

ODYSSEY



CENCAL DIVE COUNCIL NEWSLETTER SPRING/MAY 2025

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CENCAL BOD MINUTES

MARCH 25,

7:30 pm

Carol Rose, Secretary 3mcircle@gmail.com

1.0 Welcome and Introductions

1.1 Present: Carol Rose, Larry Ankuda

2.0 Membership: CenCal as of March 22, 2025

CenCal = 40

USOA = 5

3.0 Finances – Larry Ankuda, Treasurer

3.1 Balances as of January 29, 2025 \$ 13,940

Income \$ 1,333

Expenses \$ 1313

Skin Spear \$ 9,627

Legal Defense \$ 3,000.00

3.2 Budget 2025 – Expenses

3.2.1 Scholarship \$1000

3.2.2 Other: po box rent April ✓, zoom, website ✓

3.3 Scholarship – 2025 year

3.3.1 info and promotion – See website cencal.org

4.0 UW Hockey –

4.1 Club Puck playing weekly at Fremont High School **in** Sunnyvale

4.2 Having a Intro Night – all welcome

4.3 Nationals in late June, Denver suburb

5.0 UW Rugby –

5.1 playing Mt View, Albany

5.2 Nationals 2025 June 7-8 Newark NJ

6.0 UW Photography –

6.1 SHOOTOUT August 22-24, 2025

7.0 Skin Spearfishing –

7.1 2025 National Championships

7.1.1 CenCal has 2 teams going to Skin Spear Nationals – 1 men
And 1 women teams.

7.1.1.2 Men: Dennis Haussler, Mike Ban

7.1.1.2 Women: Brandi Easter, Anne Doherty

7.1.2 April 11, Lake Pleasant, AZ, boat based

7.1.3. Fish: striped bass, carp and shad – no limits

7.2 World Championships November 21-24 - Brazil

8.0 Old Business

8.1 **Sea Otter** translocation - NO known/proposed plans/no updates

8.2 **MPAs/Changes** – 124 MPAs in California with 80+ petitions for changes to the current MPAs. Most petitions are specific to a MPA.

MPA PETITIONS

II. Petition 2024-10: Request to amend recreational fishing regulations to add use of a hookah and airlift system to collect urchins

III. Petition 2023-12 – Request to allow unlimited recreational take of purple and red sea urchins in ten counties (Humboldt to Santa Barbara.)

8.3 **Red Abalone Recovery Plan:** anticipated to take two years (2024-2026). 2014-2016 marine heat wave caused a rapid/massive kelp forest decline: abalone staple food decline, lack of nutrient storage & decline in species diversity.

8.4 **KRMP**/ *Kelp Restoration & Management Plan* – CDFW, with California Ocean Protection Council (OPC), developing a statewide, ecosystem-based, adaptive and KRMP for giant kelp and bull kelp.

8.5 Marine Resources Meeting March 13 – **meeting report attached**

9.0 New Business –

9.1 Coastal Cleanup - 2025 September 20, 2025

9.2 Cal Dept Fish & Wildlife Commission Meeting June 18-19 Fortuna

10.0 Next meeting – July 30, 2025 7:30 pm

Carol Rose, Secretary

meet odd months **last** Wednesday



UNDERWATER SPORTS

THE 2025 SKIN SPEARFISHING NATIONALS

Were held in Lake Pleasant, Arizona on Friday April 11. Some 54 divers from 5 Clubs/Councils participated.

Winning Mens Team: Team Surfur NFSA Club

Womens Team: Make Spear Fun Again, FSDA Council

Mixed Team: Versa Spear, NFSA

Masters Team: Team Makule, North Shore Divers/HIFC

CenCal has 2 teams participating: Men and Masters. The CenCal Masters team of Brandi Easter and Anne Doherty placed third in the Division. CenCal Men placed 10th out of 21 Mens Teams.

The 2026 Skin Spear Nationals is tentatively set for the Big Island at Wailoloa, Kona in July.

LOCAL, REGIONAL, OTHER EVENTS:

There are 5 official regions in USOA: NW, SW, Inland/Mid, SE, NE. The various underwater sports hold events throughout the year.

OTHER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS:

The National Championships in underwater hockey and rugby are scheduled for June. Hockey in Denver area, Colorado and rugby in Newark, New Jersey.

There are more than several international uw sport events: Qualifiers, Regionals, International Cups,



ANNUAL QUARANTINE SPORT-HARVESTED MUSSELS MAY 1

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

The mussel quarantine is in addition to the [shellfish safety advisories](#) warning against eating sport-harvested bivalve shellfish (mussels, clams, scallops, and oysters) in Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego counties due to elevated levels of PSP toxins and domoic acid in shellfish in the region.

