

ODYSSEY



CENCAL DIVE COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

April 2024

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Vacant

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(Independent)

Treasurer
Larry Ankuda
(Independent)

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Vacant

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Larry Ankuda

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Carol Rose

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Carol Rose



DID YOU KNOW?????

With the loss of other councils in California, CenCal only remains to represent skin/scuba divers in the state. CenCal started 65 years ago. It is a non profit tax exempt California corporation

CenCal has fought BIG issues over the years - BIG access issues. CenCal supported the Coastal Act which solved access issues: divers can now access/dive Lovers, Monastery, Breakwater, Sea Ranch, Stillwater 17 Mile Drive, Carmel River Beach, etc.

But, the Pandemic hit diving very very hard and social media hit hard too. Dive clubs usually meet monthly, dive once or twice a month, share boat trips – the meetings allow shared experiences and dive/big fish stories. But we now share daily, AND the Pandemic shut down meetings for 2+ years.

Current issues for divers are now marine ecology: abalone, kelp urchins, otters. CenCal is keeping track/following these issues, actions/activities. But the issues are massive (kelp is world wide), complex, complicated. Loss of abalone altered the north central coast economy, closed dive stores. Urchins created huge kelp loss. Check out great website for info: cencal.org

So, CenCal is struggling as are the clubs. Yearly dues are still \$15 – or not quite two MacDonalds meals. And, dues support the annual Scholarship.

It is extremely easy to join CenCal – via website (cencal.org) or send check, made to CenCal: CenCal, PO Box 1727, Sonoma CA 95476. Clubs can/do collect CenCal dues: collect \$, make names address emails list, write check, mail list/check. BTW, USOA will not allow CenCal to accept USOA dues.

CARPAR CULLING: 4th Weekend of Month – Must have fishing license

THIRD WEEKEND SEPTEMBER EVERY YEAR! Coastal Cleanup

Over 39,813 volunteers participated in California Coastal Cleanup Day 2023.

CURRENT ISSUES:

SIX YEARS AFTER THE ‘BLOB’

The Blob, an extreme marine heatwave that rolled through the Pacific Ocean, consisted of abnormally warm temperatures blanketing the waters in the especially sessile invertebrates—filter feeders attached to the nearshore rocky reefs, such as anemones, tubeworms, and clams. Six years later, the number of these creatures has bounced back, but a closer look reveals the structure of these populations has changed— an indicator of the effects of global warming on coastal oceans.

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OCEAN HEAT:

Coral reefs around the world are experiencing a mass bleaching event as the climate crisis drives record-breaking ocean heat with some experts warning this could become the worst bleaching period in recorded history.

More than 54% of the world’s coral reef areas have experienced bleaching in the past year, affecting at least 53 countries and territories including large swaths of the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans according to a joint statement from the NOAA and The International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI).

Sea Otter translocation: In 2021, Fish and Wildlife found it would be biologically feasible and ecologically beneficial to reintroduce sea otters to portions of Northern California and Oregon, **but** no active proposal has been made due to the need for additional information on how reintroduction would affect stakeholders and local communities. There is also the issue of the poor health and issues of the marine regions where California translocation suggested.

MARINE PROTECTED AREA

California is the first state in the nation to establish a system of MPAs – similar to national parks and forests on land – to protect and restore ocean habitats and increase the health, productivity, and resilience of ocean ecosystems.

Under the *California Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA)* passed in 1999, California took a regional approach to the design and implementation of MPAs along its 1,100 mile coastline, and divided the state into five regions: the north coast, north central coast, central coast, south coast and San Francisco Bay. The state completed the coastal network of MPAs in 2012, creating over 120 underwater refuges along California's coast, extending from Oregon to Mexico.

Possible changes to **MPAs** – There are now a bunch of petitions for change to the current MPAs. The administrative process is complex – beginning with grouping them. Decision making will be long process.

