

OCA News Splash!

July, 2015

Your Thank You Ocean Campaign

California's Ocean and Coastal Amateur Photo Contest Closes July 17th!

The 17th annual California Ocean and Coastal Amateur Photography Contest, sponsored by the California Coastal Commission, the California Thank You Ocean campaign, and Fairmont Hotels of California runs through July 17th. All entries must be submitted online. Entry is free and open to all amateur photographers. The contest features photographs that reflect the importance that the coast and ocean has for California residents and the role that the Coastal Commission, Natural Resources Agency and Ocean Protection Council have played in preserving coastal and marine resources. For more information, visit <http://mycoastalphoto.com>.

Calling All OCA Members:

2015 Beneath the Waves Film Festival Announced for September

Announcing the 2015 Beneath the Waves Film Festival - Santa Cruz (Admission Free!) - September 24,25,26, 2015 at the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Exploration Center, 35 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, California. Come enjoy short films on ocean science, conservation, and ecology, presentations by marine scientists, hands-on activities for kids and adults, and ocean and coastal-inspired art from talented local artists. For more info about the BTWFF-Santa Cruz, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/BeneathTheWavesFilmFestivalSantaCruzCa> Lisa Uttal lisa.uttal@noaa.gov

Take Back the Shark!

Take back the Shark with Shark Stewards. Celebrate Sharks during Shark week with online activities, learning and social media shark shares July 5- 11. Participate in a Google hangout on Thursday July 9, and a march for sharks in San Francisco July 11. More at <http://sharkstewards.org>. David McGuire sharkfilms@gmail.com

National Marine Protected Areas Center

For the latest news about national MPAs, visit <http://marineprotectedareas.noaa.gov>. MPA programs are invited to nominate their eligible sites to be part of the [national system of MPAs](#) through August 21, 2015. The national system of MPAs includes MPA sites, networks and systems established and managed by all levels of government that work together to achieve common marine conservation goals. The national system does not bring state, territorial or local sites under federal authority, nor does it restrict or change the management of any MPA. California's network of MPAs are part of this [system](#). See the latest MPA Connections [Newsletter](#). Joanne Flanders joanne.flanders@noaa.gov

Sanctuary Classic Fishing and Photo Contest Underway!

The Sportfishing Conservancy kicked off the 2015 Sanctuary Classic Fishing and Photo Contest on July 3 and the Classic will run in all national marine sanctuaries through Labor Day, September 7. This year, thousands of dollars in Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation Scholarships will be awarded for best pictures submitted. The Classic is designed to encourage responsible use of the Sanctuaries and entry is free at sanctuaryclassic.org. Tom Raftican tom@sportfishingconservancy.org

Beach Injury Video in time for Summer Safety!

A new beach injury prevention video featuring California Sea Grant Extension specialist [Theresa Talley](#) is now available [online](#). Talley delivers a marine science segment to inform beachgoers about potential sea creature hazards. The video is part of a series of videos produced by partners Project Wipeout and Hoag Hospital.

<https://caseagrant.ucsd.edu/news/new-videos-help-protect-both-the-people-and-animals-that-enjoy-the-beach> Caitlin Coomber ccoomber@ucsd.edu

Baja Adventure with Cabrillo Marine Aquarium

Baja trip March 5-13! Join CMA for a trip that truly is the journey-of-a-lifetime! During this nine-day ocean voyage we spend three exciting days anchored in San Ignacio Lagoon where friendly gray whales and their curious calves swim within arm's length of the skiffs. Join naturalist-led hikes on remote, offshore islands. Thirty participants will eat well and sleep comfortably on the 113-foot *Royal Polaris*; leaving from San Diego. For more information, call Larry Fukuhara at 310-548-7562 x223.

Add YOUR Images to NOAA Earth is Blue Campaign

When astronauts first launched toward the moon and looked back at our planet for the first time, they made an unexpected discovery: *Earth is Blue*. The NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries has been sharing a photo each day and a video each week highlighting the wonder and beauty of these special places and the work we do to protect them. Join us as we explore America's national marine sanctuaries and share your own images of our national marine sanctuaries using the hashtag #EarthIsBlue.

