

## **OCA News Splash!**

### **April, 2015**

#### ***Your Ocean Communicators Alliance***

##### **OCA Marine Protected Area (MPA) Docent Training Handbooks Now Available**

Your OCA is excited to share with you four newly developed *OCA MPA Docent Training Handbooks*. These handbooks are intended to be a resource for docents and naturalists who communicate about MPAs and includes the most pertinent information about MPAs, with an emphasis on specific MPAs regions. It includes links to additional information and can act as a stand-alone document or a chapter within an organization's existing docent training handbook. Both the handbooks and webinar trainings for each region are available on <http://www.thankyouocean.org/ocean-communicators-alliance/toolkit/>. Please contact Miho Umezawa if you would like a word version rather than a pdf to use for your own program. Miho Umezawa [miho@thankyouocean.org](mailto:miho@thankyouocean.org)

#### ***Calling All OCA Members***

**Workshop: Communicating Climate Change and Navigating Environmental Compliance** [Communicating about Climate Impacts and Engaging Stakeholders in Solutions](#) will take place April 30 & May 19:00am - 5:00 pm in the Bay Conference Center, Tiburon, CA. Need help developing effective climate messages for your audiences? Struggling to reach and motivate stakeholders to engage in outreach events? Join climate and environmental communications expert Cara Pike from [ClimateAccess](#), to help you develop effective concrete framing and public engagement strategies in support of climate action and sustainability goals. PLEASE NOTE: This training is now eligible for 18 CM AICP Credits/CEP Points. [Register now!](#) Heidi Nutters [heidin@sfsu.edu](mailto:heidin@sfsu.edu)

#### **Coastal Symposium 15 (May 26-28, San Diego, CA) – Sea Level Rise. Climate Change. Workshop**

CalCoast has been working with the League of California Cities Coastal Issues Group (CCIG), USC Sea Grant, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, the California Coastal Commission (CCC), Connected Issue, a number of state and federal agencies, local government and the private sector on a symposium to be held in San Diego (May 26-28, Bahia Hotel, Mission Bay, San Diego) that will focus on sea level rise (SLR) and climate change in the context of LCPs, General Plans, and EIRs, as well as the availability of grants, implementation, storm water permits, and related issues. The purpose of this symposium/workshop is to help coastal cities and consultants by clarifying what's required to plan for SLR and climate change in the face of changing guidances, conflicting studies, various SLR models and available funding (grants, etc.). In addition to a unique a plenary session by CCC staff, keynote speakers include Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer of the State Coastal Conservancy, Dr. Charles Lester, Executive Director of the CCC, and Dr. Jerry Schubel, CEO of the Aquarium of the

Pacific. Thursday will feature a workshop for coastal cities and consultants to review symposium highlights, strategize on next steps, and discuss action items moving forward. This nuts and bolts symposium/workshop will be held at the Bahia Hotel on Mission Bay. We negotiated an awesome rate of only \$125per night for hotel rooms and we're glad to report that guest rooms and meeting space at the Bahia were recently renovated. [steveaceti@calcoast.org](mailto:steveaceti@calcoast.org) or [www.coastalsymposium.org](http://www.coastalsymposium.org)

### **Call for Abstracts! CERF 2015 session "Ocean Acidification & Hypoxia: Mechanisms for Linking Science to Management & Policy"**

This year's Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation (CERF) conference, held in Portland, OR November 8-12th, brings together scientists and students around science and management of coastal ecosystems. Ocean Science Trust, in partnership with Institute for Natural Resources and Oregon Sea Grant, is convening a session that will highlight opportunities for linking information from the scientific community with natural resource managers to promote effective science-based decision making on the topics of ocean acidification and hypoxia. We encourage you to contribute a talk. Abstracts due May 1st. <http://westcoastsoah.org/cerf2015/> Contact: Hayley Carter [hayley.carter@calost.org](mailto:hayley.carter@calost.org)

