



ODYSSEY

CENCAL DIVE COUNCIL NEWSLETTER LATE SUMMER 2023

UPDATE: SEA OTTER TRANSLOCATION

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced southern sea otters will continue 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, directed by Congress, the Service assessed the feasibility of reintroducing sea otters to portions of the coast in Northern California and Oregon where they once thrived. The assessment concluded 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.

Climate Change Is Creating Bigger Waves on California Coasts Nathan Rott KQED 9/1, 2023

Earlier this year, California was pummeled: massive waves damaged piers, crumbled sea cliffs and flooded coastlines. A new study finds wave heights are getting bigger along the California coast as global temperatures have warmed. Global climate-warming carbon dioxide has increased by about 90% since 1970.

The study, published Tuesday in the *Journal of Geophysical Research: Oceans*, looked at nearly a century's worth of data, and found that the average height of winter waves have grown by about a foot since 1969. The number of storm events producing waves greater than 13 feet in height has also increased.

Bigger waves can be damaging to California's already climate-vulnerable coast. Warmer ocean temperatures and inflows of freshwater from the world's melting ice caps have caused sea levels to roughly 8" along California's 1,200 mile coastline in the last century.

Invasive New Zealand Mudsnails Discovered in Lake Tahoe

The *California Department of Fish and Wildlife* (CDFW) was informed by the *Tahoe Regional Planning Agency* (TRPA) that divers monitoring for aquatic invasive species in Lake Tahoe detected invasive New Zealand mudsnails (*Potamopyrgus antipodarum*) in areas off the South Shore of Lake Tahoe. New Zealand mudsnail samples were subsequently positively identified by experts within CDFW and an outside genetics lab. This is the first time the species has been detected in Lake Tahoe.

[New Zealand mudsnails \(NZMS\)](#) are tiny, aquatic snails reaching up to 4-6 millimeters long. Despite their small size, NZMS are a highly problematic aquatic species. Dense populations can displace and outcompete native species, sometimes by consuming up to half the food resources in the waterway.

CDFW urges anglers, boaters, visitors and locals to "clean, drain and dry" all recreational items and fishing gear, meaning anything that has gotten wet. Once NZMS are established in a new habitat, they are impossible

to eradicate without damaging other components of the ecosystem. Boaters, anglers and others who may visit any body of water, within or outside of infested areas, are asked to decontaminate their equipment and follow the “clean, drain and dry” best practices for all equipment and clothing used in a waterway.

\$2 MILLIONS ALLOCATED TO RENOVATE NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES GREATER FARALLONES AND CORDELL BANK

NOAA is investing \$2 million the Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries to support critical repairs and updates to a facility on the Sanctuary’s campus in San Francisco. NOAA will renovate a historic former lifeboat station garage, converting it into an ocean learning center for hands on education and outreach on marine conservation. Located on the promenade of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area’s Crissy Field, the area attracts more than a million visitors and locals a year. The renovated facility expands the sanctuary’s ability to service students and communities through educational programming.

CenCal BOD DRAFT Agenda September 27 Meeting 2023

Membership: CenCal +3

CenCal as of July 15, 2023: = 72

USOA membership = 11

Finances – Larry Ankuda, Treasurer: Balances, 7/15/2023: \$ 18,340

UW Hockey –

Worlds - Australia July – USOA Mens Masters took GOLD! Won all their games!!

USOA uwh has a scientific peer reviewed paper supporting the safety in uwh play!!

Skin Spearfishing –

National Champ’s, June 2023, in Kona, HI. CenCal Mens teams placed 4th and 14^t

World Championships Spain Sept – tough event - USOA Women Bronze!

Old Business

Kelp Recover & Management Plan (KRMP) for giant & bull kelp: The KRMP development process is anticipated to occur over the course of 3-5 years.

Sea Otter Translocation: Update in newsletter

New Business

Scholarship – CenCal Annual \$1000 Scholarship – basic criteria – must be diver (skin or scuba) and enrolled in CA college, university. The 2023 Scholarship:

Sandra Travers, graduate student at Cal Poly Humboldt.

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

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

Abalone update: At recent MRC (Marine Resources Committee of CDFW

Commission) meeting, no discussion of sea otter translocation 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

Next meeting – 11/29, 2023 7:30 pm 5th Wednesday

Carol Rose, Secretary

CALENDAR

September remaining

Sept 27 CenCal BOD

Sept 30 Rosh Hosanna – begins sunset
October
 Oct 7 Underwater Society of America Annual Meeting
 Oct 8 Yom Kippur – begins sunset
 Oct 10 *Columbus Day Holiday*
 Oct 11-12 CDFW Meeting – San Jose
 Oct 28-29 PCCs Underwater Hockey Santa Clarita CA
 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 – 5th Wednesday

December

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

January 2024

Jan 1 *New Years Holiday*
 Jan 15 *MLKing Jr Holiday*
 Jan 31 CenCal BOD – 5th Wed

February

Feb 14 Valentines Day
 Feb 19 *Presidents Day Holiday*

CEN CAL (www.cencal.org)	OFFICERS/DIRECTORS
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