

# ODYSSEY



## CENCAL DIVE COUNCIL NEWSLETTER LATE SPRING/EARLY SUMMER

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## **FIRST EVER ADOPT-A-PET DAY – JUNE 1**

More than 150 animal welfare organizations came together to find homes for over 2,000 pets – inaugural California Adopt-A-Pet Day. The ASPCA has stepped up to cover adoption fees at all participating shelters.

In recent years the number of animals in shelters has skyrocketed, and shelters are facing enormous pressures due to overcrowding. To find a participating animal shelter in California, visit: <https://caadoptapetday.org>



## **Fourth Global Coral Bleaching Event Confirmed**

Earlier this month, NOAA and ICRI (of which Reef Check is a member) confirmed that the world is currently experiencing its fourth global coral bleaching event and its second in the last 10 years. Previous events occurred in [1998](#), [2010](#), and [2015](#), and Reef Check teams around the world have been able to [document each event](#) as they unfolded. This current event has been no exception.

**Reef Check Dominican Republic.** “NOAA recently declared the fourth global massive coral bleaching event, with the Dominican Republic significantly impacted. In 2023, we observed that over 90% of coral colonies bleached as water temperatures soared above 30 degrees Celsius, peaking at 32 degrees during the late summer months. Witnessing our reefs turn ghostly white was alarming. However, by winter and spring, the reefs had regained their normal hues, and temperatures settled at a new normal of 27 degrees Celsius. We are now assessing the survival and mortality of our coral populations to

understand their adaptation to these conditions and to inform more effective conservation strategies.



*The following safety notification is from the California Department of Public Health:*

## Annual Quarantine of Sport-Harvested Mussels Begins May 1



The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) today announced the annual quarantine of sport-harvested mussels gathered along the California coast. The quarantine begins May 1 and applies to all species of mussels that are recreationally harvested for human consumption along the California coast, including all bays and estuaries. During the quarantine, mussels may only be harvested for non-consumptive uses, such as for bait. The quarantine is in place to protect the public against poisoning that can lead to serious illness, including coma and death.

The quarantine is designed to prevent paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) and domoic acid poisoning, also known as amnesic shellfish poisoning, in people who might otherwise consume sport-harvested mussels. Both of these syndromes are from naturally occurring toxins produced by certain phytoplankton consumed by shellfish, including mussels and clams. Cooking does not destroy the toxins.



## Updated Ocean Sport Fishing Regulations Booklet Now Available



The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has updated its [2024 California Ocean Sport Fishing Regulations booklet](#) (PDF), and encourages anglers, divers, and hoopnetters coastwide to download and review the latest version.

The updated booklet is now available on the [CDFW Fishing Regulations web page](#), as well as the CDFW Marine Region's comprehensive [Ocean Sport Fishing web page](#).

Regulation changes include the following:

- A large number of **groundfish regulation changes**. Groundfish include many species of fish including rockfish, lingcod, greenlings, cabezon, and others.
- A change in **purple sea urchin regulations**.
- Complete **Pacific halibut** regulations.

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



## Exploring California’s Marine Protected Areas: Point Reyes Headlands Special Closure and Point Reyes State Marine Conservation Area

As one of the windiest places on the Pacific Coast, **Point Reyes** is quite literally breath taking. But the rocky shores, sandy beaches, and other habitats found here do not merely provide majestic scenery; they also support a remarkable array of species. This is due in part to the peninsula’s location on the receiving end of a major upwelling zone, where deep nutrient-rich ocean waters rise near shore and replace the surface waters, which are in turn moved to the open ocean by currents and wind. The nutrients help bolster nearshore marine communities and sustain the incredible biodiversity found at Point Reyes.

The rocky headlands provide breeding grounds for **nine different seabird species**, making it the largest and most diverse mainland seabird colony in the region. The crystalline waters surrounding the peninsula host migrating gray and humpback whales, as well as the largest population of harbor seals in California outside of the Channel Islands. Elephant seals, once nearly extinct, made a triumphant return to the beaches of Point Reyes in 1981 after a 150-year absence; today, a thriving colony delights visitors.



It is due in part to the incredible diversity of marine life around the Point Reyes peninsula that the area was identified for protection during the **marine protected area** (MPA) planning process, following the passage of the **Marine Life Protection Act** in 1999. Point Reyes is located in what used to be the north central coast planning

region where, following two years of scientific analysis and stakeholder engagement, [twenty-five MPAs](#) and six special closures were approved in 2009 and implemented in 2010.



**Map of MPAs on the Point Reyes Peninsula.**

[Point Reyes Headlands Special Closure](#), a narrow strip extending 1,000 feet out to sea along three miles of headlands from the Point Reyes Lighthouse to Chimney Rock, was created to provide a refuge for nesting seabirds. Seabirds and marine mammals are particularly vulnerable to disturbance by people and boats; special closures help protect these sensitive areas by prohibiting access.