### **Fishing for Energy 2015 Request for Proposals**

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) is pleased to announce on behalf of Fishing for Energy partners Covanta, Schnitzer Steel Industries, Inc., and the NOAA Marine Debris Program, the availability of a request for proposals to support outreach and prevention strategies to reduce the impacts of derelict fishing gear to marine and coastal environments. Full proposals are due on April 23rd. More information on program priorities and how to apply can be found [here](#). Sherry Lippiatt [sherry.lippiatt@noaa.gov](mailto:sherry.lippiatt@noaa.gov)

### **Regional AdaptLA Webinar Series**

USC Sea Grant is hosting a professional development webinar series to advance sea level rise and coastal impacts planning in Southern California. Webinars will be held bi-monthly throughout 2015 – 2016. Topics include beach dynamics and ecology, communicating climate science and policies, and assessing social, economic and ecological vulnerability. [Visit our website](#) for recent webinars and registration details. Holly Rindge, USC Sea Grant. Holly Rindge [rindge@usc.edu](mailto:rindge@usc.edu)

### **News for You**

#### **NOAA expands Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones national marine sanctuaries off northern California**

Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones national marine sanctuaries off northern California have doubled in size following a final rule released by NOAA. The expansion will help to protect the region's marine and coastal habitats, biological resources and special ecological features. [Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary](#), located 42 miles north of San Francisco, expands from 529 square miles to 1,286 square miles. [Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary](#) expands from 1,282 square miles to 3,295

square miles of ocean and coastal waters. The expansion is based on years of public comment and research by NOAA and its scientific partners that identified the nutrient-rich upwelling zone originating off Point Arena and flowing south into the original sanctuaries as one of the most productive in North America.

<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/california-expansion> Sarah Marquis  
[sarah.marquis@noaa.gov](mailto:sarah.marquis@noaa.gov)

### **Data and Images Now on California Dolphin Online Catalog**

All data and images for coastal bottlenose dolphins collected by Ocean Conservation since 1997 are now part of the CDOC (California Dolphin Online Catalog) OBIS-SEAMAP. The primary objective of CDOC is to provide an online, open-access, digital database resource and research tool freely available for use by researchers who study coastal bottlenose dolphin populations throughout their geographic range along the entire West Coast of North America. CDOC is primarily intended to be a scientific resource, but it can also serve a key role in facilitating citizen-scientist engagement and public awareness. Our hope is to involve more people in using this great online source for a better understanding of coastal bottlenose dolphin populations. For more information about our work on bottlenose dolphins and our data for CDOC OBIS-SEAMAP [visit](#) here. To learn more about OBIS-SEAMP [check here](#). Maddalena Bearzi [mbearzi@oceanconservation.org](mailto:mbearzi@oceanconservation.org)

### **An Ocean of Opportunities: 2015 report now available from The Ocean Project**

The Ocean Project is pleased to present a summary of our years of communications research, An Ocean Of Opportunities, including new data collected in 2014. For instant access, please register to download the Executive Summary and/or Full Report (8pp) at [www.theoceanproject.org/reports](http://www.theoceanproject.org/reports). If you'd like to receive a hard copy, email [info@theoceanproject.org](mailto:info@theoceanproject.org). Bill Mott [bmott@theoceanproject.org](mailto:bmott@theoceanproject.org)

### **April is a Sharky Month at Mission Blue!**

We're just returning from our Cocos Island [Hope Spot expedition](#) with Adrian Grenier and Fusion Media, just in time for Her Deepness to head off to China with Pew Environment, where she'll be speaking about the importance of maintaining healthy shark populations for ocean health. For Earth Day, we're launching a matching campaign drive with Take Part Media supporting greater protections for sharks in our [Cocos Island Hope Spot](#), as well as participating in a live Google Hangout with the [Khaled Bin Sultan Living Oceans Foundation](#) from the Chagos Archipelago. Deb Castellana [dcastellana@mission-blue.org](mailto:dcastellana@mission-blue.org).

