

# ODYSSEY



## CENCAL DIVE COUNCIL NEWSLETTER SPRING 2023 Vol 1, #1

### CenCal Meetings 2023

**Next meeting** – May 31, 2023      **Its a 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday!**      7:30 pm

**Minutes** March Meeting:

**Membership:**      As of May 7, 2023      = 73

**Finances:** Larry Ankuda Treasurer:

Income:	\$	4,323.35
Expenses:	\$	148.90
Budget, 2023:	\$	600.00
Scholarship	\$	1,000
General Fund	\$	4,173.45
Skin Spear	\$	12,765.77
Legal Defense	\$	3,000.00
Total	\$	19,939.22

Scholarship – CenCal Annual \$1000 Scholarship – basic criteria – must be diver (skin or scuba) and enrolled in CA college, university. Need a committee chair. May 31 deadline.

### **UW Hockey –**

*Club Puck* – new pool in Sunnyvale play  
San Francisco playing at Hoffman not MLKing Jr.  
Nationals Univ Minn June 9-11  
Worlds Australia July 17-39

### **UW Rugby –**

*Giant Sea Bass* playing Mtn View and Albany HS  
Nationals - May 12-14 Washington DC  
Worlds - July 7-15 Montreal Canada

**Skin Spearfishing** – National Championships, June 15, 2023, in Kona, HI.

Three non-indigenous species only allowed.

CenCal - 2 teams.

website: <https://www.konaspearfishingchampionships.com/>

World Championships Spain Sept 7-10, both Men and Women teams

### **Old Business**

RAAC - Need new CenCal RAAC member - must live in SF Bay Area. No activity.

*Kelp Recover & Management Plan (KRMP)* for giant & bull kelp

### **New Business**

**National Marine Sanctuaries:** there are 15 sanctuaries currently in US. Four new\* ones proposed including 1 in mid CA, 1 in Hawaii and 1 in NY. Each sanctuary is specific as to purpose and reason. The mid CA sanctuary is proposed by the Chumash Indians.

**Abalone update:** In 2022, 6 of the 10 grid sites were evaluated. The remaining 4 sites will be done in 2023. So far, the status of red abalone population is worse not better.

\*see info this newsletter

## ARE YOU SEEING SPOTS?

Blotchy Bass Syndrome – a form of hyperpigmentation/melanosis that affects freshwater bass – being studied and angler input needed -could net a \$100 giftcard!

Support this scientific study by reporting catches of ANY bass via the “2023 Blotchy Bass Bonanza” in the [MyCatch by Angler's Atlas](#) mobile app. Participation is free. [This species is found in California.](#)

If you catch a bass, open the app and click “Start trip.” Then, using the app, take photos of every bass (blotchy or not), preferably next to a measuring device. When done fishing for the day, simply click “End trip” to be entered into a drawing for a \$100 gift card. Each recorded trip will serve as an entry.

For more information on blotchy bass research, visit: [usgs.gov/.../investigating-blotchy-bass](https://usgs.gov/.../investigating-blotchy-bass).

## 30x30 CALIFORNIA

A new program initiated opens up. Excerpted from  
*Outdoor California*, California Department of Fish & Wildlife  
Jan-Feb 2023 Vol 84 No 1 Pages 20-27 story: Rachael L Olliff Yang

‘What does nature conservation mean?’ Nature is under extreme threat, and conservation in the face of habitat loss and climate change can feel daunting. In the past few years, an effort has emerged to reimagine and inspire nature conservation over the next decade. The phrase ‘30-30’ refers to the goal of conserving 30% of lands and seas by the year 2030. This is an international movement fueled by the dual crisis of biodiversity loss and climate change. So are more than 100 countries and states have set goals to durably conserve 30% of their lands and waters.

In October 2022, Gov Newsome issued Executive Order N-82-20 to protect California’s biodiversity and accelerate the use of nature-based solutions to mitigate and build resilience to climate change. The Order helped jump start California’s 30x20 initiative Since the huge strides have been made. The true beauty of the Initiative is it’s grassroots effort driver by community members and conservation advocates.

California was one of the first to produce a strategy plan, and on Earth Day April 2022 the California Natural Resources Agency released the *Pathways to 30x30* document which outlines the strategies California will take to achieve the 30x30 goal with 3 objectives: 1) to protect and restore biodiversity 2) expand access to nature for all Californians And 3) tackle climate change. *Pathways to 30x30* established conservation priorities to these objectives to meet the objectives and articulates pathways/actions necessary.

The Pathways also highlights 3 core commitments: advance justice, equity, diversity and inclusion; strengthen tribal partnerships and sustain economic prosperity, clean energy resources and food supply.

Approximately 24% of California lands and 16% of coastal waters are now conserved, but an additional 6 million land acres and 5 million coastal water acres will be conserved. For details see the following: [www.californianature.ca.gov/pages/30x30..](http://www.californianature.ca.gov/pages/30x30..)

