

## ODYSSEY



### CENCAL DIVE COUNCIL NEWSLETTER WINTER 2022

#### COASTAL CLEAN UP 20022

On the third Saturday of September yearly, the annual *Coastal Clean Up* occurs. Hundreds of community members pick up thousands of pounds of trash. The event is organized by different local groups/agencies. In Mendocino Cnty, the *Mendocino Land Trust* organized Mendo cleanup for 2022 where plastic bags, food containers, cigarette butts and even a submerged kayak in Noyo Harbor were cleaned up. There were 21 clean up sites county wide.

Some Data:

Noyo Harbor 6169# Russian River 3500# Mitchell Creek 1200#  
The 2023 Coastal Clean Up will be September 16, 2023. From *Independent Coast Observer*

#### CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA,

CITES is a global agreement among governments to regulate or ban international trade in species under threat. It is based Geneva Switzerland. It's an agreement between the governments of more than 180 countries around the world to regulate international trade in wildlife and plants to protect species from extinction. It has been one of the key international conservation agreements since first entering into force on July 1, 1975. When governments voluntarily join the agreement, they are legally bound to create national laws that ensure wildlife trade is legal, sustainable and traceable.

CITES guides nations across the world on how to protect threatened species by regulating and monitoring their trade. It establishes a framework for countries to cooperate with each other to ensure that plant and animal species aren't depleted by international demand. Without CITES, wildlife being imported and exported across borders would be subjected to inconsistent protections. By establishing an international agreement and guidance, law enforcement officials and courts are empowered to identify and enforce species protections. This helps ensure that animal and plant populations are traded sustainably, supporting communities that rely on them now and into the future.

#### NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY FOUNDATION LAUNCHES NEW TOOLKIT TO HELP COMMUNITIES EXPAND AND STRENGTHEN SANCTUARY SYSTEM

The **National Marine Sanctuary Foundation** has launched an online toolkit to support community-led efforts to nominate new national marine sanctuaries. The toolkit provides a step-by-step process on how to protect treasured places in the ocean and Great Lakes as a sanctuary. The toolkit, available through the **National Marine Sanctuary Foundation website** on an **ESRI ArcGIS StoryMap**, walks users through the **US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's** sanctuary nomination process in detail and features links to resources helping create a compelling nomination.

#### WDHOF RECIPIENT OF DEMA DIVING COMMUNITY 'PLATINUM' CHAMPION AWARD

Recognized for their commitment to “*Paying it Forward*,” **WDHOF**, *Women Divers Hall of Fame*, has provided over **US\$500,000 (~€501,950)** in individual grants to 470+ recipients. Globally, they make available Annual Scholarships and Training Grants in support of bringing more divers into the industry. With diving being an expensive sport, these grants also include up to **\$500/~€502** in equipment coverage.

Strongly encouraging and supporting diversity, **WDHOF** has members throughout the world including the US, Canada and 22 other countries. An incredible example of this outreach involves five women from Mexico who applied for entry-level training grants. They desperately wanted to get their families and village away from drugs and crime and instead focused on fishing. After all five were approved and trained, they succeeded in changing the path of their entire community.

The **WDHOF** Mentor program provides career focused panels with topics such as marine biology, conservation, photography, tech diving, diving physiology, diving medicine and maritime archeology. The Panel Members are also willing to follow up with participants one-on-one and will put together resources to help them with the next steps in furthering their career. For more information or to support the **Women Divers Hall of Fame** (men may be associate members), go to [www.wdhof.org](http://www.wdhof.org). FYI: CenCal **Hall** members are Brigit Grimm, MaryJo Ferris Fischer & Carol Rose, and, Dr Laura Rogers-Bennett, CDFW/UCDavis Abalone biologist is also a member.