<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/earthisblue.html> Claire Fackler claire.fackler@noaa.gov

Announcing Drought Symposium 15 in Fall

[CalCoast](#), Strategic Advocacy Partners, and allies will be holding a symposium on the drought this fall in the Inland Empire (tentatively scheduled for Oct 20-21 in Ontario, CA), focusing on practical solutions and strategies to address the California drought and climate change. This symposium will feature recognized experts discussing innovative water conservation and management techniques, the mechanics of updating General Plans and other policy documents including LCPs, as well as how to deal with relevant statutes and regulations. Last May's very successful Coastal Symposium 15 focused on the science of climate change and sea level rise, but due to popular demand, and the high profile climate change and the drought have in the news (see below), the Drought Symposium 15 will be more focused on implementation and adaptation plans from experts involved in the process. A call for presentations will be circulated soon. If your organization is interested in becoming a sponsor

or exhibitor for Drought Symposium 15, please send a message to Gracie Parisi, CalCoast's COO, at graciepwilson@gmail.com. If you know of any conflicts from other events this October, please let us know. And stay tuned! Steve Aceti steveaceti@calcoast.org

News for You

“Turtle Mania” Wins Green Book Festival Award

Turtle Mania, Turning the Tides to Save Sea Turtles, color and learn received an award from the Green Book Festival. Our company, The Nature Kid, is a non-profit company working to preserve nature in a fun and factual way. Check out our other books at www.thenaturekid.com. Molly Peckels mgpeckels@gmail.com

"Big Blue Live" Comes to Monterey

This summer PBS and BBC are coming to the aquarium for live prime time broadcasts celebrating the marine life of Monterey Bay and [Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary](#). “BigBlue Live” will be anchored from open-air studios based at the [Monterey Bay Aquarium](#). Live segments will air on PBS over three nights, Aug. 31-Sept. 2 from 8 to 9 p.m. ET, with a second live feed to the West Coast from 8 to 9 p.m. PT. The BBC segments will be broadcast live in the UK in August. Casie Fox cafox@mbayaq.org

Monterey Bay Aquarium Announces Promotion of Cynthia Vernon to Chief Operating Officer

With the pending retirement of Jim Hekkers as Managing Director, Julie Packard, Founding Executive Director, is excited to announce the promotion of Cynthia Vernon to the position of Chief Operating Officer. Most recently serving as the Vice President of Education and Guest Programs, Cynthia has acted in a leadership role, guiding the [aquarium's](#) education and guest service programs. In her new strategic position, and working with an extraordinary team of leaders, Cynthia will provide critical oversight for Exhibits, Husbandry, and Facilities, in addition to Education, Guest Experience and Visitor Research and Evaluation. Casie Fox cafox@mbayaq.org

The Bay Foundation Wins Award for Kelp Restoration Project from L.A. Business Journal

[The Bay Foundation's](#) Executive Director Tom Ford was awarded the prize for “Project Collaboration” at the recent Los Angeles Business Journal Nonprofit & Corporate Citizenship Awards. The award was based on the kelp restoration project which is finishing up its second year in a 4-5 year process, and whose partners include Vantuna Research Group, NOAA, Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, Southern California Marine Institute, L.A. Waterkeeper, California Science Center, and the California Sea Urchin Harvesters. The project has thus far restored over 28 acres of kelp forest off Palos Verdes Peninsula in the Santa Monica Bay. This award recognizes a collaborative project that encompasses A) involvement of multiple stakeholders in the community B) engagement of the community being served and C) innovation in approaching a community problem or issue. For more information on the project, visit www.SantaMonicaBay.org. Julie Du Brow jdubrow@santamonibabay.org

Don't you think it's time we all have an honest trash talk?

The NOAA Marine Debris Program and Ocean Today recently released [TRASH TALK](#), a 15-minute special feature on marine debris. Six short educational videos and a webinar for educators are available as individual chapters contained in the special feature. Sherry Lippiatt sherry.lippiatt@noaa.gov

USC Sea Grant Celebrates 40 Years of Progress in the Urban Ocean

USC Sea Grant's research, outreach and education are tied to the needs of Southern California's urban ocean environment and its residents. This publication tells a few stories to show how our long-term work supports achievements in several key areas of importance to the region, including water quality, climate change, coastal management and education. View highlights and stories [here](#). Holly Rindge rindge@usc.edu