## 30x30 CALIFORNIA

The Governor announced the release of our first [Pathways to 30x30 Annual Progress Report](#). We are so proud to celebrate our shared progress towards the ambitious goal of conserving 30% of California's lands and coastal waters by 2030. It truly is amazing what we can accomplish when we work together!

Since the release of [Pathways to 30x30: Accelerating Conservation of California's Nature](#) strategy in April 2022, we've now reached approximately 24.4% of lands and 16.2% of coastal waters conserved towards the 30x30 goal. In just this past year we added around **631,000 acres** of land to our total.

What we have been able to achieve is only possible thanks to the many dedicated individuals and groups who make up the [30x30 Partnership](#) including the tribes, local governments, communities, and individuals who have dedicated themselves to this goal

## KELP

### ONE ICONIC KELP FOREST IN DECLINE, BUT A GLIMMER OF HOPE

New research highlights the incredible decline in the health of the iconic kelp forests of the Monterey Peninsula. However, the study also had good news, with hopes of kelp recovery in Mexico and Oregon.

The research is the product of a collaboration between the Nature Conservancy, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and UCLA. The study analyzed data from *Kelpwatch* featuring kelp canopy data from satellites for over 40 years. The study clearly shows a north-to-south kelp decline in response to the record-breaking 2014-2016 marine heatwave. However, researchers found hope of recovery in areas like Bahía Tortugas in Mexico and Rogue Reef in Oregon.

Discussing the findings, study co-author and postdoctoral scholar at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Dr. Henry Houskeeper said: *"The story varies from place to place. Some areas experienced declines but also seeing resilience of kelp forests in other regions."*

*The most important part, though, is through Kelpwatch.org we can now get this information to managers and stakeholders more effectively to help protect vulnerable regions.”*

While Dr. Tom Bell, the study lead author and assistant scientist at WHOI added: *“Kelp forests around the Monterey Peninsula were some of the most persistent in California. It was surprising to find not only were there reductions in kelp canopy during the heatwave period, but canopy area continued to decline even after cooler ocean temperatures returned. We were expecting some reductions in kelp canopy but discovered a greater than 80% loss compared to the historical average across approximately 40 kilometers of coastline from the Monterey Harbor to Carmel Highlands.”*

Commenting on the sad state of affairs at the Monterey Peninsula, Monterey-based marine science communicator and underwater photographer Patrick Webster said: *“Monterey is the definition of a baseline shifted. It’s like an ecological bomb went off documenting the remaining relics of a collapsing kelp cathedral. As if there was a forest fire that burned cold, without flame or smoke?”*

## **NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR NEW WORKING GROUP TO HELP DEVELOP CALIFORNIA’S KELP RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Dark and mysterious, [kelp forests](#) teem with darting fish, slow-moving abalone, hidden lobsters, and bright, swaying anemones. Kelp forests form the foundation of marine food webs, coastal economies, and Indigenous traditions – and now, California is developing a formal Kelp Restoration and Management Plan (KRMP) to guide the state’s efforts to manage, protect, and restore these underwater forests in California waters.

Your help is needed to ensure the KRMP reflects community perspectives and the best available science. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), in partnership with the Ocean Protection Council, is looking for people to serve on the KRMP Community Working Group, which will form [bull kelp and giant kelp](#) subcommittees. CDFW welcomes a wide range of Community Working Group nominations including the following groups:

- California Tribes
- Commercial harvesters
- Local businesses
- Recreational users
- State and federal partners
- Other interested members of the community
- Academic and research institutions
- Non-governmental organizations

Anyone interested in serving on the Community Working Group, [nominate yourself or another member of your community by 5:00 PM PDT on June 9, 2023](#)

## **PROPOSED NEW NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES**

### **Proposed Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary**

In April 2019, in response to a [community-based sanctuary nomination](#), NOAA announced its intent to designate a new national marine sanctuary in New York's eastern Lake Ontario and the Thousand Islands region of the St. Lawrence River.

On July 7, 2021, [NOAA published a draft environmental impact statement \(EIS\)](#), which presented alternatives for the proposed sanctuary, and a draft management plan. After analyzing feedback from the public, stakeholders, federally recognized nations and tribes, and New York agencies, NOAA [chose to move forward](#) with the boundary alternative that encompasses 1,724 square miles of eastern Lake Ontario waters and bottomlands adjacent to Jefferson, Oswego, Cayuga, and Wayne counties in the state of New York.

NOAA proposes to designate Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary in eastern Lake Ontario to recognize the national significance of the area's historical, archaeological, and cultural resources and to manage this special place as part of the National Marine Sanctuary System. The national significance of the area within and around the proposed sanctuary will benefit from long-term protection, management, and interpretation. The proposed boundary is a 1,724 square-mile area containing 43 known shipwrecks, including the [historic schooner](#) *St. Peter*, and one aircraft.

