

ODYSSEY



CENCAL DIVE COUNCIL NEWSLETTER LATE SUMMER 2024

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USOA SKINDIVING SPEARFISHING REPORT 2024

Scott Turgeon, Palm Beach Freedivers, was re elected National Director a 2 year term. 8 Rule change proposals. None were approved, current 2022 Rules in effect.

Competition Results: 86 competitors/8 clubs/councils location Islamorada, FL

FSDA

Kona Coast

Miami Freedivers

Mile O

Orange County

Palm Beach Freedivers

S Florida Freedivers

Tritons

Men: 1st *Palm Beach 1* Mikhail Kuznetsov, Andrew Giest, Scott Turgeon

2nd *Kona, Big island Boys:* Ryan Myers, Nicholas Bailey, Justin Lee

3rd *FSDA 1:* Drake Sweet, Mirco Zanella, Josh McCann

Women: 1st *FSDA, Pochahanntas* Melody Engle, Rosibel Molina

2nd *Palm Beach, Latinoless* Julie Higgs, Kirstie Serrano

3rd *Mile O, Icy Hot,* Tracy Wollschlager, Anna Hilt

Mixed: 1st *Tritons/Beauty & Beast,* Miguel Guinovart, Lorena Causo

2nd *Jewfish,* Britney Brockway, Garrett Moss

3rd *S Florida Free, Love & Spears,* Lauren Sarasus, Jose Liccardo

- Individuals: 1st Men – Mikhail Kuznetov – *Palm Beach Free 1*
2nd Men – Justin Lee – *Big Isle Boys, Kona Coast*
3rd Men Osmani Cuellar – *NHT APL #2, Miami Freedivers*
1st Women Rosibel Molina – *Poachahantas, FSDA*
2nd Women Brittney Brockway -*Jewfish*
3rd Women Lauren Surasua – *Love & Spears, S Florida Freediver*

Update on 2025 National Championships: *Proposed* Friday, April 11, 2025 with additional day: Saturday April 12, 2025 for JAWS Youth Tournament



UPDATED OCEAN SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS BOOKLET AVAILABLE



The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has updated its [2024 California Ocean Sport Fishing Regulations booklet](#) (PDF), and encourages anglers, divers, and all outdoor enthusiasts coastwide to download and review the August 1, 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 **marine protected area** regulations (CCR T14 §632(a)(13), (14), and (15)) regarding pre-existing artificial structures in marine protected areas
- Updated **California halibut** regulations (no changes in seasons, size, or bag limits)
- Complete **ocean salmon** regulations for 2024
- Notices regarding the **white sturgeon** season closure with links to the [press release](#) that provides more information about the recent closure decision

Sign up for the [CDFW Marine Region News Service](#) to receive notification of future updates to the Ocean Sport Fishing Regulations booklet.



RED ABALONE RECOVERY PLAN

The Plan will use a science-based approach to support recovery of the red abalone population to sustainable levels. The goal of the plan is to facilitate a robust, adaptive, climate-ready approach to improving the health of the population in the face of changing ocean conditions.

There are 3 working groups: Community, Science and Tribal.

The Community Working Group (25 persons) is an informal advisory body that will offer Tribes, stakeholders, and interested members of the public an opportunity to advise and inform the development of the Red Abalone Recovery Plan. The group will be asked to provide feedback on drafts of the Red Abalone Recovery Plan and share community perspectives, priorities, and concerns about the plan.

KELP RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN/Overview

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.

The KRMP includes a cohesive kelp management strategy) consisting of three core components:

1. a harvest management framework and other Fishery Management Plan (FMP) elements required by the Marine Life Management Act (MLMA),
2. an innovative framework for ecosystem-based management (EBM) of kelp forests
3. a Restoration Toolkit



HONG KONG'S NEWEST AND LARGEST MARINE PARK

HONG KONG – A marine park in North Lantau will be built with marine life conservation in mind. The primary focus of the park will be the protection of the Chinese White Dolphin and the overall marine environment in the North Lantau region. It will connect with the Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park, the Brothers Marine Park, and the Hong Kong International Airport Approach Areas, enabling further conservation efforts of marine biodiversity, fisheries resources, and marine ecology. The park's activities will be observed and regulated under the Marine Parks Ordinance and the Marine Parks & Marine Reserves Regulation. In addition, it will help link protected areas between Hong Kong and the mainland, allowing the dolphins to move through safe channels and habitats. On June 19, the Legislative Council will review the plan, and once it is approved, it will become effective on November 1

AUSTRALIA CONSIDERS MANDATING RECYCLED PLASTIC PACKAGING AS BEACHES DROWN IN RUBBISH

Australia – An environmental group and Indigenous rangers who have been removing tonnes of rubbish from remote northern Australian beaches are calling on the federal government to do more to stop the production of plastic. The rangers have been heartened to receive help from the environmental group Sea Shepherd, with volunteers collecting seven tonnes of plastic over a week. Federal Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek stated that she had been working with state governments on new rules "to ensure that all packaging in Australia is designed to be reused or recycled" that "will include...mandatory targets for recycled content."

