

ODYSSEY



CENCAL DIVE COUNCIL NEWSLETTER WINTER 2024

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NEWS: The November/final CenCal 2024 meeting will be held on December 4, first Wednesday in December instead of last Wednesday in November as that Wednesday is day before Thanksgiving – I remember the November meeting eons ago when I had the Thanksgiving turkey in an ice chest in the car on our way to the holiday! So, first Wednesday in December.

The Calendar has been updated through 2025 with events and dates as far as they are known. It will be updated regularly as events and changes are known.



MORE

Skindiving Spearfishing 20205:

National Championships and World Championships:

Nationals are set for mid April at Lake Pleasant Arizona, Friday April 11. The annual Committee Meeting will be held there on Wednesday April 9 and include any proposed Rule changes. Rule change proposals are due NO later than midnight March 8.

Worlds tentatively set for Brazil in late November - November 21-24, 2025.



CHUMASH SANCTUARY DESIGNATED!

October 11, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) posted the final designation documents for the new Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary! Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary is America's 17th national marine sanctuary, the sixth off the U.S. West Coast, and is one of the largest in the National Marine Sanctuary System.



CDPH LIFTS WARNINGS ABOUT SPORT-HARVESTED SHELLFISH FROM MARIN AND MONTEREY COUNTIES



The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) lifted the shellfish safety notification on November 12, 2024 related to sport-harvested mussels, clams, and scallops from Marin and Monterey counties.

The safety notifications for Marin County, issued [July 26, 2024](#), and Monterey County, issued [July 18, 2024](#), were due to dangerous levels of naturally occurring paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) toxins in mussels that can cause illness or death in humans. Recent testing shows PSP toxins have decreased to safe or

undetectable levels for bivalve shellfish in these areas. The warning for Del Norte County remains in effect.

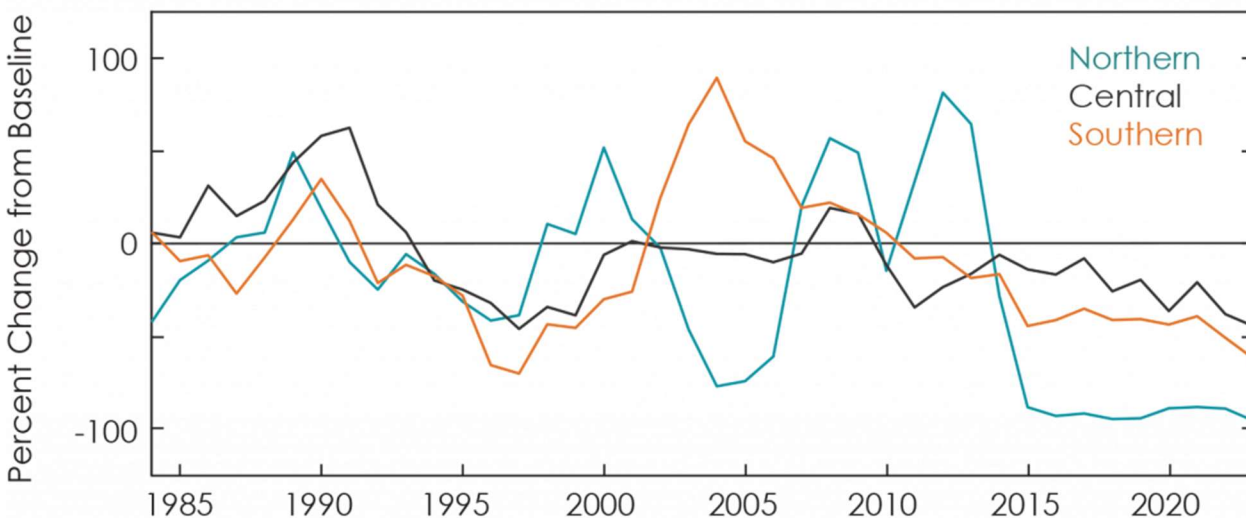
This warning did not apply to commercially sold mussels, clams, scallops, or oysters from approved sources. State law permits only state-certified commercial shellfish harvesters or dealers to sell these products. Shellfish sold by certified harvesters and dealers are subject to frequent mandatory testing to monitor for toxins.



KELP CANOPY COVERAGE

Kelp forests naturally change from year to year, as shown by satellite data since 1984. However, from 2014 to 2019, more than 95% of the bull kelp on California's north coast (California-Oregon border to San Francisco Bay) was wiped out. This was due to a marine heatwave, warmer nutrient-poor waters, and the loss of sea stars, which normally control kelp-eating purple sea urchin populations. As of 2023, kelp recovery has been slow, with only approximately 10% of the historical kelp canopy remaining.

This graph shows how kelp canopy coverage in northern, central, and southern California has changed over time compared to the average before the 2014-2015 marine heatwave. The data were obtained from satellite imagery and use a 3-year running average.