TYPES OF MPAs

Marine Protected Areas come in all shapes, sizes, and purposes. As the coastal resources are a public trust, it is necessary to balance needs for multiple use with conservation priorities. The MLPA defines four different types of MPAs:

- **State Marine Reserves (SMR)**
These restrict all commercial and recreational activities, keeping the area as free from human impact as possible.
- **State Marine Conservation Areas (SMCA)**
These are areas that have specific goals for conservation and activities are restricted to meet the conservation goals.
- **State Marine Parks (SMP)**
These allow opportunities for education, research, and recreation, while preventing commercial extractive activities.
- **State Marine Recreational Management Areas (SMRMA)**
These are areas intended to protect certain recreational activities. Other types of activities that may interfere or compete with the specifically protected recreation are restricted.
- **Special Closures**
Special Closures are areas designated by the Fish and Game Commission that prohibit access or restrict boating activities in waters adjacent to sea bird rookeries or marine mammal haul-out sites (restrictions vary).

RED ABALONE RECOVERY PLAN:

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

KELP RECOVERY

KRMP, Kelp Recover Management Plan 5 years 2022 to 2027

2022 Funding – OPC - DONE

2023 Establish Community Working Group
Establish Science Advisory Committee
Tribal Roundtable

2025 Begin Draft

2026 Finalize Draft, CEQA, peer review

2027 begin implementation

2024 NATIONAL UW SPORT CHAMPIONSHIPS

UW Rugby Coral Springs FL April 12-14

UW Hockey Denver CO June 21-23

Skin Spearfishing Islamorada FL July 18-19

OFFSHORE WIND AND MARINE MAMMALS – EAST USA

Gov. Phil Murphy's administration on Monday announced nearly \$3.7 million in funding to research offshore wind and whether marine mammals are impacted by activities associated with turbine construction projects.

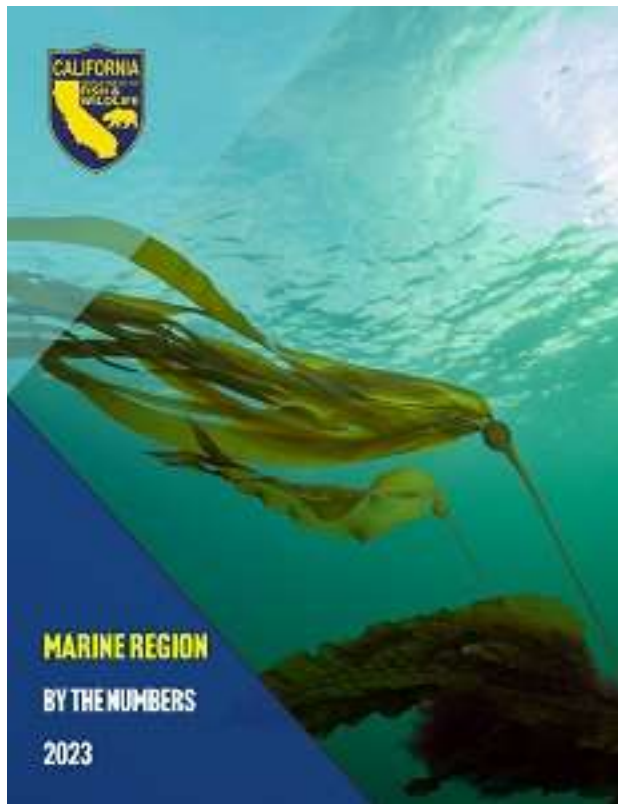
Offshore wind development has been a top priority of the administration in an effort to address climate change and reach 100% clean energy by 2035. However, the initiative has received pushback from some political and community leaders who believe survey activities related to offshore wind projects may harm whales and other species.

The new funding will support the state's ongoing [Research and Monitoring Initiative](#), which to date has received \$13 million from the BPU's second offshore wind energy solicitation. In January, [the state approved](#) two offshore wind projects that will generate 742 megawatts of electricity, power up to 1.8 million homes and contribute more than \$3 billion to the local economy

30 – 30 UPDATE

California's 30x30 initiative is a collective effort, implemented through collaborative actions among a broad range of partners. Environmental conservation happens locally - planned and championed by people working on the ground who are united around common interests.

MARINE REGION'S 2023 BY THE NUMBERS REPORT



The **2023 By the Numbers report** is now available for your reading pleasure. The By the Numbers report summarizes some of the most important commercial and recreational fishing statistics from the past year, for your easy review. It also includes a condensed summary of 2023 Marine Region accomplishments.