NOAA established a [Sanctuary Advisory Council](#) to help inform the designation process and focus stakeholder participation. Ray Tucker of the New York State Divers Association and Underwater Society of America has been appointed to the Advisory Council

### **Proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary**

The Northern Chumash Tribal Council (NCTC) submitted the sanctuary nomination in July 2015. The area proposed for sanctuary designation, adjacent to San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties, would recognize Chumash tribal history in the area and protect an internationally significant ecological transition zone, where temperate waters from the north meet the subtropics, providing a haven for marine mammals, invertebrates, sea birds, and fishes.

The proposed area stretches along 156 miles of coastline, encompassing approximately 7,000-square miles from Santa Rosa Creek near the town of Cambria, San Luis Obispo County, south to Gaviota Creek in Santa Barbara County, and extends offshore to include Santa Lucia Bank, Rodriguez Seamount, and Arguello Canyon.

### **Proposed Hudson Canyon National Marine Sanctuary**

NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries is in the early stages of the process to designate a new national marine sanctuary off the coast of New York and New Jersey. A sanctuary in the Hudson Canyon area would enable NOAA to cultivate new partnerships and connect diverse communities in the Mid-Atlantic region to build awareness of ocean conservation and sustainable use. NOAA started the sanctuary designation process in June 2022. The proposed designation is based on a 2016 nomination by the Wildlife Conservation Society.

<https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/hudson-canyon/> .

Hudson Canyon is the largest submarine canyon along the U.S. Atlantic coast and is one of the largest in the world. Beginning approximately 100 miles southeast of New York City, the canyon extends about 350 miles seaward, reaches depths of 2 to 2.5 miles, and is up to 7.5 miles wide. Hudson Canyon's grand scale and diverse structure—steep slopes, firm outcrops, diverse sediments, flux of nutrients, and areas of upwelling—make it an ecological hotspot for a vast array of marine wildlife.



**Proposed Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument** as a national marine sanctuary under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act. In December of 2020, Congress directed NOAA to initiate the process to designate Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument as a national marine sanctuary under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act.

Hanohano Nā ‘Āina Kūpuna: Honoring Papahānaumokuākea as Kūpuna (Ancestral) Islands Hanohano Nā ‘Āina Kūpuna is a tribute to Papahānaumokuākea as a sacred ancestral place to kanaka ‘ōiwi (Native Hawaiians) who honor this extensive seascape as an area where all life emerged and evolved, and to which spirits return after death. Native Hawaiian kūpuna (esteemed elders) have strongly advocated for the long-term lasting protection of Papahānaumokuākea from the beginning and instilled the vision and values that set the course for a collective journey caring for this sacred place.

Weaving together past, present, and future, their legacy is foundational to guiding Native Hawaiian engagement in the active protection and management of Papahānaumokuākea. In moving forward with sanctuary designation, the goal is to continue to honor their legacy and vision towards ensuring the permanency of lasting protection of this place for future generations. Sanctuary designation will provide another layer of protection to continue honoring this place and will not diminish any existing protections.

## **JUDGMENT, PENALTIES FOR UNLAWFUL IMPORTATION AND SALE OF NON-NATIVE ABALONE**

Los Angeles Superior Court judged against a group of people and businesses who imported and sold live, non-native abalone in Los Angeles in violation of California law.

In July of 2019, law enforcement officers from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) discovered that non-native abalone were being unlawfully sold while still alive at Galleria Market on West Olympic Blvd. in Los Angeles. To be sure, undercover wildlife officers purchased live, non-native abalone specimens from the store. CDFW’s Wildlife Forensic Laboratory conducted DNA testing on the purchased abalone and confirmed they were disk abalone, a species that is not native to California.

The officers’ subsequent investigation determined that live, non-native disk abalone were being illegally imported through Los Angeles International Airport from South Korea. Wildlife officers determined that between approximately April 20, 2018, and August 2, 2019, Galleria Market unlawfully purchased at least 797 live disk abalone specimens and unlawfully sold 719 of those specimens to its retail customers. These purchases and sales of disk abalone were done without a restricted species permit authorizing any importation or sale of a live specimen of abalone that is not native to California.

The court ordered the defendants to pay \$174,242 in civil penalties and \$4,757.03 to CDFW as reimbursement for its investigative costs. The defendants must also make a \$20,000 payment to the California Wildlife Officer Foundation’s Californians Turn in Poachers and Polluters (“CalTIP”) reward fund.

California’s native abalone populations, once known as a popular sport and commercial fishery, are now in peril. Two of California’s eight native abalone species, the white abalone and black abalone, are listed as federally endangered species. Other native abalone species, including the once populous red abalone species, are also in decline due to kelp loss,

climate change and related factors. All commercial fishing for abalone has been banned since 1997 and sport take of abalone has been closed since 2017.

