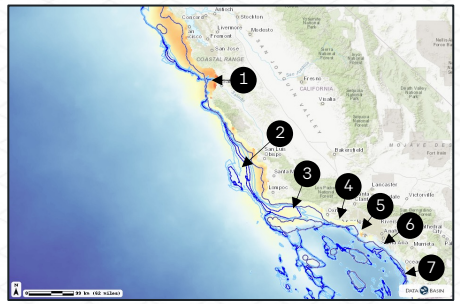
Benthic Activity



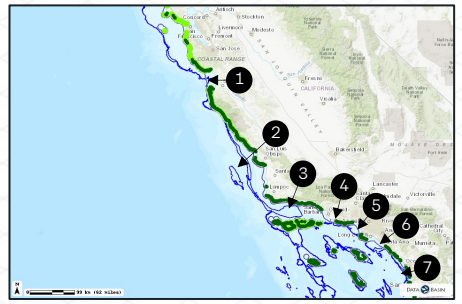
Marine Mammals



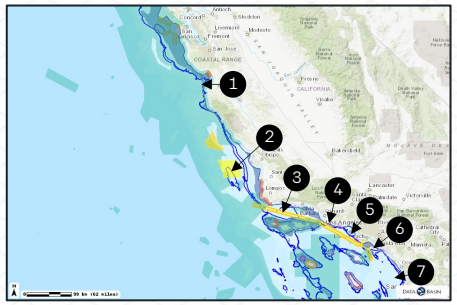
Zooplankton



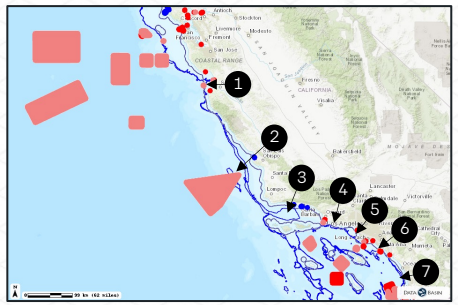
Phytoplankton



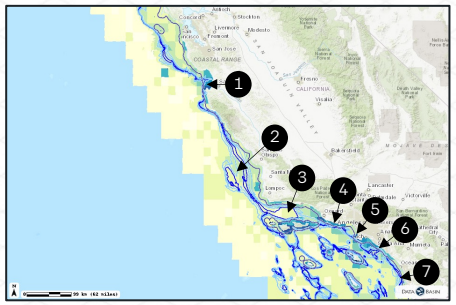
Kelp, Seagrasses



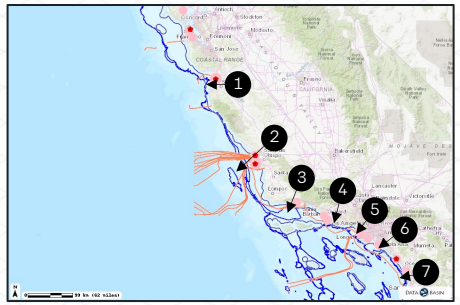
Protected Areas



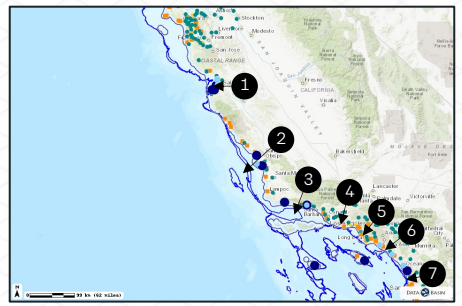
Dump Zones



Fisheries



Pipes, Cables, Power



Coastal Infrastructure

* References: Data Basin

Water Farm intervention equipment



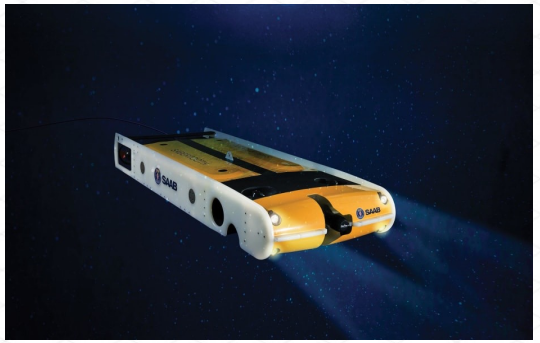
Supply Boat
Pod Installation



Reel Lay Vessel
Umbilical Installation



Tug & Barge
Pipeline Installation



Remote Operated Vehicle
Inspection-class ROV



Anchors
Suction Piles



Umbilical
Reel Lay



Pipeline
Controlled Submergence



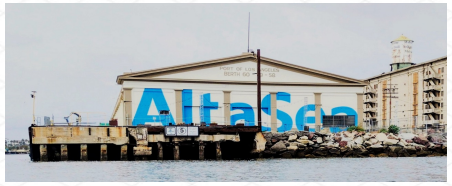
Shore Crossing
Horizontal Directional Drill

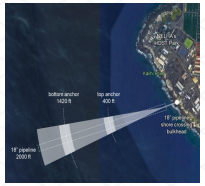
Path to Production Technology readiness levels (TRL)

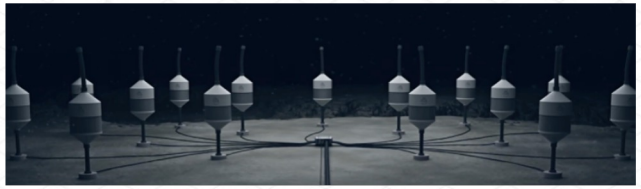
OceanWell











TRL 6
Pilot Program

TRL 6
Membrane Life

TRL 7
Ocean Demo

TRL 8
Full System

TRL 9
First Pod

Name	**SRO-2**	**SRO-3**	**RO**	**SRO-4**	**SRO-4**	**SRO-4**	**SRO-5**	**SRO-5**	**SRO-5**
Environment	Reservoir	Tank	Onshore	Harbor	Boat	Subsea	Shallow	Deep	Subsea
Source	fresh	saline	deep / shallow	shallow ocean	deep ocean	deep ocean	ocean	ocean	ocean
Duration	months	days	months	months	days	years	months	days	years
Feed	20 psi	700 psi	700 psi	20 psi	700 psi	700 psi	20 psi	700 psi	700 psi
Capacity	**10 m3/d**	**10 m3/d**	**10 m3/d**	**40 m3/d**	**40 m3/d**	**40 m3/d**	**1000 m3/d**	**4000 m3/d**	**4000 m3/d**
Timing	**Complete**	**Complete**	2026	2026	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2029-30

Intake	6	--	--	7	--	8	9	--	Commercial Ready
Outfall	6	6	--	7	7	8	9	9	
Energy	--	6	--	--	7	8	--	9	
Service	6	--	6	7	--	8	9	--	

Hawaii | Ocean Demo

Thank you!



Robert Bergstrom, CEO OceanWell

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