



ODYSSEY

**CENCAL DIVE COUNCIL NEWSLETTER
SUMMER 2023**

GREAT NEWS!

Californians with a library card can now get free day-use access to over 200 state parks. The three-year State Library Parks Pass pilot program was launched Monday in all of the Golden State's 1,184 public libraries, as well as mobile libraries, the [California Department of Parks and Recreation announced](#).

It allows library card holders to check out a free vehicle day-use entry pass that can be used any day of the week

CENCAL JULY MEETING 2023 Wednesday July 26, 2023

Membership:

CenCal as of July 15, 2023:	= 69
USOA membership	= 11

UW Hockey –

Worlds - Australia July 17-29 – there are some world team players from CenCal area clubs on teams: elite men/women & masters men/women.

******* SATURDAY JULY 29 9:30 PM PDT USOA MENS MASTERS TOOK GOLD!!**

Women Masters took 4th losing bronze game to NA; Men finished 10th, Women 7th

PCCs– bid for Oct 28-29 from Santa Clarita

Uwh has a scientific peer reviewed paper supporting the safety in uwh

UW Rugby –

Worlds - July Montreal, Canada completed USOA Men 6th; Women 8th
Boston *Narwhals Tournament* open all Clubs Sept 23-24. Info available

UW Photography – looking interested photographers international event.

Skin Spearfishing –

National Championships, June 15, 2023, in Kona, HI. CenCal Mens teams 4th
and 14th/22 teams in the division.

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

Old Business

Kelp Recover & Management Plan (KRMP): The KRMP development process is anticipated to occur over the course of three to five years..

New Business

Scholarship – CenCal Annual \$1000 Scholarship – basic criteria – must be diver (skin or scuba) and enrolled in CA college, university. *Sandra Travers*, graduate student at Cal Poly Humboldt.

National Marine Sanctuaries: 15 US sanctuaries. Six new ones including 1 CA, 1 Hawaii, 1 NY; Lake Erie. Each sanctuary specific by purpose.

All sanctuaries have advisory councils - one of which is skin scuba diving. Each sanctuary has a separate management plan.

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Abalone update:

At recent MRC (Marine Resources Committee of CDFW Commission) meeting, the abalone recovery plan (RARP) was on the agenda but was not discussed as time ran out

In 2022, 6 of the 10 grid sites were evaluated. The remaining 4 sites will be done in 2023. It is apparent, so far, the status of red abalone population is worse not better.

Sea Otter translocation – translocation of southern sea otter to Sonoma coast proposed by National Fish & Wildlife Service. Meetings held. Meeting locations not terribly convenient or accessible – ie Bodega Bay Not actual meetings in classic sense but table presentations; no public input requested/allowed.

No reason has given for translocation other than ‘Congress’ or why move an endangered species where two recent ecological disasters?

Next meeting: September 27, 2023 7:30 pm

NEWS:

WANT TO DIVE WITH SUDAFED IN MEXICO

illegal in Mexico to possess over-the-counter drugs that contain pseudoephedrine (such as Actifed, Sudafed, and Vicks inhalers). If you're caught entering with them, they will be confiscated, and you may be arrested (pseudoephedrine is meth's key ingredient). However, if you have a medical prescription, you may carry prescribed drugs; the prescription requires the name of the doctor, his/her signature, contact details, and professional registration, all translated into Spanish. You may carry only the amount you need during your stay. You should also inform your airline before traveling.

TITANIC SCAN MAY UNLOCK THE SECRETS OF HER SINKING

100 years, the Titanic has lain frozen in time on the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean, its wreckage cloaked in pitch black water clouded with mud that has obscured much of its detail. But no longer, as the largest under-water three-dimensional scan in history may be about to unlock the secrets of how the Titanic sank, including the exact point where it struck an iceberg. The rusted wreck's secrets have been revealed in detail like never before as it lies 3,800m (12,500ft) beneath the Atlantic Ocean's surface.

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Experts will be able to see the ship unobscured by water and zoom into different parts, raising hopes that many unanswered questions will now be addressed as to why the ship hit an iceberg between Southampton and New York, killing 1,500 people in April 1912. Divers and research teams have explored the Titanic on numerous occasions since it was

discovered in 1985, but a lack of visibility has meant cameras have only shown small parts of it. Magellan Ltd, a deep-sea mapping company, produced the scan with Atlantic Productions making a 4k-quality documentary. [Vol 58 June 2023 SJFD Newsletter](#)

QUILLBACK ROCKFISH RETENTION PROHIBITED STATEWIDE EFFECTIVE AUG. 7

Retention of quillback rockfish (*Sebastes maliger*) is prohibited statewide in both the recreational and commercial fisheries effective Aug. 7, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) announced. CDFW projects the combined recreational and commercial take of quillback rockfish will exceed the harvest limits specified in federal regulation for 2023, and in-season action must occur to reduce the risk of overfishing.