### **Winners Announced for Urban Tides Photo Contest**

During this winter's king tides, community members in Los Angeles and Orange County captured a glimpse of what flooding from future sea level rise will look like in our beach communities. See the [contest winners](#) and view a [video slideshow](#) of the best images. Holly Rindge, USC Sea Grant. [rindge@usc.edu](mailto:rindge@usc.edu)

### **West Coast Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Science Panel**

March has been a busy month for the West Coast OAH Science Panel. On March 10-

11, the Panel convened in Oakland, California to chart their path in this final year. Throughout the year, the Panel will continue to produce "science-to-policy" translational products that bring the key messages of the panel to decision makers exploring action at multiple levels. With most Panelists in the room, they advanced long-standing projects and began working on final summary documents. The Panel is coalescing around a set of scientific findings and recommendations that have emerged during the development of their core [scientific publications](#). These are being shared with high level policy makers and resource managers, from the U.S. EPA, to the Marine Resources Advisory Council (MRAC) in Washington State. [oahpanel@calost.org](mailto:oahpanel@calost.org)

### **Positive Results from Slowing Down Ships**

The [results](#) are in, and they are good! In late 2014, the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District, and the Environmental Defense Center (EDC) successfully executed a [vessel speed reduction trial incentive program](#) in the Santa Barbara Channel to slow cargo ships down to reduce air pollution and increase protection of endangered whales. Seven global shipping companies made 27 transits at a reduced speed of 12 knots or less. This reduced speed resulted in a 50% reduction from baseline emissions of participating ships and increased the likelihood of survival of a whale that may be struck by a ship by 50%. Kristi Birney [kbirney@environmentaldefensecenter.org](mailto:kbirney@environmentaldefensecenter.org) Laurel Kellner [Laurel.kellner@calost.org](mailto:Laurel.kellner@calost.org)

### **Whales, Ships & Clean Air. Interested?**

The Environmental Defense Center (EDC) and our partners at the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary are working with key stakeholders on long-term solution to protect whales and clean air while still meeting the needs of the shipping industry. The Sanctuary hosted the first Sanctuary Advisory Council Marine Shipping Working Group meeting in February and will hold several more meetings over the next nine months. The new working group includes major stakeholders from the Navy, Coast Guard, shipping industry, federal and regional agencies, scientist, and nonprofits. Meetings are free and open to the public. A website with materials, agenda, and meeting notes can be found [here](#). Kristi Birney [kbirney@environmentaldefensecenter.org](mailto:kbirney@environmentaldefensecenter.org)

### **Accepting Citizen Scientist Applications for FLOW**

FLOW (Follow and Learn about the Ocean & Wetlands) is Amigos de Bolsa Chica's Citizen Science Program. Participate in the collection of scientific data, learn more about coastal ecology, and get involved in environmental quality monitoring efforts. We're accepting applications for school groups to visit the wetlands. Meetings are on Fridays (times depend upon the tide) at the Huntington Beach State Beach Visitor Center. We are also accepting Citizen Scientist applications for anyone interested – FREE training on April 17th; contact [flow@amigosdebolsachica.org](mailto:flow@amigosdebolsachica.org). Terri Bidle [programs@amigosdebolsachica.org](mailto:programs@amigosdebolsachica.org)

### **Check the Coast at Tax Time**

This tax season, Californians can help support our treasured coast and ocean while, of all things, filing their taxes! The Protect Our Coast and Oceans Fund is a "check box" under the Charitable Contributions section of the State personal income tax form. When

preparing tax return, Californians can simply write the donation amount next to the fund title (or ask a tax preparer to do so). 100% of the funds donated will be distributed as Whale Tail Grants for coastal and marine-related projects. This year, the fund is required to have a minimum total contribution of \$250,000 to remain on the tax form for the next year. Although there wasn't a minimum requirement last year, we ended up in striking distance of this goal by raising \$242,000. We can get over the top this year with your help. Please help spread the word! You can learn more at [www.CheckTheCoast.org](http://www.CheckTheCoast.org). Contact Chris Parry [chris.parry@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:chris.parry@coastal.ca.gov)