SoCal HABWatch Program Relaunches

HABWatch is a community-based harmful algal bloom monitoring network. USC Sea Grant recently hosted a training and unveiled a new data portal. Volunteers from science and nature centers, aquaria, and marine sanctuaries are critical pairs of 'extra eyes' on the water, taking weekly water samples and looking for signs of harmful algae that may cause health risks for wildlife and people. More info [here](#). Holly Rindge rindge@usc.edu

New Outreach Materials for Aquatic Invasive Species

USC Sea Grant has distributed new aquatic invasive species educational toolkits to West coast aquaria and science centers. *Aquatic Invasions! A Menace to the West* toolkits include curricula and outreach materials that provide interpreters and naturalists with relevant resources and effective strategies for engaging the public. Materials are available [here](#). Holly Rindge rindge@usc.edu

All the Way to the Ocean Film Coming Soon!

The book, *All the Way to the Ocean*, has been a true labor of love, spanning back more than a decade. Since its publication in 2006, the book has been translated into three languages (English, Spanish and Mandarin) and sold in zoos, aquariums, surf shops, national parks, children's museums, watershed protection agencies, Patagonia Retail and REI internationally. A short-film adaptation of the book is being made to extend the story and provide additional opportunities to educate children and adults alike through a broader reaching media platform. A collection of games, content and educational tools distributed on the web site and on mobile and tablets is also being created to extend the learning opportunities for children through out the world and across all sections of society. Joel Harper has also released a new children's book, *Sea Change*: <http://seachangestory.org>. For information on *All the Way to the Ocean* film: <http://www.allthewaytotheocean.com/movie.html> Joel Harper info@freedomthree.com

Comprehensive, Post-Restoration Monitoring Report of Malibu Lagoon Indicates Success Towards Project Goals

The Bay Foundation has released the "Malibu Lagoon Restoration and Enhancement Project Comprehensive Monitoring Report (Year 2)", the first report to fully compare and evaluate pre-

restoration conditions to two years of post-restoration conditions. The project has been watched carefully by many for its potential to be a test case for giving life back to a local wetland. Based on the first two years of a 5-year monitoring program, the Malibu Lagoon Restoration Project shows it is on track to meet or exceed the documented criteria for success. The Project's core goals included improving the ecological health of the lagoon's system by enhancing habitats for native wildlife, creating several acres of new wetlands, and increasing tidal flushing and water circulation to improve water quality and eliminate the "dead zones" and oxygen-deprived areas. For the full announcement & links to the report, visit [TheBay Foundation](#). Julie Du Brow jdubrow@santamonicabay.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 –training is FREE; contact flow@amigosdebolsachica.org. Terri Bidle programs@amigosdebolsachica.org

Volunteers Needed to Help the Bolsa Chica Wetlands

The [Amigos de Bolsa Chica](#) is seeking volunteers who are interested in helping saving and preserve the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve. These wetlands are a vital part of our ecosystem. Please spread the word for volunteers. Interested parties, please reach out to info@amigosdebolsachica.org.

Mark Your Calendar

Jul 6, 8-10, 14-16, 18, 20-22, 25, 28 & 30: Aquarium of the Pacific Summer Late Nights

5:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. The public is invited to enjoy the Aquarium of the Pacific after hours while taking advantage of special savings. On select dates in June and July, admission will be just \$14.95 for adults and children after 5:00 p.m., and the Aquarium will remain open until 8:30 p.m. Please note: the Lorikeet Forest aviary closes at 4:30 p.m. Cost: \$14.95 per person and free for kids ages three and under and Aquarium members. Aquarium of the Pacific, 100 Aquarium Way, Long Beach, CA 90802 Info: 562-590-3100 or www.aquariumofpacific.org (for a full list of Discounted Late Nights)

Jul 8-Aug 26: Concert Series / Voices on the Veranda at Aquarium of the Pacific

6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m., the Aquarium of the Pacific will host a summer concert series on its rooftop Veranda with solo singer/songwriters, jazz and rock bands, and other musical acts showcasing their talents. Sit back and relax with food and drinks (available for purchase), and enjoy the view of Rainbow Harbor at sunset. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and music starts at 7:00 p.m. Cost: \$20 per person and \$15 per Aquarium member; includes Aquarium admission. Aquarium of the Pacific, 100 Aquarium Way, Long Beach, CA 90802. Info/Tickets: 562-590-