SCIENTISTS WANT TO BRING BACK ONE OF THE OCEAN'S MOST UNEXPECTED PREDATORS

There are almost 2,000 species of sea stars or "starfish" worldwide. About a decade ago, the still-mysterious sea star wasting disease had devastating impacts on sea star populations along the West Coast of North America. One of the most brutal hit was the Sunflower Star *Pycnopodia helianthoides*. Ten years ago, the sunflower sea star population collapsed. This loss has been detrimental to kelp forests because sunflower stars are voracious sea urchin predators. Scientists and aquarists created the Roadmap to Recovery for the Sunflower Sea Star. Thanks to endeavors in the star's historic home along the West Coast and beyond, the sea star may return to the ocean one day. It's the beginning of a lengthy restoration effort, but "there's an understanding or a passion [for Pycnos]," says Ashley Kidd, conservation aquaculture program manager at the Sunflower Star Laboratory.



DOZENS OF BALLOONS COLLECTED OFF SARASOTA COAST, RESEARCHERS WARN OF PLASTIC POLLUTION DANGER

SARASOTA, Fla. — For five days straight, Dr. Randall Wells and his team with the Sarasota Dolphin Research Program, Brookfield Zoo Chicago, scooped not one or two but dozens of mylar balloons from the water. They picked up 76, to be exact. Balloons are used to celebrate occasions like Mother's Day and birthdays. Once they end up in waterways like Sarasota Bay or the Gulf of Mexico, they become a danger to wildlife. Last fall, a whale calf died off the coast of North Carolina. Biologists found a crumpled mylar balloon, which impacted its ability to digest and led to starvation. A new Florida law took effect July 1 bans the intentional release of balloons. It's a step in the right direction toward protecting sea life for future generations.

RESEARCH FINDINGS DEMONSTRATE ROCKY SHORES OF PACIFIC NORTHWEST LOW RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGES

2020 marked the ending of a 15-year period consisting of a marine heat wave and a sea star wasting disease epidemic that caused large changes in groups of organisms inhabiting the rocky shores of the Pacific Northwest. Unfortunately, a study completed by Oregon State University students suggests that these communities of species may have low resilience to climate change. To elaborate, when the epidemic ceased and ocean temperatures decreased, the rocky shore communities failed to return to their baseline conditions. This proposes the possibility that these communities have low resilience to changes in both temperature and predator numbers. Zechariah Meunier, a doctoral graduate of the OSU College of Science, expressed how, “Diminishing resilience may lead to degraded rocky shore communities under future climate conditions”, which is concerning considering that healthy marine ecosystems are vital to Earth’s functioning.



THE 25TH ANNUAL CALIFORNIA OCEAN AND COASTAL AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST PRESENTED BY THE CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION.

Contest prizes generously donated by Adventures by the Sea, Big Sur Adventures, Blue Waters Kayaking, Captain Dave's Whale Watching, City Cruises, Clearly Tahoe, Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, Gael Gallagher's Carmel Tours, Highline Adventures, Island Packers, Local Tastes of the City Tours, Monterey Bay Eco Tours, RD Winery, San Francisco Whale Watch Tours, Santa Barbara Sailing Center, Santa Cruz Whale Watching, Sea Forager, SF Bay Adventures, Taco Tours Santa Barbara, and The Steinbeck House. See all the prize descriptions here.

- Submission Deadline: September 30, 2024 at 5pm (PST)
- This annual contest is free and open to all amateur photographers. An amateur photographer is defined as someone who earns less than 50 percent of their income from photography. See www.coastal.ca.gov/photo for previous winners, rules, categories, and prizes

Photographs in this contest feature the following subjects:

- The scenic coast and the Pacific Ocean off California
- People and the California coast
- California ocean and coastal wildlife



GREATER FARALLONES REPORT TELLS OF CLIMATE CHANGE & OTHER IMPACTS

The Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary appears to be experiencing impacts from the changing ocean conditions caused by climate and other impacts such as vessel activity, marine debris, land uses, wildlife disturbances and the introductions of non-indigenous species. The Sanctuary lies off the California coast west of southern Mendocino, Sonoma, Marin, San Francisco and San Mateo counties. It has been home to a large biodiverse marine population for nearly 43 years.

The unusually warm ocean temperature for an extended period of time has affected the ecosystem. For example, there was a noticeable decline in nutritious krill and a proportional increase in less nutritious gelatinous zooplankton. With less krill, humpback whales switched to feeding on forage which were compressed closer to shore as result of the heat wave causing increase in the overlap of whale and human activities such as shipping.

The first step in addressing the climate change is to understand it. The Sanctuary Management plans invite public input on how to best prioritize management in the Sanctuary over the next 5-10 years. There will be an announcement inviting public participation. **(Independent Coast Observer, July 18, 2024)**