### **When Filing Your Taxes, You Can Help Sea Otters Too!**

OCA members, help us get the word out! For those early tax filers, remember that the CA Sea Otter Fund tax check off has been on state income tax forms since 2007. In 8 years the Fund has raised nearly \$2.4 million. The funds are used to go towards research, education, and conservation efforts to assist in the recovery of sea otters in California. Every little contribution helps and it serves as a critical funding source for sea otter conservation, research, and education efforts in California. For more information, visit: <http://www.seaotters.org/checkoff/>. Jim Curland, Friends of the Sea Otter. Jim Curland

## ***Mark Your Calendar***

### **Now- Apr 12: Predators of the Bay at Aquarium of the Bay**

Splash into spring at Aquarium of the Bay! From March 28-April 12, find out who the Bay's top predators are as Aquarium of the Bay celebrates Predators of the Bay. From the unassuming sea star, to the clever river otter, to the awe-inspiring shark, find out what makes these animals the top predators of their ecosystems. Learn more: <http://www.aquariumofthebay.org/spring-break> Mallory Johnson [mallory@bay.org](mailto:mallory@bay.org)

### **Now- Apr 19: Rompin' River at Aquarium of the Bay**

Make a splash with Aquarium of the Bay's Rompin' River! From March 21-April 19, have fun with this dynamic river that has it all, including arts and crafts and fun hands-on opportunities. This portable river engages and informs kids about art, architecture, and ecology, all while learning about the importance of our waterways and having fun! Learn more: <http://www.aquariumofthebay.org/spring-break> Mallory Johnson [mallory@bay.org](mailto:mallory@bay.org)

### **Apr 4-25: Pacifica Beach Coalition Cleanups**

The Pacifica Beach Coalition holds cleanups most Saturdays from 9am to 11am at Manor Drive near Mazzettis Bakery, as well as on second Thursdays at Esplanade Beach in Pacifica from 4 to 6 pm. First Saturday cleanup will be at Rockaway Beach on April 4. The second Saturday cleanup will be at Sharp Park beach on April 11. However, this month, the third Saturday cleanup, habitat restoration and gardening on 18 April will be at all beaches, roads, parks, from Half Moon Bay, Pacifica, Daly City and Ocean Beach, San Francisco, simultaneously, because this is EARTH DAY. Sign up online [pacificabeachcoalition.org/take-action/monthly-adopt-a-beach-cleanups/](http://pacificabeachcoalition.org/take-action/monthly-adopt-a-beach-cleanups/) celine gerakin [celine@pacificabeachcoalition.org](mailto:celine@pacificabeachcoalition.org)

**Apr 4: Free Public Tour with Amigos de Bolsa Chica**

Join the [Amigos de Bolsa Chica](#) for a **free tour of the wetlands** on Saturday, April 4th. Led by docents, participants will learn about the birds, endangered species, history, ecology, and restoration of the wetlands. The tour runs from 9-10:30am and departs every 15 minutes from the footbridge in the South Parking Lot of the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve (across the street from the State Beach entrance). Angelique Crest [crest.angelique@gmail.com](mailto:crest.angelique@gmail.com)

**Apr 6: Ocean Currents radio program hosted by Jennifer Stock, Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary**

Live on KWMR, Community Radio for West Marin. Listen live at [www.kwmr.org](http://www.kwmr.org) 1-2 pm. Desalination and Update on expansion of Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuaries. Guests: Desalination segment: Claire Waggoner/ State Water Resources Control Board and Bridget Hoover/Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Sanctuary segment: John Larger/UC Davis-Bodega Marine Lab. We'll discuss the viability of desalination in California, what desal plants exist, what the impacts are on the ocean and how the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is addressing the issue in Central California. The show will be archived and podcast at <http://cordellbank.noaa.gov/education/radiopodcast2015.html> following the live program on Monday April 6th.