This quarantine does not apply to commercially sold mussels, clams, 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.

For additional information, please visit the [CDPH Marine Biotoxin Monitoring web page](#).



MARINE REGION 2024 “**BY THE NUMBERS**” REPORT NOW AVAILABLE

If you're curious about what the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Marine Region did in 2024, look no further than the **2024 *By the Numbers* report**. Available now, the *By the Numbers* report summarizes some of the most important commercial and recreational fishing statistics from the past year and provides highlights of Marine Region activities.

Market squid and Dungeness crab were the top two commercial fisheries by both weight and value in 2024. Recreational anglers overwhelmingly targeted tuna and groundfish (rockfish, cabezon, and greenling) over other saltwater species. The groundfish season in Southern California provided anglers fishing from boats with an opportunity to target rockfish in waters that had been closed for more than 20 years. Unfortunately, the salmon season remained closed for both commercial and recreational sectors for a second year in a row, but the return of salmon to the Klamath River Basin just months after a historic dam removal provided a beacon of hope for salmon populations.

Along with the management of marine life and fisheries, Marine Region staff completed and supported hundreds of projects internally and with partners. Celebrating the 75th anniversary of the California Cooperative Oceanic Fisheries Investigations, the longest running field research initiative in the world.

Staff created a *Marine Protected Area Story Map* to provide detailed information about active petitions to amend California's MPA Network.

Also, CDFW received two new vessels that can assist Marine Region projects, including a 74 ft. patrol boat based out of Half Moon Bay. Trained scientific divers spent more than 500 hours underwater conducting surveys, thousands of fishery samples were processed to aid in stock assessments, and staff attended numerous events to share information and answer stakeholder questions.

If you are interested in learning more about our work over the past decade, be sure to check out our *By the Numbers* web page.



U.S. ENFORCES BAN ON SEAFOOD LINKED TO MARINE MAMMAL BYCATCH

United States – Starting January 1, 2026, the United States will prohibit the import of seafood associated with marine mammal bycatch. This landmark decision aims to protect species such as whales, dolphins, and seals from unintentional capture in commercial fishing operations. The ban seeks to promote global fishing practices that prioritize marine mammal safety and align with domestic standards already in place, reflecting a significant step toward sustainable seafood consumption



CALIFORNIA'S MARINE PROTECTED AREAS: A BLUEPRINT FOR THRIVING FISH POPULATIONS

Santa Barbara, California – A comprehensive study by the University of California, Santa Barbara, reveals that the state's network of marine protected areas (MPAs) has led to significant increases in fish populations and biodiversity. Researchers found that species such as rockfish and lingcod have rebounded within these protected zones, contributing to healthier marine ecosystems. The success of California's MPAs serves as a model for marine conservation efforts worldwide, demonstrating the effectiveness of well-managed protected areas in restoring ocean health.



MARCH OPC MEETING SUMMARY & RECORDING

The **March 3, 2025, Ocean Protection Council (OPC) meeting** advanced initiatives across OPC's Strategic Plan goals, including adopting a resolution on ocean acidification and hypoxia, funding for sea level rise adaptation planning, enhancing management of marine protected areas (MPAs), and supporting climate-ready fisheries management. These efforts aim to provide tangible benefits for all Californians by enhancing environmental and economic health and resilience against climate change across diverse communities and habitats statewide.

During the meeting, the Council approved several significant action items supporting OPC's strategic goals:

Management of California's Marine Protected Area Network: Up to **\$4,540,000** to advance the management of California's MPA Network. These projects will inform adaptive management and contribute to enhancing sustainable fisheries and climate resilience for California communities:

- **Marine Applied Research and Exploration Group (MARE) and the University of California Santa Barbara:** Up to **\$1,660,000** for continued ecological monitoring of deep rocky reef habitats in the MPA Network in 2025 and 2026.
- **San Jose State University:** Up to **\$1,380,000** for continued ecological monitoring in the MPA Network in 2026 via the California Collaborative Fisheries Research Program (CCFRP).
- **California Marine Sanctuary Foundation:** Up to **\$750,000** for continued research on understanding social dimensions of ocean access and MPAs across California's coastal counties.
- **Resources Legacy Fund:** Up to **\$500,000** for the expansion of MPA Watch program to better understand human uses in MPAs and factors that affect MPA compliance.

• **MPA Collaborative Network:** Up to **\$250,000** for the engagement and empowerment of underrepresented communities in MPA management.

