



CenCal Meeting Minutes

Wednesday Sept 27, 2023 7:30 pm

Carol Rose, Secretary
3mcircle@gmail.com

1.0 Welcome and Introductions

1.1 Present: Carol Rose, Larry Ankuda

2.0 Membership: CenCal +3

CenCal as of July 15, 2023: = 72
USOA membership = 11

3.0 Finances – Larry Ankuda, Treasurer:

3.1 Balances, 7/15/2023: \$ 18,237
 General Fund \$ 3009
 Skin Spear \$12,227
 Legal Defense \$ 3,000

4.0 UW Hockey –

4.1. Worlds - Australia July 17-29 –
 4.1.1 USOA Mens Masters took GOLD! Won all their games!!
4.2 PCCs – Oct 28-29 Santa Clarita, CA
4.3 USOA uwh now has a scientific peer reviewed paper supporting
the safety in uwh play!!

5.0 UW Rugby –

5.1 Events:
 5.1.2 Boston *Narwhals Tournament* open to all Clubs Sept 23-24.

6.0 UW Photography – now called **Visual** at international/CMAS level

7.0 Skin Spearfishing –

7.1 National Championships, June 15, 2023, in Kona, HI.
 7.1.1 CenCal Mens teams placed 4th and 14th with 22 teams in the
 Mens division. No CenCal teams in other divisions.
7.2 World Championships Spain Sept 7-10 – tough event
 7.2.1 USOA Women Bronze!

8.0 Old Business

8.1 *Kelp Recover & Management Plan (KRMP)* for giant & bull kelp: The KRMP development process is anticipated to occur over the course of three to five years.

8.2 Sea Otter Translocation: Update The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [announced today](#) that southern sea otters will retain their status as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. Following an in-depth review of the species' status, including information provided by species experts, the Service has announced a not-warranted 12-month finding on a petition to remove ESA protection for the southern sea otter.

In 2021, as directed by Congress, the Service assessed the feasibility of reintroducing sea otters to portions of the west coast in Northern California and Oregon where they once thrived. The assessment concluded that reintroduction was biologically feasible and **may have** significant benefits for sea otters and nearshore marine ecosystems, **but additional information about how reintroduction would affect stakeholders and local communities is needed before considering next steps. There is no active proposal to reintroduce sea otters at this time.** [bold added]

9.0 New Business

9.1 Scholarship – CenCal Annual \$1000 Scholarship – basic criteria – must be diver (skin or scuba) and enrolled in CA college, university.

9.1.1 The 2023 Scholarship: *Sandra Travers*, graduate student at Cal Poly Humboldt. Graduated from the UC Santa Cruz; worked as a Marine Science instructor and aquarist at the Catalina Island marine institution. Now pursuing masters in marine biology at Cal Poly Humboldt

9.2 National Marine Sanctuaries: there are 15 US sanctuaries. Six new ones presented including 1 in mid CA, 1 in Hawaii, 1 in NY and one covering some of Lake Erie. Each sanctuary is specific by purpose.

9.2.1 Chumash Sanctuary in mid California moving forward Webinar in October.

9.3 Abalone update:

9.3.1. At recent MRC (Marine Resources Committee of CDFW Commission) meeting, no discussion of sea otter translocation in

9.3.2 In 2022, 6 of the 10 grid sites were evaluated - the remaining 4 sites in 2023. It is apparent, so far, the status of red abalone population is worse not better. No update

9.4 Sea Otter translocation No news

10.0 Next meeting – November 29, 2023 7:30 pm

Carol Rose, Secretary

CenCal meets odd months on **last** Wednesday

CALENDAR 2023

October

Oct 7 Underwater Society of America Annual Meeting - Zoom
Oct 10 *Columbus Day Holiday*
Oct 11-12 CDFW Meeting – San Jose
Oct 14 PCCs Skindiving Spearfishing – San Simeon
Oct 31 Halloween

November

Nov 5 Daylight Savings Off
Nov 11 *Veterans Day Holiday*
Nov 16 CDFW Marine Resources Meeting – San Diego
Nov 24 *Thanksgiving Day Holiday*
Nov 29 CenCal BOD – 5th Wednesday

December

Dec 2-3 Womens UW Hockey Tournament 3x3 Oregon – open all
Dec 7 Pearl Harbor Day
Dec 13-14 CDFW Meeting – San Diego
Dec 22-30 Hannukah
Dec 25 *Christmas Day Holiday*
Dec 31 New Years Eve