[Point Reyes State Marine Conservation Area](#) lies south of the headlands, just offshore and adjacent to the [Point Reyes State Marine Reserve](#), which runs between the conservation area and the shore. Together, this cluster of MPAs protects 22.49 square miles of habitat, overlapping the 3,295 square miles of state and federal waters protected by the [Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary](#).

The protective designations don't end where the water meets the shore. The [Point Reyes National Seashore](#) has been maintained by the National Park Service since its designation in 1962, and its 71,000 acres include uplands, ranches, and more than 100 miles of coastline. Approximately 32,000 acres of the national seashore's coastal wilderness are part of the [National Wilderness System](#). Together, these state and federal designations provide opportunities for habitat conservation and restoration across the land-sea connection. The joint protections improve the health and resilience of these important ecosystems, all while preserving these special places so that current and future generations can enjoy opportunities for recreation, education, and research.

Interested in a visit? Check out these resources for more information and to help plan your trip:

- Start with this previous Marine Management News [blog post](#) for activities to enjoy at Point Reyes SMR.
- The National Park Service provides information on [things to do](#) at the national seashore, including [backcountry coastal camping](#).
- Gather data and participate in community science with [MPA Watch](#).
- If you want to go fishing, first obtain a [fishing license](#), learn more about the [regulations](#), and bookmark the [Ocean Sport Fishing web map](#) on your mobile device.
- Check out these comprehensive lists of [hikes](#) and [beaches](#) available at Point Reyes.
- Even if you can't visit the MPAs at Point Reyes, you can stay involved with the MPA Network by joining your local



## **MBNMS Research Interests: volunteer opportunity - BeachCOMBERS**



**National Ocean Service, NOAA**

### **Volunteer opportunity with the BeachCOMBERS program**

BeachCOMBERS is a long-term community science program that monitors the health of coastal ecosystems in Central and Southern California. Founded in 1997, BeachCOMBERS is a collaborative program powered by volunteers and managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in partnership with California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, and others. Through BeachCOMBERS, trained volunteers survey selected sections of coastline monthly from Santa Cruz to San Diego with the specific goal of monitoring deposition of beach cast carcasses and oil presence to use as a metric of coastal ecosystem conditions. BeachCOMBERS has provided data for a number of scientific papers, contributed to the conservation of marine resources, quantified oiled wildlife, and has informed resource managers about wildlife entanglement from fishing gear and other anthropogenic debris.

To sign up for Summer 2024 training notices or for more information contact: [FWS8VenturaBeachCOMBERS@fws.gov](mailto:FWS8VenturaBeachCOMBERS@fws.gov)

1. Ability to walk on unstable ground (sand and cobble) for distances between 2.5 to 7 miles (2-6 hours).
2. Completion of in-person and online volunteer trainings (approximately 16 hours)
3. One-year commitment to survey an assigned beach.
4. Surveys occur once a month, within the first week of each month.

Additional information, including the history of BeachCOMBERS can be viewed at: <https://mlml.sjsu.edu/beachcombers/>



# UPDATED CALENDAR 2024

## June

June 1-2	<b>Scuba Show LA</b>
June 8	International Oceans Day
June 14	Flag Day
June 16	Father's Day
June 19	Juneteenth
June 20	First Day Summer
<b>June 21-23</b>	<b>USOA UW Hockey Nationals, Denver</b>
June 19-20	CDFW Meeting – Mammoth Lakes
June 29	Caspar Culling - Mendocino Cnty

## July

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

## August

Aug 1	<b>Olympics</b> Paris!!
Aug 14-15	CDFW Meeting – Fortuna
Aug 23-25	Monterey <b>SHOOTOUT</b> – uw photo competition
August 31	Caspar Culling – Mendocino Cnty

## September

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

## October

Oct 3	Rosh Hashanah
Oct 4-6	<b>North American Inter-Regional UWH Denver</b>
Oct 6	<b>USOA Annual Meeting</b>
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	Pearl Harbor Remembrance
Nov 7	CDFW Marine Resources Committee - Sacramento
<i>Nov 11</i>	<i>Veterans Day Holiday</i>

**Nov 19-22**

*Nov 28*

**DEMA Show Las Vegas**

*Thanksgiving Day Holiday*

**December**

Dec 4

CenCal BOD – November Meeting

Dec 7

Pearl Harbor Day

Dec 11-12

CDFW Meeting – San Diego

Dec 21

Winter Solstice/First Day of Winter

*Dec 25*

*Christmas Day Holiday*

Dec 26

Hanukkah

Dec 26

Kwanzaa