Despite the closed commercial seasons, there is a robust demand for abalone in seafood markets and restaurants across the state. Licensed California aquaculture farms fulfill part of that demand by legally farming red abalone. The demand for legal abalone still outstrips the supply from legal abalone farms and commercial fish businesses have been searching for a way to fill that demand. All non-native abalone species are prohibited from importation into California due to concerns over the introduction of an exotic species to local waters and the diseases they potentially carry that could affect native populations, including the endangered white and black abalone.

If you witness a poaching or polluting incident, or any fish and wildlife violation, or have information about such a violation, immediately dial the toll free CALTIP number 1 **888 334-CALTIP (888 334-2258)**, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Or submit anonymous tips to CDFW using **tip411**. **Tip411** is an internet-based tool from [CitizenObserver.com](http://CitizenObserver.com) that enables the public to text message an anonymous tip to wildlife officers and lets the officers respond back creating an anonymous two-way conversation. Anyone with a cell phone may send an anonymous tip to CDFW by texting "**CALTIP**", followed by a space and the message, to **847411** (tip411). More information at [wildlife.ca.gov/Enforcement/CalTIP](http://wildlife.ca.gov/Enforcement/CalTIP).

## FISHING NEWS

**Deeper Offshore Season for Groundfish** Opened May 15: recreational groundfish 'offshore only' season opened May 15 – from Cape Mendocino to Pigeon Point. For the first time in more than 20 years fishing for groundfish in deeper offshore waters in effect seaward from the 300' Rockfish Conservation area boundary line. This provides access to deeper water rockfish and lingcod while prohibiting take/possession of nearshore rockfish, cabezon and greenlings. Take of bronze spotted rockfish, cowcod and yelloweye rockfish prohibition continues year 'round in all areas/depths.

**Annual Mussel quarantine in Effect:** Effective May 1 through October 31 due to potentially dangerous levels of biotoxins in shellfish anywhere on the California coast including bays, inlets and harbors. Quarantine protects against paralytic shellfish poisoning and domoic acid poisoning and applies only to sport harvested mussels. Other bivalves harvested from certified companies are not included.

From *Independent Coast Observer* May 19, 2023 pages 3 & 4

## UNDERWATER SPORTS

This is an extremely busy year for underwater sports. World Championships in Skindiving Spearfishing, Underwater Hockey, Underwater Rugby, Junior and Masters Worlds in Finswimming as well as USOA National Championships in all underwater sports. CenCal has 3 underwater hockey clubs, 1 underwater rugby club and 1 skindiving spear club.

**Skin Spearfish Nationals:** Kona, Hawaii, June 13-17: Competition Day is Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup> Starting at 8am from the Waikoloa Canoe Club. Only 3 fish are eligible: *roi*, peacock grouper, *to'au*, blacktail snapper and *ta'ape*, blueline snapper – unlimited catch each fish.

CenCal has 2 teams participating. The Annual Skindiving Spearfishing Committee/Rules meetings will meet at the Nationals on Tuesday, June 13, 6pm-9pm at the Big Game Fishing Clubhouse Honokohau Harbor.

## CALNDAR

### May

May 29 *Memorial Day Holiday*  
May 31 CenCal BOA – 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday

### June

June 3-4 Scuba Show LA  
 June 9-11 **USOA Underwater Hockey Nationals** Univ Minn, Minneapolis  
 June 14-15 CDFW Meeting - Sacramento  
 June 13-17 **USOA Skindiving Spearfishing Nationals, Kona Hawaii**  
 June 19-24 **Juniors World Finswimming Championships, Cairo**  
 June 20 Father's Day  
 June 25-26 **Masters World Finswimmng Championships, Cairo**

### July

July 4 *Independence Day Holiday*  
 July 7-15 **UW Rugby World Championships, Montreal**  
 July 17-30 **UW Hockey World Championships**  
                   **Gold Coast Australia**  
 July 20 CDFW Marine Resources Meeting – Sonoma area  
July 26 CenCal BOD

### August

August 22-23 CDFW Commission Meeting – North Coast

### September

Sept 5 *Labor Day Holiday*  
 Sept 7-10 **World Championships Skindiving Spearfishing, Spain**  
 Sept 11 Patriots Day  
Sept 27 CenCal BOD  
 Sept 30 Rosh Hosanna – begins sunset

### October

Oct 8 Yom Kippur – begins sunset  
 Oct 10 *Columbus Day Holiday*  
 Oct 11-12 CDFW Meeting – San Jose  
 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 – 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday

### December



Dec 7	Pearl Harbor Day
Dec 13-14	CDFW Meeting – San Diego
Dec 22-30	Hannukah
Dec 25	<i>Christmas Day Holiday</i>

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