

ODYSSEY



CENCAL DIVE COUNCIL NEWSLETTER FALL 2024

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CDPH WARNS CONSUMERS NOT TO EAT SPORT-HARVESTED BIVALVE SHELLFISH FROM SANTA BARBARA COUNTY



The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is advising consumers not to eat sport-harvested mussels, clams, or scallops from Santa Barbara County.

Dangerous levels of domoic acid, also referred to as Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning (ASP), have been detected in mussels from Santa Barbara County. The naturally occurring domoic acid toxin can cause illness or death in humans.

Cooking does not destroy the toxin.

This shellfish safety notification is in addition to the annual mussel quarantine. The annual quarantine applies to all species of mussels harvested for human

consumption along the California coast, as well as all bays and estuaries, and will continue through at least October 31.

Symptoms of ASP can occur within 30 minutes to 24 hours after eating toxic seafood. In mild cases, symptoms may include vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal cramps, headache, and dizziness. These symptoms disappear within several days. In severe cases, the victim may experience trouble breathing, confusion, disorientation, cardiovascular instability, seizures, excessive bronchial secretions, permanent loss of short-term memory, coma, or death.

This warning does not apply to commercially sold clams, mussels, 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.

You can get current information on shellfish advisories and quarantines by calling CDPH's toll-free Shellfish Information Line at (800) 553-4133 or viewing the recreational bivalve shellfish advisory interactive map. For additional information, please visit the CDPH Marine Biotxin Monitoring web page.



LOBSTER SEASON

California recreational lobster season started Friday September 2, 2024 at 6pm. Season ends March 19, 2025. Size limit is 3.25"



UPDATED OCEAN SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS BOOKLET NOW AVAILABLE



The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has updated its 2024 California Ocean Sport Fishing Regulations booklet (PDF), and encourages anglers and all outdoor enthusiasts coastwide to download and review the September 16, 2024 version.

The updated booklet is now available on the CDFW Fishing Regulations web page, in the CDFW License App, and on the CDFW Marine Region's comprehensive Ocean Sport Fishing web page.

Regulation changes and updates include the following:

- New **white sturgeon** regulations (CCR T14 §27.93) that describe the catch-and-release season that begins October 1, 2024.

Fish and Game Commission Approves Catch-and-Release Sport Fishing for White Sturgeon; Currently Closed Season Expected to Reopen Oct. 1 The CDFW Seeks Public Comment Related to White Sturgeon

For a quick check of seasons, size limits, and bag/possession limits for popular California fish and shellfish, go to the regulation summary tables beginning on page 46 in the booklet.



REMEMBER A MARITIME TRAGEDY:

NTSB Chair Jennifer Homendy spoke at a five-year memorial for the deadly blaze and sinking of the *MV Conception*. She said despite her agency's push to make safety management systems mandatory, **the Coast Guard has yet to implement them.**



CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

California Coastal Art & Poetry Contest

California students in K-12 grades can submit artwork or poetry about California's coast and ocean by January 31, 2025. Ten winners will receive a \$100 gift certificate to Blick Art Materials or a bookstore, plus four tickets to Aquarium of the Pacific. Each winner's teacher will receive a \$50 gift certificate from Acorn Naturalists. Winning art and poetry will be part of a traveling exhibit through 2025.

There are five grade categories for awards in both art and poetry: K-1, 2-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12. **Entries must have a California coastal or ocean theme** (for example, no tropical or arctic settings or species). Art does not need to depict specific places or species, but if it does, they must be California places and species. Meaning, sometimes a fish is just a "fish," but if it's a recognizable type of fish, make sure it's one that lives here! (Learn about [California native species](#).) And while you can submit a poem about "the beach," please don't submit one about Waikiki Beach, for example.

The contest flyer is in [ENGLISH](#) or [SPANISH](#). **Original artwork may not exceed 11 x 17 inches in size.** Acceptable art media are paint, pencil, markers, ink, crayon, chalk or pastel (fixed), collage, and digital art. Three-dimensional pieces, photography, or art that uses glitter are not eligible. For more information, or to request to have an entry form emailed or mailed to you, contact the California Coastal Commission at coast4u@coastal.ca.gov.



40TH ANNUAL COASTAL CLEAN UP REPORT

Over 28,751 volunteers have already participated in California [Coastal Cleanup 2024](#). THANK YOU!

With 60% of the cleanup sites reporting, the statewide count stands at 28,751 volunteers. Those volunteers picked up 242,312 pounds of trash and an additional 12,461 pounds of recyclable materials, for a total of 254,772 pounds or 127 tons.