**Apr 14: Writers of the Sea with The Bay Institute**

What inspires authors and visual artists to dedicate themselves to the sea? On Tuesday, April 14, join The Bay Institute at the Bay Model Visitor Center to hear first-hand from three authors who have been inspired by the sea, including David Helvarg, Wallace J. Nichols, and Susan Middleton. Learn more: <http://www.thebayinstitute.org/programs/coast-and-ocean/film-and-lecture-series>  
Mallory Johnson [mallory@bay.org](mailto:mallory@bay.org)

**Apr 18: Earth Day of Action and EcoFest with Pacifica Beach Coalition**

Happy Earth Day! The Pacifica Beach Coalition invites young and old to take action and enjoy our Earth Day of Action & EcoFest event on Saturday April 18th. The action is from 9-11.00 at beaches from Mussel Rock to Half Moon Bay and then at a lovely EcoFest event with the Chris Cobb Band, EcoBooths from many environmental organizations, refreshments, and activities for all ages! Join us as we honor the Bees - both native and honeybees with action and education! Find out more at [www.pacificabeachcoalition.org](http://www.pacificabeachcoalition.org). Lynn Adams [lynn@pacificabeachcoalition.org](mailto:lynn@pacificabeachcoalition.org)

**Apr 19: "The Secret Lives of Snowies, Ecology and Conservation of the Snowy Plover" at Seymour Marine Discovery Center**

1:00 – 2:00 PM, Kriss Neuman, M.S., Waterbird Ecologist, Pacific Coast and Central Valley, Point Blue Conservation Science. Take a look inside the life of the diminutive snowy plover. Threatened by habitat loss, poor reproductive success, and human disturbance, the snowy plover has been federally protected since 1993. This shorebird nests locally on the sandy beaches of Monterey Bay and beyond, from Southern

Washington to Baja California. [Join Point Blue Conservation Sciencebiologist Kriss Neuman](#) as she discusses the species' ecology, recent research findings, and conservation threats of this fascinating but imperiled shorebird. Lecture passes are available at the admissions counter at noon. Doors open to the lecture hall at 12:30 PM. Lecture is free with admission. Free admission for members and UCSC undergrads with valid student ID. Recommended for ages 10 and older. Sara Stasi [sstasi@ucsc.edu](mailto:sstasi@ucsc.edu)

**Apr 21: Bill Patzert, "California's Drought: Are We In or Out?" at Aquarium of the Pacific**

7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. California's history is written in great droughts, according to climatologist Bill Patzert. Entering the fourth year of below-normal rainfall and snowpack, the state currently faces its most severe drought emergency in decades. In his lecture Patzert will explain how the drought developed, its ties to ocean phenomena, and how people can deal with the impacts of future droughts. Patzert is a climate scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Cost: \$5 for the public, and free for members, teachers, seniors (62+), and students with valid ID and advance reservations. Location: Aquarium of the Pacific, 100 Aquarium Way, Long Beach, CA 90802

Info: 562-590-3100 or [aquariumofpacific.org](http://aquariumofpacific.org) Adrian Samora [ASamora@LBAOP.ORG](mailto:ASamora@LBAOP.ORG)

**Apr 25: Free Bird Talk & Nature Walk with Amigos de Bolsa Chica**

Join the [Amigos de Bolsa Chica](#) for a free Bird Talk & Nature Walk on Saturday, April 25th. Considered one of the prime birding sites of Southern California, the Bolsa Chica wetlands is home to over 200 species of birds. The walk takes place from 9-11am and departs from the South Parking Lot of the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve (across the street from the State Beach entrance). Visitors are encouraged to wear comfortable shoes and bring binoculars. Angelique Crest [crest.angelique@gmail.com](mailto:crest.angelique@gmail.com)