3100 or www.aquariumofpacific.org. Schedule: 7/8: Raquel Rodriguez, 7/15: Soul, Funk and Reggae with Allensworth and Mike Dena, 7/22: Greg Adams and East Bay Soul, 7/29: The Jet Set Quintet

Jul 9, 11, 18, 25: Cleanups with Pacifica Beach Coalition

Throughout July, Pacifica Beach Coalition invites volunteers to our weekly beach cleanups. Thursday, 9 July, 4pm to 5pm, Esplanade Beach; Saturday, 11 July, 9am to 11am, Rockaway Beach, Sharp Park Beach; Saturday, 18 July, 9am to 11am, Linda Mar State Beach; Saturday, 25 July, 9am to 11am, Mussel Rock Beach and Pillar Point, Half Moon Bay. www.pacificabeachcoalition.org. Helen Nicely helennicely@hotmail.com

Jul 14: Celebrate exploration of the sea and the stars at Heal the Bay's Santa Monica Pier Aquarium

At 3:00 p.m., during NASA's flyby of the dwarf planet Pluto and its largest moon, Charon, the [Aquarium](#) will remotely broadcast a live conversation with an educator at the Jet Propulsion Lab in Pasadena. Join in as NASA's probe, New Horizons, makes its closest pass ever at Pluto. The fastest spacecraft ever launched will attempt to take detailed measurements and record images and other data using techniques comparable to those used to explore the deep sea. The Aquarium will continue the Deep Space/Deep Sea connection through presentations and activities on July 18th & 19th. Santa Monica Pier Aquarium, 1600 Ocean Front Walk (beach level, beneath the Carousel building), Santa Monica. Children 12 and under: free when accompanied by a paying adult; all others: \$5 per person. Groups of 10 or more: \$3 per person, regardless of age.

Jul 16: MARE Reception in Santa Barbara

Marine Applied Research & Exploration ([MARE](#)) returns to the Channel Islands in July, and invites the public to a free presentation and reception in Santa Barbara. Thursday, July 16, 7:30-9:00 pm. For more information or to reserve a space, contact Diane Richards diane@mare.org, with questions or RSVPs.

Jul 17: Meet the Grunion with Cabrillo Marine Aquarium

8 pm at the aquarium, predicted run at 10:40 pm. Watch the silvery fish come up on the beach to spawn! Learn about the interesting mating rituals and growth of this curious fish. The Aquarium opens at 8pm and an auditorium program begins at 9, followed by guided observation at the beach. Warm clothing and a flashlight are recommended. June and July are open season, when grunion may only be taken by hand and a valid California fishing license must be displayed if you're 16 years or older. Cabrillo Beach closes at midnight. Fee: \$5 adults and \$1 seniors, students and children (FRIENDS members free) Juliette McAllister juliette.mcallister@lacity.org

Jul 18: Join All One Ocean for a Beach Cleanup

Saturday, July 18th 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Horseshoe Cove, Sausalito, CA. We are meeting in front of the Presidio Yacht Club and encouraging participants to bring their own gloves, grabbers, rakes and/or buckets. No RSVP needed. [All One Ocean](#). If you have any questions please feel free to contact Kate at Katie@alloneocean.org or 415-933-9589. Hope to see you

there!

Jul 19: Science Sunday: Asha de Vos: “The Unorthodox Whales: Conservation Through Science and Engagement”

[Seymour Marine Discovery Center at Long Marine Lab](#), Santa Cruz, 1-2 pm. The blue whales found in Sri Lankan waters have been described by researcher Asha de Vos as “unorthodox” since they break their species stereotypes, remaining in the warm tropical waters of the Northern Indian Ocean year-round. Working with a team at UC Santa Cruz, de Vos is collecting data on whale deaths and developing mathematical models that calculate how the risk of ship strikes can be reduced. Join de Vos as she describes this effort and highlights the importance of coupling science and civic engagement for the long-term protection of this unique population. Please [visit](#) or call 831-459-3800. Sara Stasi sstasi@ucsc.edu

Jul 25: Family Sandcastle Building Day with Cabrillo Marine Aquarium

Saturday, 10 am- 3pm. Pile some sand, add some water, do a little shaping and presto, your very own [sandcastle](#)! Bring your little shovel, a bucket and come on down for some sandy fun. Fee: Free and open to everyone. Juliette McAllister juliette.mcallister@lacity.org

Jul 25th: 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.