## **DOWNLOAD AN EBOOK DIVE AND TRAVEL GUIDE TODAY**

*Dive Travel Guides* is a growing series of new eBook guides designed to provide comprehensive information about premiere scuba diving destinations. These eBooks are available from iTunes, Amazon/Kindle and the Google Play Store. *Dive Travel Guides* are digital versions of print guidebooks. These comprehensive eBooks will provide everything needed to research a destination or plan a dive trip. All of the guides include more than 350 high resolution images and imbedded video. These days, virtually everyone travels with some sort of electronic device. These eBooks work well on smart phones, laptops, tablets and desktops and are the perfect travel companion for a scuba vacation.

- 1. There are many benefits to using ebooks.** Guides include most of the popular dive sites with a close up look at the marine life. They literally review highlights of a dive before entering the water and feature chapters on Marine Life, above water activities, travel logistics and many other topics.
- 2. Using the eBook.** Upon downloading an eBook to a device, there is access most of the features without an internet connection. To look up a specific topic, use the electronic Table of Contents or digital search tools. To record highlights from a trip, just add your own notes to the text, making the dive travel guide into an interactive dive log. The size of the images or embedded video can be increased to full screen by just tapping on the screen or using cursor. Also, scroll through the eBooks using a horizontal or vertical orientation, change fonts, font size and/or the background color or brightness. Dive Guides are less expensive than print books and offer so much more.
- 3. Social Media Capabilities and Direct Links.** With an Internet connection, the eBook gives the ability to utilize social media to share your comments and notes with others. The live links contained in the book can be used to access related web pages.
- 4. Award-Winning Dive Travel Guides.** Several guides have received prestigious awards in international Media competitions. Guide, **Dive and Travel Galapagos**, which was initially published in 2017 and revised in 2022, was named the top Travel Guide in the world by the

prestigious North American Travel Journalists Association. The first edition of **Dive and Travel the Bay Islands of Honduras** earned a Gold Medal in the eLit Awards competition in 2018.

**5. Testimonials by Dive Professionals. Dive and Travel Galapagos ★★★★★**by **Marty Snyderman** *"Steve Rosenberg is a highly accomplished writer and photographer, both topside and underwater. As his friend for many years, I happen to know he has won numerous awards for his works, and he is highly respected by his peers.*

*That said, writing a comprehensive guide to the Galapagos presents quite a challenge. There is an enormous amount of expertise required to properly cover the dive sites, land tours, wildlife, and travel tips that will help others get the most out of a visit to that incredible and varied archipelago. Steve has done a superb job in accomplishing this task, and he is to be congratulated for creating such a thorough guide in a style that is perfect for diving tourists. Hats off to you Steve! And thank you for creating Dive Galapagos, a book has helped countless visitors get the most out of their visits both on land and in the water."*

**5. Download an eBook today! Try a free download** at the website. Just added, the new eBook, **Dive and Travel Turks and Caicos** and an updated version of **Dive and Travel Galapagos**. The **Cozumel** eBook is currently available for free. [www.divetravelguides.com](http://www.divetravelguides.com)

## **CDFW REOPENS LICENSE SALES OFFICES THROUGHOUT STATE**

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is pleased to announce the reopening of many of its license sales offices following their closure in 2020 to help stop the spread of COVID-19. Hunters, anglers and other members of the public can once again visit these CDFW sales offices to purchase hunting and fishing licenses, tags, report cards, hunt applications, lands passes, Warden Stamps and other CDFW offerings. CDFW's six license sales offices are located in Eureka, Rancho Cordova, Fairfield, Stockton, Fresno and San Diego. Locations and hours are available on CDFW's website. CDFW licenses, permits, tags and other entitlements may be also purchased through the following sales channels:

- Online via CDFW's Online License Sales and Services website
- Over the telephone through CDFW's authorized telephone sales agent at (800) 565-1458, and
- Through an authorized independent license sales agent (ex: local sporting goods store, large discount store, or bait and tackle shop).

CDFW's Redding sales counter remains closed though customer service staff are available in-person to validate hunting tags, answer questions and provide and receive applications to be fulfilled by mail. Following the relocation of CDFW's License and Revenue Branch to the California Natural Resources Building in downtown Sacramento in October 2021, license sales and customer support continue to be available by phone, mail, fax, email and internet.