2023 was a year of high-highs and unfortunately low-lows, but Marine Region staff worked hard to ensure California's marine fisheries and ecosystems continued to be sustainably managed. While anglers were able to enjoy an all-depth fishery for groundfish statewide, the season was cut short to prevent **overfishing of quillback rockfish**. Although we were not able to open for salmon season, there were catches of Pacific bluefin tuna recorded consistently statewide. Thousands of coded wire tags, otoliths, and other biological samples were processed to continue management efforts for a variety of fish species.

Along with management of marine life and fisheries, there were other, equally impressive milestones in 2023. The first **Marine Protected Area Decadal Management Review** was released. A new **Marine Fisheries Data Explorer** was launched to provide access to commercial fisheries data. Scientific collecting permits were issued, our trained scientific divers spent more than 400 hours underwater conducting surveys, and a new Marine Region field office opened.

You can find all the numbers, highlights, and more in the 2023 By the Numbers report! If you are interested in learning even more, previous years are also available for your reading pleasure on the [By the Numbers web page](#). *post by CDFW staff*

CDFW: LICENSE APPLICATION FOR MOBILE DEVICES

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is pleased to announce the launch of the CDFW License App for mobile devices. The new application allows residents and nonresidents to display California sport fishing licenses and validations on their mobile phones and other mobile devices in lieu of a physical license.

Users may also download and view various CDFW online resources, including hunting and fishing regulations booklets, the Fish Planting Schedule and access the Online License Sales and Services website.

Users can download the application on their mobile devices through the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play Store](#) or by accessing the direct download links from [CDFW's License App web page](#).

Following the successful rollout of the CDFW License App, hunting licenses and related hunting validations will be added to the mobile display options as early as mid-2024..

More information about the app and Frequently Asked Questions can be found on the [CDFW's License App web page](#), which includes video tutorials covering the app's various functionalities.

Mobile app and fishing video is available for download [CDFW FTP site](#).

UPDATES FROM THE DECEMBER OPC MEETING

The Ocean Protection Council (OPC) made a big splash at its **December 12, 2023 meeting**, investing over \$26 million to advance all four of its strategic plan goals to address climate change, advance equity, conserve marine biodiversity, and support a sustainable blue economy. Funding will support a diverse range of projects, from assessing beach vulnerability to sea level rise to restoring vital coastal wetlands and increasing scientific understanding of the state's coastal and marine ecosystems.

Beach Resiliency Planning: \$2.1 million will develop a California Beach Resiliency Plan that will identify the vulnerability of beaches to sea level rise, assess associated impacts to equitable access to the coast, and recommend adaptation strategies to protect California's iconic coastline.

California Ocean Corps Pilot Program: \$1.5 million will establish a pilot Ocean Corps program, in close partnership with the California Conservation Corps, within three local programs operating in coastal regions (CCC Fortuna District, Conservation Corps Long Beach, and Urban Corps of San Diego). The pilot program will engage and provide workforce development for young people in coastal and ocean conservation, foster environmental stewardship, and create a future generation of ocean protectors through workforce training.

Wetland Restoration: \$6 million of Once-Through Cooling Interim Mitigation Funds will support the Southern Los Cerritos Wetland Restoration Project in Seal Beach, restoring critical habitat for diverse species and enhancing coastal resilience against storm surges.

Marine Protected Area Monitoring: \$9,421,162 will support long-term monitoring efforts of California's network of marine protected areas for the next three years, collecting vital data necessary to understand the effectiveness of these areas in protecting marine ecosystems and inform adaptive management.

Kelp Research and Restoration: \$5,941,117 will fund research and restoration efforts to advance kelp forest recovery and resilience, supporting ocean health and coastal communities. Projects engage communities in the restoration of California's kelp forests, such as building on the success of in-water urchin culling by commercial divers and building capacity for the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation to lead kelp forest monitoring and restoration within its ancestral territory.

Partnership with Ocean Science Trust: \$1,325,000 will support OPC's ongoing partnership with the Ocean Science Trust as Science Advisor, Secretariat of OPC's Science Advisory Team, and lead the continued development of coast and ocean health indicators.

Offshore Wind Environmental Monitoring: \$150,000 will augment the budget of a previously approved grant to increase community and tribal engagement in the development of a comprehensive environmental monitoring guidance to inform offshore wind development in California.