**Apr 25: Native Plant Gardening**

On the 4th Saturday of each month, come join the [Amigos De Bolsa Chica](#) for cleaning, gardening and planting at the Bolsa Chica State Beach Visitor Center. Volunteer hours are from 9am -12noon. Located just north of the entrance to BC State Beach, across from BC Ecological Reserve South parking lot. Wear closed shoes. Tools and instructions are provided. Come help make a difference in your local community and wetlands! Call [714-840-1575](tel:714-840-1575) for more information or to RSVP. Angelique Crest [crest.angelique@gmail.com](mailto:crest.angelique@gmail.com)

**Apr 25-26: Earth Day Celebration at Aquarium of the Pacific**

9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., learn what you can do to help our ocean planet at the Aquarium of the Pacific's fifteenth annual Earth Day Celebration. Join the Aquarium for a weekend of family fun celebrating Earth Day while learning simple, everyday tips to protect our environment. Visit booths from various Earth-friendly organizations, and participate in hands-on learning demonstrations for people of all ages. Cost: General Admission--\$28.95 adult (12+), \$25.95 senior (62+), \$14.95 child (3-11), and free for children under age three and Aquarium members Location: Aquarium of the Pacific, 100 Aquarium Way, Long Beach, CA 90802 Info/Tickets: 562-590-3100 or [www.aquariumofpacific.org](http://www.aquariumofpacific.org)

Photos: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/h1x3ln7pyhfjiv/AACoKCPWLviZPIVllg-pR0yya?dl=0> Adrian Samora [ASamora@LBAOP.ORG](mailto:ASamora@LBAOP.ORG)

**Apr 26: Explore the Shore with Cabrillo Marine Aquarium**

Join the “Walk Cabrillo” guided tour of the Cabrillo Beach Coastal Park habitats from 10 to 12 p.m. This free activity will include guided interpretation of inner Cabrillo Beach, saltmarsh, outer wave-swept sandy beach, and the Cabrillo Beach tidepools. Participants will learn about the cultural history as well as the natural history of the area. [www.cabrillomarineaquarium.org](http://www.cabrillomarineaquarium.org). Juliette McAllister [juliette.mcallister@lacity.org](mailto:juliette.mcallister@lacity.org)

**Apr 30: Mel Nutter, “Saving California’s Coast (One Local Coastal Program at a Time)” at Aquarium of the Pacific**

7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Mel Nutter, a former chair of the California Coastal Commission, will discuss how cities and counties work with the Coastal Commission to prepare Local Coastal Programs designed to protect California’s coast. Nutter has practiced law since 1965. His positions included chair of the League for Coastal Protection, a statewide citizen’s organization that engages in lobbying, advocacy, and litigation, as well as vice chair of the California Environmental Law Project. Cost: \$5 for the public, and free for members, teachers, seniors (62+), and students with valid ID and advance reservations. Location: Aquarium of the Pacific, 100 Aquarium Way, Long Beach, CA 90802

Info: 562-590-3100 or [aquariumofpacific.org](http://aquariumofpacific.org) \_Adrian Samora [ASamora@LBAOP.ORG](mailto:ASamora@LBAOP.ORG)

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Ocean Communicators Alliance: "Creating a Strong Voice for the Ocean in California"

The California Ocean Communicators Alliance is a group of more than 300 professionals in ocean-related organizations, agencies and businesses who, in the course of their work, reach millions of Californians with ocean messages. NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, the California Natural Resources Agency and aquarium partners organized and support the California Ocean Communicators Alliance. OCA members collaborate on common ocean messages and promote the Thank You Ocean public awareness campaign.

OCA News Splash! is a way for OCA members to share news electronically. The items in OCA News Splash! are submitted by individual OCA members, and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries or California Natural Resources Agency.

OCA members: submit your OCA News Splash! items to Sarah Marquis at [marquispr@earthlink.net](mailto:marquispr@earthlink.net) or [sarah.marquis@noaa.gov](mailto:sarah.marquis@noaa.gov)