CENCAL UNDERWATER SPORTS:

Underwater Hockey – at recent, annual Pacific Coast Championships held in Santa Clarita CA, the Santa Rosa Sharks and a combined Bay Area sent teams. San Diego Sea Dragons won A division. Sharks 4th, Bay Area 5th.

A local skin spear club is holding a spearfishing competition out of Ocean Cove October 18-19.

Underwater rugby is playing in 2 pools: Mtn View and Albany



RECORD-BREAKING YEAR 2024 FWC LIONFISH CHALLENGE

The ninth edition of the FWC Lionfish Challenge recently concluded on Sept. 2 with competitors battling until the last minute and the record number from 2023 shattering. In a year that demolished previous records, participants showcased their determination to rid Florida waters of invasive lionfish and claim the coveted titles of Lionfish King or Queen and Commercial Champion.

The 2024 Lionfish Challenge witnessed an increase in participation, with 285 dedicated divers submitting their lionfish harvests. These dedicated divers embarked on over 700 trips throughout the state during the Challenge and removed 31,773 lionfish from the waters of Florida.

This is the highest tournament total since the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) Lionfish Challenge inception in 2016. Amidst these awe-inspiring results, two participants emerged as the victors. Introducing the winners of the 2024 Lionfish Challenge:

- **Lionfish King (First Place Recreational Division):** Baye Beaford (Duval) – 915 lionfish
- **Second Place Recreational Division:** Dale Wolber (Duval) – 866 lionfish
- **Third Place Recreational Division:** Tim Robinson (Broward) – 726 lionfish
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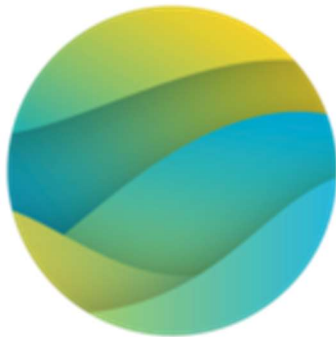
FEIS FOR THE PROPOSED CHUMASH HERITAGE NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

September 6, 2024, NOAA released the final environmental impact statement (FEIS) Volume I and Volume II for the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary designation. This is the first Indigenous-focused sanctuary nomination and a significant step in the sanctuary designation process, with a final agency decision expected in October 2024.

The FEIS provides decision-makers and the public with an evaluation of the environmental, social, and economic effects of the proposed action to designate the coastal and offshore waters along the central California coast as a national marine sanctuary. The preferred boundary alternative identified in the FEIS would encompass 4,543 square miles, in ocean waters of Central California, and bring comprehensive community- and ecosystem-based management to the area's nationally-significant natural, historical, archaeological, and cultural resources, while meaningfully involving local Tribes and Indigenous groups to help guide sanctuary management and programming.

As required by the National Environmental Policy Act, NOAA must wait 30 days after publication of the FEIS before signing the Record of Decision. Following the 30 days, should NOAA decide to designate the sanctuary, the agency will release the final rule and Record of Decision.

For more information and updates, please visit <https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/chumash-heritage/>.



CALIFORNIA
**OCEAN
PROTECTION
COUNCIL**

CALIFORNIA ARTIFICIAL REEF PROGRAM PLAN

Up to \$550,000 to California Sea Grant to develop a comprehensive California Artificial Reef Program Plan. This plan will provide a statewide, science-based approach to inform the management artificial reefs, including best practices for siting, design, monitoring, and evaluating potential benefits and risks of these structures.

SENATE BILL 1 SEA LEVEL RISE ADAPTATION PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM

Up to \$5,421,250 in funding for three sea level rise planning and adaptation projects under the SB 1 Grant Program. These projects will enable local and regional governments to prepare for and strengthen coastal resilience to sea level rise:

- Up to \$1,500,000 to City of Richmond for a framework to address sea level rise vulnerability.
- Up to \$965,000 to City of Mill Valley for a city-wide coastal flooding adaptation plan.
- Up to \$2,956,250 to San Mateo County Harbor District for a pilot restoration project at Surfers Beach