INVASIVE NON-NATIVE GOLDEN MUSSEL DISCOVERED IN THE SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA

Golden mussel (*Limnoperna fortunei*), an invasive, non-native freshwater bivalve, was recently discovered in the Port of Stockton by California Department of Water Resources staff while conducting routine operations. Suspected golden mussels have also been identified at O'Neill Forebay in Merced County and are currently undergoing genetic testing for confirmation.

This discovery is the first known occurrence of golden mussels in North America. The species poses a significant immediate threat to the ecological health of the Delta and all waters of the state, water conveyance systems, infrastructure and water quality.

In waterways where this species is present, heavy encrustations of golden mussels have blocked municipal and industrial water intakes, necessitated ongoing biofouling removal, harmed native species in the ecosystem, increased water clarity due to intense filter feeding, and diminished water quality.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), California State Parks, California Department of Water Resources (DWR), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, and other state, federal, and local agencies regularly coordinate through the Aquatic Invasive Species program. This partnership aims to limit the spread of invasive species in California's waterways, which cause damage to native species and the ecosystems they need to survive.

Golden mussels were likely introduced to California by a ship traveling from an international port. They are likely to spread throughout the Delta and through the water conveyance systems associated with it. Without containment, golden mussels are likely to spread to other freshwater bodies in California, and to other ports and inland waters of North America, and abroad.

Golden mussels are native to rivers and creeks of China and Southeast Asia. They are known to be established outside of their native range in Hong Kong, Japan, Taiwan, Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay and Argentina. The initial introductions to these countries were also likely the result of ships from biofouling on the hulls and/or ballast water release. In most cases, the invaded range has expanded upstream from the point of introduction and inland from ports through local, human-mediated pathways. Within the invaded range significant impacts are widely documented resulting from the dense colonization of golden mussels on hard surfaces.

The California Natural Resources Agency and its partners call upon everyone working and recreating in waters of the state to clean, drain and dry watercraft and equipment every time it is removed from a waterbody. This simple measure has served to prevent spreading quagga and zebra mussels and is equally effective in stopping the overland spread of golden mussels. DWR is now conducting boat inspections at O'Neill Forebay in an effort to reduce the spread of aquatic invasive species.



**CALIFORNIA MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS:
CLIMATE STORYTELLING CONTEST SUBMISSIONS DUE
MAY 29, 2025**

Climate change, caused by the burning of fossil fuels like oil and gas, is impacting communities in California and across the globe. Different feelings often come up when thinking about climate change and it's easy to get lost in the data, graphs, and scientific literature. What if storytelling can help us understand those feelings and teach us something about climate change? The California Coastal Commission invites you to answer the prompt below through a **podcast, photo essay, or narrative essay**.

Enter by May 29, 2025



**GET HOOKED ON THE
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE WEBSITE!**

For the latest information on fishing regulations and news affecting California's ocean resources, your first stop should be the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW's) [Marine Region web pages](#). The comprehensive information source includes hundreds of ocean-related web pages and documents readily available to the public.

If you are new to this website, we invite you to explore the valuable resources we have created. For those who have already visited the site, be sure to check back regularly, since new features, updates, blog posts, and news releases are added every week.

Here are some recent, noteworthy additions and updates:

Summary of Recreational Groundfish Regulations: Find the Groundfish Management Area where you want to go fishing – there are five of them, statewide – and check out the sport fishing regulations that apply there! These handy tables summarize sport fishing regulations for rockfish, lingcod, cabezon, kelp greenling, and rock greenling in each area. Tables can be viewed online, downloaded, and printed. Sport fishing regulations for these and other species of groundfish may be found online, in interactive maps, and in PDF format.



GOVERNOR NEWSOM ANNOUNCED

the release of the second Pathways to 30x30 Annual Progress Report. We are proud to celebrate our shared progress towards conserving 30% of California's lands and coastal waters by 2030.

We've now reached 25.2% of lands and 16.2% of coastal waters counting towards California's 30x30 target and meeting the state's definition of durably conserved and managed for biodiversity. In just this past year, roughly 861,000 acres of land has been counted and added to our total



CENCAL BOD MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 2024

Sept 25, 2024

7:30 pm

Carol Rose, Secretary 3mcircle@gmail.com

1.0 Welcome and Introductions

1.1 Present: Larry Ankuda, Carol Rose

2.0 Membership: CenCal as of Sept 26, 2024.

CenCal = 48
USOA = 5

3.0 Finances – Larry Ankuda, Treasurer:

3.1 Balances \$ 14,052.33

General Fund \$ 825.03
Income \$ 3756.67
Expenses \$ 2931.65
Skin Spear \$ 10227.3
Legal Defense \$ 3000.