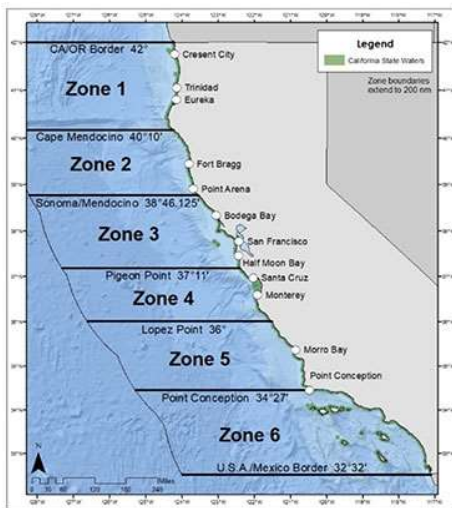
**AND – MORE NEWS!!**

In 2023, fishing licenses can be E!! Currently, fishers can buy on line, receive temp and then a paper license comes in the USPS. With new system, approved and required Legislative action, fishing licenses can be purchased and stored on line/Mobil device!

To stay informed of in-season regulatory changes, please call the Recreational Groundfish Hotline at (831) 649-2801 or visit CDFW's [summary of recreational groundfish fishing regulations](#).

## **CDFW CONTINUES PARTIAL RECREATIONAL CRAB TRAP RESTRICTION AND COMMERCIAL DUNGENESS CRAB FISHERY DELAY TO PROTECT WHALES FROM ENTANGLEMENT AND DUE TO LOW CRAB QUALITY**

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is continuing the temporary recreational crab trap restriction in Fishing Zones 3, 4, 5 and 6 due to presence of humpback whales and the potential for entanglement from trap gear. However, the recreational crab trap restriction for Fishing Zones 1 and 2 will be lifted on Nov. 28, 2022 at 9 a.m. CDFW reminds recreational crabbers that take of Dungeness crab by other methods, including hoop nets and crab snares, is allowed during a temporary trap restriction. The commercial Dungeness crab fishery in Fishing Zones 3-6 will also remain delayed due to presence of high numbers of humpback whales and the potential for entanglement with lines and traps in this fishery



In addition, pursuant to Fish and Game Code 8672.2, Director Bonham has also delayed the northern California commercial Dungeness crab season due to poor crab meat quality test results (PDF) for Mendocino, Humboldt and Del Norte counties (Fishing Zones 1 and 2). The commercial Dungeness crab fishery in this area is delayed until 12:01 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 16, 2022 pending another round of meat quality testing. If results indicate good quality, the fishery will open and be preceded by a 64-hour gear setting period that will begin at 8:01 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2022. For more information related to the risk assessment process, please visit [CDFW's Whale Safe Fisheries page](#) or more information on the Dungeness crab fishery, please visit [wildlife.ca.gov/crab](http://wildlife.ca.gov/crab).

## **GRAY WHALE POPULATION OFF WESTERN US DECLINES**

The number of gray whales off western North America continues to decline and fall over last two years. The most recent count puts the population at 16,650 which is down 38% from 2015-16. And the fewest calves were produced since 1994 down from 383 to 217. NOAA are investigating ‘the unusual 2019 mortality event’ but NOAA believes climate change and its effects on sea ice and prey availability/location are likely factors. Many of the washed up whales appeared malnourished.

## **PLASTIC POLLUTION GLOBAL PROBLEM DEMANDS A GLOBAL SOLUTION**

In the multi-pronged strategy to tackle the global plastic pollution problem, world leaders and policymakers should focus on one area that has thus far received only minor attention: international trade. That was one takeaway from a panel event co-hosted by The *Pew Charitable Trusts* at the World Trade Organization (WTO) Public Forum. The Public Forum—27 to 30 September in Geneva, Switzerland—is the WTO’s largest annual outreach event, bringing together civil society, business, governments and intergovernmental organizations to discuss issues related to world trade.