The 2021 stock assessment for [quillback rockfish](#) off California indicated severe population declines. As a result, a recreational one-fish limit and reduced commercial limits were implemented in 2022 to reduce catch. Further constraints to the groundfish seasons for 2023 have not sufficiently reduced catch for quillback rockfish to meet federal harvest guidelines.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH: SHELLFISH SAFETY NOTIFICATION SPORT-HARVESTED BIVALVE SHELLFISH SAN MATEO COUNTY

Dangerous levels of paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) toxins have been detected in mussels from San Mateo County. The naturally occurring PSP toxins can cause illness or death in humans. Cooking does not destroy the toxin. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is advising consumers not to eat sport-harvested mussels, clams, or scallops from San Mateo County.

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.

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.

JOIN THE TEAM! KELP FOREST MONITORING TRAININGS NOW OPEN

Reef Check's Kelp Forest Monitoring training classes for 2023 are now open for registration, providing nine opportunities in California, Oregon and Washington for divers to get involved as citizen scientists! Visit Reef Check training page for details and to sign up! If you have been previously trained as a Reef Checker, you can sign up for one of our recertification classes to get ready for the upcoming survey season at <http://calendar.reefcheck.org>.

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SEA OTTER TRANSLOCATION

HR Jared Huffman, District 2, spoke recently in Gualala in favor of the Fish & Wildlife proposal to translocate sea otters to Sonoma Coast. He said 'there is compelling scientific evidence of benefits to the marine ecosystems' – according to the *Independent Coast Observer* July 7 issue. Where is this 'compelling evidence. Only persons living in his District can email

him – his office will not accept emails from anyone living in outside his District zip codes. If you have questions and/or opinions, contact him. Offices: San Rafael, Ft Bragg, Ukiah, Petaluma and Eureka.

BANANA PEEL PLASTIC COULD SAVE THE PLANET

Waste plastic has become a significant problem worldwide, harming ecosystems through littering and other forms of pollution. Researchers at the University of Washington (UW) have developed a bioplastic that breaks down as rapidly as a banana peel. This novel material, derived from algae, degrades naturally and provides several other advantages that make it an appealing replacement for petroleum-based plastics. The bioplastic developed by UW scientists is noteworthy because of several important qualities. It's a greener option than regular plastic because it can be recycled easily. The material is fireproof, meaning it will char and extinguish itself if exposed to flames. In addition, the bioplastic can be machined and may be sufficiently robust for use in long-lasting products like furniture. From *Sea Save*

SUNFLOWER SEA STAR POPULATION PLUMMETS – MAY NEED PROTECTIVE STATUS

The National Marine Fisheries Service has announced that imperiled sunflower sea stars may warrant protection under the United States Endangered Species Act. Since 2013, 90% of the Pacific population of these sea stars has been lost to sea star wasting disease. The outbreak is being driven by climate change, with warmer oceans making the effects more severe and deadly. Sunflower sea stars — which have up to 24 arms, can be a meter wide, and come in a variety of bright colors — live along shorelines from Southern California to southern Alaska. They're voracious predators whose consumption of sea urchins helps prevent the overgrazing of kelp forests. From *Sea Save*

Connecting You to America's Ocean and Great Lakes Treasures

National Marine Sanctuaries Webinar Series

Boiling Over: Marine Heatwaves, What are They and What Can We Expect?

August 10, 2023

10 am Hawai'i / 1 pm Pacific / 3 pm Central / 4 pm Eastern

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DESIGNATION: CHUMASH HERITAGE NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

A large community consortium, led by the Northern Chumash Tribal Council, submitted a nomination for the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary in July 2015. NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) is currently considering sanctuary designation.

The proposed sanctuary stretches along 152 miles of coastline adjacent to San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties and would provide a haven for marine mammals, invertebrates, sea birds, and fishes.

Current: Review Public Comments & Preparation Draft Documents
 Feb 2022 – Winter 2023. Release Draft Designation Documents & Provide Public Comment Spring 2023. Prepare Final Designation Documents – throughout 2023 Publish Final Designation Documents – target early 2024 Sanctuary Designation – target early 2023

FOREIGN ABALONE!

Wildlife Officer of the Year: Lt. Specialist Trevor Pell was selected for 2022. In July 2019, Pell followed up on a tip about unlawful non-native abalone trafficking out of LA. Officers discovered live non-native abalone were being unlawfully sold at a LA market; specimens purchased confirmed non-native disk abalone, at least 797, illegally imported from South Korea. Danger is from exotic species to local waters and possible diseases. Pell’s expertise is in restricted and exotic species law. All thanks to him!!

CEN CAL (www.cencal.org)		OFFICERS/DIRECTORS	
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Skin Spear Vacant	Scholarship Larry Ankuda	Legislation/CDFW/Access Carol Rose	