Jul 25th: 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, June 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

Looking Ahead:

August 1st: Free Public Tour with Amigos de Bolsa Chica

Join the [Amigos de Bolsa Chica](#) for a free tour of the wetlands on Saturday, August 1st. 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

Aug 2-8: Cabrillo Marine Aquarium Shark Week is Back!

Sunday, August 2 and Tuesday, August 4 through Saturday, August 8, 12noon - 5pm.

CMA's Shark Week is back! Enjoy great activities all week in honor of one of the ocean's top predators. Shark Week will feature exciting crafts, scavenger hunts, live shark feedings and much more! Come and take a BITE out of Shark Week at Cabrillo Marine Aquarium. For a full Shark Week schedule and more information, visit our website at www.cabrillomarineaquarium.org Juliette McAllister juliette.mcallister@lacity.org

Aug 7: AltaSea/Cabrillo Marine Aquarium Discovery Lecture Series

7-9 pm. Kelly Stromberg, Catalina Sea Ranch; Fee: Free. [CMA](#) is collaborating with our new "neighbor," the world-class urban marine research and innovation center, AltaSea. The 35-acre campus at the Port of Los Angeles will be dedicated to uniting global marine research, education, business, government philanthropy and community. The Discovery Lecture Series 2015 is in the Aquarium's John M. Olguin Auditorium. Juliette McAllister juliette.mcallister@lacity.org

Aug 8: Salt Marsh Open House with Cabrillo Marine Aquarium

11 am- 1 pm. Visit Cabrillo Beach's own wetland habitat, Salinas de San Pedro, and discover the plants and animals that call it home! Using binoculars, magnifying glasses and other tools, [CMA](#) Educators and volunteers will help you observe and explore this habitat. Or simply sit back, watch the tide change and listen to the birds and other wildlife. Fee: Free and open to all ages. Juliette McAllister juliette.mcallister@lacity.org

Aug 15: Robotics By the Sea with Cabrillo Marine Aquarium

11am- 3 pm. Robots take over the Aquarium on [Robotics Day!](#) Watch demonstrations from local robotics clubs and learn about land and underwater ROVs (Remotely Operated Vehicles). Drive an underwater ROV through an obstacle course and discover how scientists use ROVs to explore the ocean. Free and open to everyone. Juliette McAllister juliette.mcallister@lacity.org

Aug 16: The [Lollygaggers](#) at Aquarium of the Pacific

7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. The Earth's climate is changing. With melting ice caps and water levels rising, animals have been forced to relocate. Where will they go? The Lollywoods, of course. In this sketch-meets-global warming musical, animals and puppets are forced to coexist in a brand new climate. Come get your laugh on and learn a little about global climate change. You can even ask a NASA climate scientist your own questions about global climate change. Cost: \$10 per person or \$8 per Aquarium member, seniors (62+), teachers, and students with I.D. and RSVP. [Aquarium of the Pacific](#), 100 Aquarium Way, Long Beach, CA 90802 Info/Tickets: 562-590-3100 or www.aquariumofpacific.org

Aug 22: See the Sea, Sì?? – Floating Oceanography Lab with [Cabrillo Marine Aquarium](#)

9 am- noon. [Join us aboard a specially equipped vessel](#) where you'll have opportunities to study some of the near- shore animals which will be collected during the trip. Learn about the fascinating world of plankton, animals that call mud their home and some of the fish that prefer the sandy bottom. We'll identify marine birds and be on the lookout for sea lions and dolphins. Pre-registration is required. Fee: \$30 (\$25 FRIENDS members) Juliette McAllister

juliette.mcallister@lacity.org

Aug 23: Summer Whale Watch with Cabrillo Marine Aquarium

Join [CMA](#) staff as they search the Catalina Channel for the largest animals in the world. Blue, fin and humpback whales spend part of their summer here to feed on huge amounts of krill. Boat leaves from San Pedro. Fee: \$30 (\$25 FRIENDS members). Registration is required; please call 310-548-7562. Juliette McAllister juliette.mcallister@lacity.org

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 or sarah.marquis@noaa.gov

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