United Nations Environment Assembly agreed to begin negotiations by 2024 on an international legally binding agreement to reduce plastic pollution. Plastic pollution has dramatically increased worldwide in recent decades with about 11 million metric tons of plastic entering the ocean every year—roughly equivalent to one rubbish truckload of plastic every minute.

Fortunately, solutions are on the horizon. As in the Pew 2020 report, [Breaking the Plastic Wave](#), the plastic pollution entering the ocean could be reduced by 80 per cent by 2040 using existing technologies and policy mechanisms. The panelists discussed some of the solutions could be implemented at the national and international level and laid out the need for systemic change, noting no single solution would solve the problem, but rather solutions are needed throughout the entire plastic value chain. Thoughts on what potential trade policy measures could help reduce plastic pollution, included bans on problematic plastics, reducing or removing tariffs on plastics substitutes, and transparent reporting on trade flows, to name a few.

## **KELP FOREST ECOSYSTEM LOSS IS NOT ISOLATED TO CALIFORNIA**

The value of the kelp cannot be overstated as the forests created are just as rich, dynamic, and important as terrestrial counterparts. Starting in 2014, the California North Coast kelp forests, primarily the Sonoma and Mendocino County coastlines, declined by as much as 96%. Poor oceanographic conditions, the complete absence of any apex predators and a change in behavior of purple urchins from passive to active grazers led to a large-scale shift from bull kelp forests to urchin barrens across most of Northern California. This combination of stressors, known to create a “perfect storm” of conditions each facilitating and exacerbating the other, led to aquatic deforestation.

Kelp forest ecosystem loss is not isolated to California. These ecosystems are declining at an accelerated rate globally. Such extensive and rapid losses have had severe ecological, social, and economic impacts touching every corner of human existence. The *The Nature Conservancy (TNC)* launched an ambitious effort to protect and restore kelp forest ecosystems in California and the world.. With a diverse set of partnerships, TNC is focused on the protection and restoration of kelp forests addressing three main components: Mapping and Monitoring, Reset and Restore.

To reset the ecosystem, TNC are interested in ways to reduce the density of kelp-eating urchins on reefs to facilitate kelp growth. In partnership with *Reef Check*, *California Ocean Protection Council*, *California Department of Fish & Wildlife*, local commercial urchin divers and processors, experimentally removing urchins at 3 targeted sites in Mendocino Cnty. For the urchin being harvested, to ensure none are wasted, exploring the development of a new market for food and non-food urchin. An urchin ranching industry could transform empty purple urchins into valuable seafood, and non-food grade urchins could be used for soil amendments. In addition to human-led efforts to remove purple urchins, TNC and Friday Harbor Marine Labs are leading a captive breeding program for the endangered Sunflower seastar to safeguard this iconic and invaluable ocean predator.

## **US POSTAL SERVICES UNVEILS NEW NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES STAMPS.**

The **US Postal Service** released new postage stamps featuring sharks, sea otters, seals and iconic seascapes to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the **National Marine Sanctuary System**, the USA's national parks of the ocean. The new stamps celebrate these spectacular places and raising awareness.



**CenCal** November 30 Meeting 2022

**Membership:** calendar year, so due 1 January. Dues are \$15. CenCal has not raised dues in eons – Can pay by check, make to CenCal, send to PO Box 1727, Sonoma CA; pay on line at website; some clubs have collection and transfer. Any questions, ever, to Carol Rose, [croseusoa@aol.com](mailto:croseusoa@aol.com) or [3mcircle@gmail.com](mailto:3mcircle@gmail.com)

Website great place for updates, new information, activities, payments and .....

**Financial Report** – Larry Ankuda Treasurer – Year End

Balances.	December 31, 2022	\$	19,466.19
	General Fund	\$	3,700
	Skin Spear	\$	12,766
	Legal Defense	\$	3,000

**Scholarship** – resurrect the CenCal Annual \$1000 Scholarship – basic criteria – must be diver, over 18 and enrolled in CA college, university. Other criteria to be developed, reviewed and approved. Need a committee chair and small working group. See CenCal website for details: [cencal.org](http://cencal.org)

**UW Sport** –

UW Hockey: *Club Puck* – new pool in Sunnyvale play coming weekend; San Francisco now playing at Hoffman.