- **Ocean Science Trust Science Advisor Grant (Augmentation):** Up to **\$310,000** to the Ocean Science Trust to administer scientific working groups providing guidance on coastal and marine restoration in a changing climate. The funding will also support the development of a social science research and monitoring framework for California's MPA network.

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RECREATIONAL SALMON – GOOD NEWS

The April 15 meeting of the Pacific Fishery Mgt Council in conjunction with Cal Dept Fish & Wildlife recommended the opening of the recreational salmon fishing season on a limited basis.

This is the first recreational salmon fishing season since 2022, but it is the third closed commercial season in a row. Decision takes effect mid May. The season will open June 7 with a 7,000 Chinook limit. If this number is not surpassed, the fishery will open again in late July 5 through 6. Additional dates will be made available in late July and August until the 7,000 guideline is attained. The Fall recreational season between Pt Reyes and Pt Sur begins Sept 4 through 7 with a 7,500 guideline. Other openings may occur (late Sept) depending on meeting the guidelines.



‘EVEN A FREEWAY IS REDEEMABLE’: WORLD’S LARGEST WILDLIFE CROSSING TAKES SHAPE IN LOS ANGELES

Above the whirring of 300,000 cars each day on [Los Angeles](#)'s 101

freeway, an ambitious project is taking shape. The Wallis Annenberg wildlife crossing is the largest [wildlife](#) bridge in the world at 210ft long and 174ft wide, and it's had help taking shape: soil.

A wildlife crossing across the 101 freeway will connect two parts of the Santa Monica mountains for animals. The project began in 2022 through a public-private partnership that brought together many organizations to cover the \$92m in costs, according to Caltrans, the state transportation department. Research shows wildlife crossings save money because it limits animal interactions with vehicles.

Most wildlife bridges and underpasses around the world are made of cement and steel. But this one is designed to seamlessly glide into the environment on both sides. The detail in the project reflects years of expert consultants in research and design. The soil itself is engineered – a combination of light rocks, horticultural subsoil and topsoil, enriched with compost. Then it gets some additions to match the biology of local soils, so the bridge can match the environment around it.

The project aims to complete its work by the end of 2026.



CALENDAR 2025

May

May 4	May the Fourth Be With You
May 5	Cinco de Mayo
May 11	Mothers Day
May 17	San Diego UW Hockey Potluck
May 17-18	NW Club Cup UW Hockey, St Helenes OR
May 23-25	Fin Swimming World Cup Coral Springs FL
<i>May 26</i>	<i>Memorial Day</i>
May 28	CenCal Meeting

May 31- Scuba Show, Long Beach
June 1

June

June 7-8 UW Rugby Nationals, Newark NJ

June 8 Oceans Day

June 14 Flag Day

June 15 Fathers Day

June 17-24 Junior Worlds Fin Swimming, Chengdu China

June 19 Cal Dept Fish & Wildlife Meeting

June 20-22 UW Hockey Nat Championships, Denver suburb

July

July 4 Independence Day

July 14 Marine Resources Committee Meeting

July 30 CenCal Meeting – 5th Wednesday

August

August 2-3 Portland 3v3 UW Hockey Portland OR

August 7+ World Games/Fin Swimming, China

August 15+ PanAmerican Champs Columbia UW Hockey/Rugby

August 15+ Americas Qualifier UW Hockey, Colombia

September

Sept 1 Labor Day

Sept 11 Patriots Day

Sept 23 Rosh Hashanah

Sept 24 CenCal Meeting

October

Oct 2	Yom Kippur
Oct 4	USOA Annual Membership Meeting – Virtual
<i>Oct 13</i>	<i>Indigenous People Day</i>
Oct 20	Diwali
Oct 31	Halloween

November

Nov 2	Daylight Off
Nov 8-9	UW Hockey ‘Not So Hard on Body’ North Charleston
Nov 11	Election Day
Nov 6	Marine Resources Comm Meeting
<i>Nov 11</i>	<i>Veterans Day</i>
Nov 11-14	DEMA – Orlando FL
Nov 21-24	Skindiving Spear Worlds Brazil
Nov 26 <u>Move</u>	CenCal Meeting Move to December 3
<i>Nov 27</i>	<i>Thanksgiving Day</i>

December

Dec 3	CenCal Meeting
Dec 7	Pearl Harbor Day
Dec 11	Cal Dept Fish & Wildlife Commission Meeting
Dec 15	Hanukkah
<i>Dec 25</i>	<i>Christmas Day</i>
Dec 26	Kwanzaa Begins