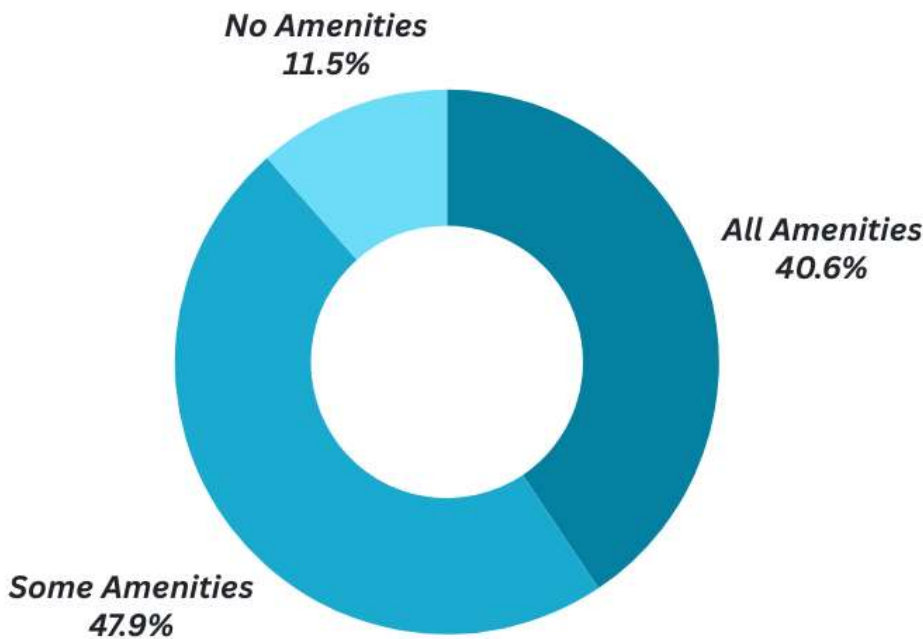
PUBLIC ACCESS TO CALIFORNIA’S COAST

Currently, 39% of California’s coastline is within a quarter mile of a public beach access point. Of those access points, 86% have parking, 56% have restrooms, and 45% are wheelchair accessible. Only 40.6% of these access points provide all three of these amenities. While there have been increases in public access to beaches, sea level rise is expected to decrease public beach access and overall coastal access in California without further intervention.

For more detailed information about this California coast and ocean health indicator and others, see pages 39-43 of the Annual Report 2023:

Access Points with Amenities

(Parking, Restrooms, Wheelchair Accessibility)



Access Points with Each Amenity



CALIFORNIA BANS SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAGS

California, USA – California’s governor has signed a new bill into law that bans single-use plastic bags across the state. The law, which will take effect next year, aims to reduce plastic pollution and protect marine life along the California coastline. Environmental groups have praised the bill as a significant step forward in reducing the environmental impact of plastic waste, while opponents argue it may negatively affect businesses. The law is seen as a model for other states considering similar legislation.



DIVE CALENDAR

October

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| Oct 3 | Rosh Hashanah |
| Oct 4-6 | North American Inter-Regional UWH Denver |
| Oct 6 | USOA Annual Meeting |
| Oct 12 | Yom Kippur |
| Oct 14 | <i>Indigenous Day</i> |
| Oct 31 | Halloween |
| Oct 31 | Diwali |

November

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| Nov 3 | Daylight Savings Ends |
| Nov 5 | Election Day |
| Nov 7 | Pearl Harbor Remembrance |
| Nov 11 | <i>Veterans Day Holiday</i> |
| Nov 16 | Shipwrecks & Scuba, 40 th Anniv, Huron Ohio |
| Nov 19-22 | DEMA Show Las Vegas |
| Nov 28 | <i>Thanksgiving Day Holiday</i> |

December

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| Dec 7 | Pearl Harbor Day |
| Dec 21 | Winter Solstice/First Day of Winter |
| Dec 25 | <i>Christmas Day Holiday</i> |
| Dec 26 | Hanukkah |
| Dec 26 | Kwanzaa |

January 2025

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| Jan 1 | <i>New Year Holiday</i> |
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Jan 2 Hanukkah Ends
Jan 20 Presidential Inauguration
Jan 20 MLK Jr Holiday

February

Feb 2 Groundhog Day
Feb 14 Valentine's Day
Feb 17 Presidents Day Holiday

March

Mar 1 First Day Ramadan
Mar 9 Daylight Time starts 2am
Mar 17 St Patricks Day
Mar 19 Lobster Season Closes California

April

April 1 April Fools
April 11 Skindiving Spearfishing Nationals Lake Pleasant AZ
April 12 Passover
April 18 Good Friday
April 20 Easter Sunday

May

May 4 May the 4th Be With You
May 5 Cinco de Mayo
May 11 Mother's Day
May 26 Memorial Day Holiday
May 31-1 Scuba Show