UW Rugby – *Giant Sea Bass* playing Mtn View

Skin Spearfishing – National Championships June 13-16, 2023, Kona; one day meet - 'Exotic' fish only as target species

**Old Business**

Proposed Wind Energy, CA: Federal new idea of floating platforms for windmills; two locations – Humboldt and S

Red Abalone Fishery Management Plan – in progress

RAAC - Need new CenCal member living in SF Bay Area.

Update: plans/process to develop a *Kelp Recover & Management Plan* **KRMP** for giant & bull kelp. Kelp loss a worldwide issue. Tasmania has large replant area.

## **New Business**

CDFW Meetings: Marine Resources Comm met Nov17 – approved several changes to ground fish regs for rockfish, cabazon and greenling -

**Next Meeting** – January 25, 2023 (last Wednesday) 7:30 pm Zoom

## **DECEMBER 2022**

December 19-26 Hanukkah  
December 21 & 22 King Tides  
December 25 *Christmas Day Holiday*  
December 31 National Champagne Day

## **CALENDAR 2023**

### **January**

January 1 *New Year Holiday*  
January 16 *MLK Jr Holiday*  
January 21 & 22 King Tides  
January 21+ DasBOOT – Dive Show in Germany – returns  
January 25 CenCal BOD Meeting

### **February**

February 8-9 CA Fish & Wildlife Commission, Sacramento  
February 14 Valentines Day  
February 20 *Presidents Day Holiday*

### **March**

March 16 CDFW Marine Resources Meeting, Monterey Area  
March 25-26 Beneath the Sea Dive Exposition, New Jersey  
March 29 CenCal BOD - 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday

### **April**

April Easter Sunday  
April 19-20 CDFW Meeting Bakersfield

### **May**

May 9 Mother's Day  
May 12-14 **USOA UW Rugby Nationals, Washington DC**  
May 12-14 Finswimming World Cup – Florida  
May 17 CDFW Teleconference Meeting  
May 29 *Memorial Day Holiday*  
May 31 CenCal BOA – 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday

### **June**

June 3-4 Scuba Show LA  
June 9-11 **USOA Underwater Hockey Nationals** Univ Minn, Minneapolis  
June 14-15 CDFW Meeting - Sacramento  
June 13-17 **USOA Skindiving Spearfishing Nationals, Kona Hawaii**  
June 20 Fathers Day  
June 26-Jul 2 **Juniors World Finswimming Championships, Cairo**

### **July**

July 4 *Independence Day Holiday*  
 July 7-15 **UW Rugby World Championships, Montreal**  
 July 20 CDFW Marine Resources Meeting – Sonoma area  
 July 26 CenCal BOD

**August**

August 22-23 CDFW Commission Meeting – North Coast

**September**

Sept 5 *Labor Day Holiday*  
 Sept 7-10 **World Championships Skindiving Spearfishing, Spain**  
 Sept 11 Patriots Day  
 Sept 27 CenCal BOD  
 Sept 30 Rosh Hosanna – begins sunset

**October**

Oct 8 Yom Kippur – begins sunset  
 Oct 10 *Columbus Day Holiday*  
 Oct 11-12 CDFW Meeting – San Jose  
 Oct 31 Halloween

**November**

Nov 11 *Veterans Day Holiday*  
 Nov 16 CDFW Marine Resources Meeting – San Diego  
 Nov 24 *Thanksgiving Day Holiday*  
 Nov 29 CenCal BOD – 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday

**December**

Dec 7 Pearl Harbor Day  
 Dec 13-14 CDFW Meeting – San Diego  
 Dec 22-30 Hannukah  
 Dec 25 *Christmas Day Holiday*

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