These significant investments by OPC demonstrate California's commitment to protecting and restoring its precious marine resources and the coastal communities that rely on a healthy ocean. By addressing diverse challenges and fostering scientific understanding, OPC is paving the way for a more resilient and thriving coastal future for generations to come. **Let's celebrate this significant step forward for California's ocean!**

AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST: There is now a **49ERS** license plate.!!

The plates into production next year. In collaboration with the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), the 49ers Foundation had to pre-sell 7,500 plates, the state threshold to guarantee for the plates become a permanent offering. A portion of the funds from the new plates will benefit the 49ers Foundation and help expand equitable access at California State Parks and other public lands.

Since the launch of the 49ers license plate program, the Faithful and State Parks supporters have rallied, nearly reaching the presale goal. Fans can now register for a specialty license plate for free, thanks to the generous support from the York family benefiting the California Natural Resources Agency and the 49ers Foundation.

California drivers can secure complimentary license plate at 49ersplate.com and using the code "faithful" during checkout. The supply of free plates is limited, but once exhausted, fans can still purchase 49ers plates from the website at \$50/ sequential plate or \$103/ personalized plate. Annual renewal rates: \$40 and \$83, respectively. Free plates are not eligible for personalization; sequential plates only.

Following the cost for production and DMV administration of the plates program, CNRA will distribute a portion of the funds collected to benefit the 49ers Foundation's mission of harnessing the game of football to educate and empower Bay Area youth through direct programs [49ers EDU](#) and [49ers PREP](#), and beneficiaries throughout the region. Funds will also benefit programs that expand equitable access to California State Parks, other public lands, and cultural and historic places. Any remaining funds will be allocated towards promoting access, maintenance, conservation, and restoration of all state parks, other public lands, and cultural and historical resources

CALENDAR

April

April 12-14	Finswimming World Cup Florida Nationals UW Rugby Florida
April 19-21	ACCs UW Hockey Quebec City Canada
Apr 17-18	CDFW Meeting – San Jose
April 22	Passover at sunset
April 27	Caspar Culling - Mendocino Cnty

May

May 4	May the 4 th Be With You
May 5	Cinco de Mayo
May 12	Mother's Day
May 15	CDFW Teleconference
May 25	Caspar Culling - Mendocino Cnty
May 27	<i>Memorial Day Holiday</i>
May 29	<u>CenCal BOD -5th Wed</u>

June

June 1-2	Scuba Show LA
June 8	International Oceans Day
June 14	Flag Day
June 16	Father's Day
June 19	Juneteenth
June 20	First Day Summer
June 22	Caspar Culling - Mendocino Cnty
June 21-23	USOA UW Hockey Nationals, Denver
June 19-20	CDFW Meeting – Mammoth Lakes

July

July 4	<i>Independence Day</i>
July 16-27	UW Hockey Age Worlds Kuala Lumpur Malaysia
July 15-19	Skin Spear Nationals Islamorada Florida -
July 18	CDFW - <i>Marine Resources Committee</i> – Santa Rosa
July 27	Caspar Culling – Mendocino Cnty
July 31	<u>CenCal BOD– 5th Wed</u>

August

Aug 1	Olympics Paris!!
Aug 14-15	CDFW Meeting – Fortuna
August 31	Caspar Culling – Mendocino Cnty

September

Sept 11	Patriots Day
<i>Sept 2</i>	<i>Labor Day Holiday</i>
Sept 21	Beach Clean Up Day
Sept 22	First Day Fall
Sept 25	<u>CenCal BOD</u>
Sept 28	Caspar Culling – Mendocino Cnty

October

Oct 3	Rosh Hashanah
Oct 6	USOA Annual Meeting
Oct 9-10	CDFW Meeting - Sacramento
Oct 12	Yom Kippur
<i>Oct 14</i>	<i>Indigenous Day</i>
Oct 31	Halloween
Oct 31	Diwali

November

Nov 3	Daylight Savings Ends
Nov 5	Election Day
Nov 7	CDFW <i>Marine Resources Committee</i> - Sacramento
<i>Nov 11</i>	<i>Veterans Day Holiday</i>
Nov 19-22	DEMA Show Las Vegas
<i>Nov 28</i>	<i>Thanksgiving Day Holiday</i>

December

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