3.2 Budget 2024 – 2024 Expenses. **All Paid**

3.3 Scholarship – 2024 year, \$2000

3.3.1 info and promotion – See website cencal.org

3.3.2 Two excellent applicants – both awarded

4.0 UW Hockey –

4.1 Club Puck playing weekly at Fremont High School **in** Sunnyvale

4.2. PCCs Sept 14-15 – two CenCal area teams – Santa Rosa & Bay Area

4.3 available a scientific peer reviewed paper supporting safety in play.

5.0 UW Rugby – playing Mt View, Albany

6.0 UW Photography – SHOOTOUT is BACK!! And Successful

6.1 156 photographers

6.2 \$30,000 IN prizes

6.3 Next Year August 22-24, 2025

7.0 Skin Spearfishing – 2025 Nationals tentatively

7.1 April 11, Lake Pleasant AZ, boat based

7.2 Fish: striped bass, carp and shad – no limits

8.0 Old Business

8.1 **Sea Otter** translocation -NO known/proposed plans

8.2 **MPAs/Changes** – There are 124 MPAs in California. There are now some 80+ petitions for changes to the current MPAs. The administrative process is complex – now grouping changes. Decision/action is long process.

8.3 **Red Abalone Recovery Plan:** The Plan is anticipated to take two years (2024-2026). As a result of the 2014-2016 marine heat wave, there was a rapid and massive decline of kelp forests: decline in the staple food of abalone, a lack of nutrient storage and a decline in species diversity.

8.4 **KRMP/Kelp Restoration & Management Plan** – CDFW, in partnership with the California Ocean Protection Council (OPC), is developing a statewide, ecosystem-based, adaptive Kelp Restoration and Management Plan (KRMP) for giant kelp, *Macrocystis pyrifera*, and bull

kelp, *Nereocystis luetkeana*. The KRMP development process is anticipated to occur over the course of three to five years.

9.0 New Business – Coastal Cleanup Day

9.1 40th Annual

9.2 Some 28,751 volunteers. 242,312# trash
12,461# recyclable total 2254,772 \$/127 tons

9.3 750 cleanup sites

10.0 Next meeting – December 4, 2024 7:30 pm

Carol Rose, Secretary

meet odd months **last** Wednesday/November last Wed day before Thanksgiving



CALENDAR 2024-2025

December 2024

Dec 4	<u>CenCal BOD – November Meeting</u>
Dec 7	Pearl Harbor Day
Dec 11-12	CDFW Meeting – San Diego
Dec 21	Winter Solstice/First Day of Winter
<i>Dec 25</i>	<i>Christmas Day Holiday</i>
Dec 26	Hanukkah
Dec 26	Kwanzaa

January 2025

<i>Jan 20</i>	<i>MLK Jr Holiday</i>
Jan 24-26	Battle at Altitude UW Hockey Denver
Jan 29	Lunar New Year

February

Feb 2	Ground Hog Day
Feb 12-13	Cal Dept Fish & Wildlife Meeting
Feb 14	Valentine's Day
<i>Feb 17</i>	<i>Presidents Day Holiday</i>

March

March 1	First Night Ramadan
March 5	Ash Wednesday
March 9	Daylight Savings

March 13 Marine Resources Comm Meeting
March 15-16 Boston Sea Rovers Dive Show
March 17 St Pats Day
March 20 First Day Spring
March 28-30 Beneath the Sea Dive Show

April

April 9 Skindiving Spearfishing Comm & Rules Meeting
April 11 Skindiving Spearfishing Nationals Lake Pleasant AZ
April 13 Palm Sunday
April 18 Good Friday
Paul Revere Ride
April 20 Easter
Orthodox Easter
April 22 Earth Day
April 26-27 Lucky Florida Cup, UW Hockey, Orlando FL

May

May 4 May the Fourth Be With You
May 5 Cinco de Mayo
May 11 Mothers Day
May 23-25 Fin Swimming World Cup Coral Springs FL
May 26 Memorial Day
May 31-June 1 Scuba Show, Long Beach

June

June 8 Oceans Day
June 14 Flag Day
June 15 Fathers Day
June 19 Cal Dept Fish & Wildlife Meeting
June 20 First Day Summer

July

July 4 Independence Day
July 14 Marine Resources Committee Meeting

August

September

Sept 1 Labor Day
Sept 23 First Day Fall
Sept 23 Rosh Hashanah

October

Oct 2 Yom Kippur

Oct 4 USOA Annual Membership Meeting – Virtual
Oct 13 Indigenous People Day

November

Nov 2 Daylight Off
Nov 11 Election Day
Nov 6 Marine Resources Comm Meeting
Nov 11 Veterans Day
Nov 11-14 DEMA – Orlando FL
Nov 21-24 Skindiving Spear Worlds Brazil
Nov 27 Thanksgiving Day

December

Dec 7 Pearl Harbor Day
Dec 11 Cal Dept Fish & Wildlife Commission Meeting
Dec 15 Hanukkah
Dec 21 First Day Winter
Dec 25 Christmas Day