



June E-Newsletter

CHANNELKEEPER TAKES ACTION AGAINST PLASTIC

Plastic pollution is an ever-growing global issue that has significant impacts locally, which is why reducing single-use plastic is a major focus of Channelkeeper's work.

People often think of plastic pollution as litter. However, plastic pollution is more than the eyesore of single-use items that wash down storm drains and collect on our beaches. Plastic has severe consequences throughout its lifecycle. From oil drilling and refining to plastic production and waste, every stage is detrimental to human health.

Channelkeeper continues to work throughout Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties to educate the community about the impacts of single-use plastic and ways to reduce its use, while also continuing to advocate for local policies to reduce single-use plastic and helping to set an example for the state. With studies predicting that plastic pollution in the ocean will likely [triple](#) over the next decade, we recognize the urgency of taking immediate action to address this crisis.

Whether it's hosting beach and community cleanups through Channelkeeper's Watershed Brigade program, picking up marine debris from the Channel while out on our research vessel, educating students about the impacts of plastic debris in

our oceans, or advocating for policies that work to reduce single-use plastic closer to the source, Channelkeeper continues to focus on solutions to this issue. We invite you to join our efforts by volunteering for Watershed Brigade cleanups, supporting our programs, and staying well-informed about plastic-related issues.

In our latest [blog post](#), we share seven critically acclaimed films about plastics to help educate our community, elevate awareness, and create opportunities for discussion related to this grave environmental issue. You're welcome to watch, learn, and join us in taking action.



EDUCATION



ADVOCACY



FIELD WORK



ENFORCEMENT



WORLD OCEANS DAY
June 8

The ocean covers over 70% of the planet and produces at least 50% of its oxygen. It is home to most of the Earth's biodiversity and it nourishes more than a billion

people around the world. The ocean is also critical to our economy with an estimated 40 million people being employed by ocean-based industries by 2030.

The world's oceans are in need of support. We are currently taking more from the ocean than can be replenished. 90% of big fish populations are depleted and 50% of coral reefs destroyed. To protect and preserve the ocean and all it sustains, we must create a new balance, rooted in true understanding of the ocean and how humanity relates to it. We must build a connection to the ocean that is inclusive, innovative, and informed by lessons from the past.

In honor of **World Oceans Day**, we invite you to perform one ocean-positive action this week. Spend an hour [picking up trash](#) in your watershed, sign an ocean advocacy [petition](#), [voice your support](#) for plastic reduction policies, or [donate](#) to an organization that is focused on marine conservation.

Together we can ensure that clean beaches, flowing streams, and a healthy ocean support a thriving economy, offer healthy habitat for fish and wildlife, and provide clean water and safe places for recreation for all people and for future generations.



THE LEYDECKER ARCHIVE IS NOW LIVE!

For over fifteen years environmental engineering consultant and researcher Al Leydecker worked with Channelkeeper as a Stream Team Science Advisor. During that time, Al helped shape Channelkeeper's community monitoring program. He was actively engaged in research on the Ventura River and in the Goleta Watersheds and conducted analyses of the data that volunteers collected.

We are pleased to share that many of Al's reports, articles, and images on the Ventura River and Goleta creeks are now available for reference on our **website** in a special archive. If you are interested in learning more about nutrients, rainfall, conductivity, or other fascinating cycles of change in the Ventura River or Goleta, we invite you to explore these archives of information.

The Channelkeeper Crew is deeply grateful for Al Leydecker's contribution and is honored to share this valuable resource with our community.

Leydecker Archive



WATERSHED BRIGADE ANNOUNCES NEW MONTHLY CHALLENGE

The Watershed Brigade continues to grow and make a huge difference in our community. In May, 29 Brigadiers participated in our Monthly Challenge and cleaned up over **332 pounds of trash** from **20 different locations**! Thank you to everyone who joined in the effort!

Each month, participants in the Monthly Challenge earn points into the drawing at the end of the month. In May, we gave away a \$100 gift card and a \$50 gift card to a local bike shop to two lucky participants! Did you know that the Watershed Brigade Monthly Challenge restarts at the beginning of each month? Conduct one (ore more!) cleanups in June to earn points into the end-of-month drawing to win one of two gift cards for whale watching excursions aboard the Condor Express!

Additionally, each month brings a new event. Last month's Watershed Brigade Event involved surveying local beaches to identify the locations of derelict lobster traps. Volunteers identified **44 traps**. This month, Watershed Brigade volunteers will help remove traps. You can find more information below and visit the [event page](#) to sign up. We hope you'll join us!



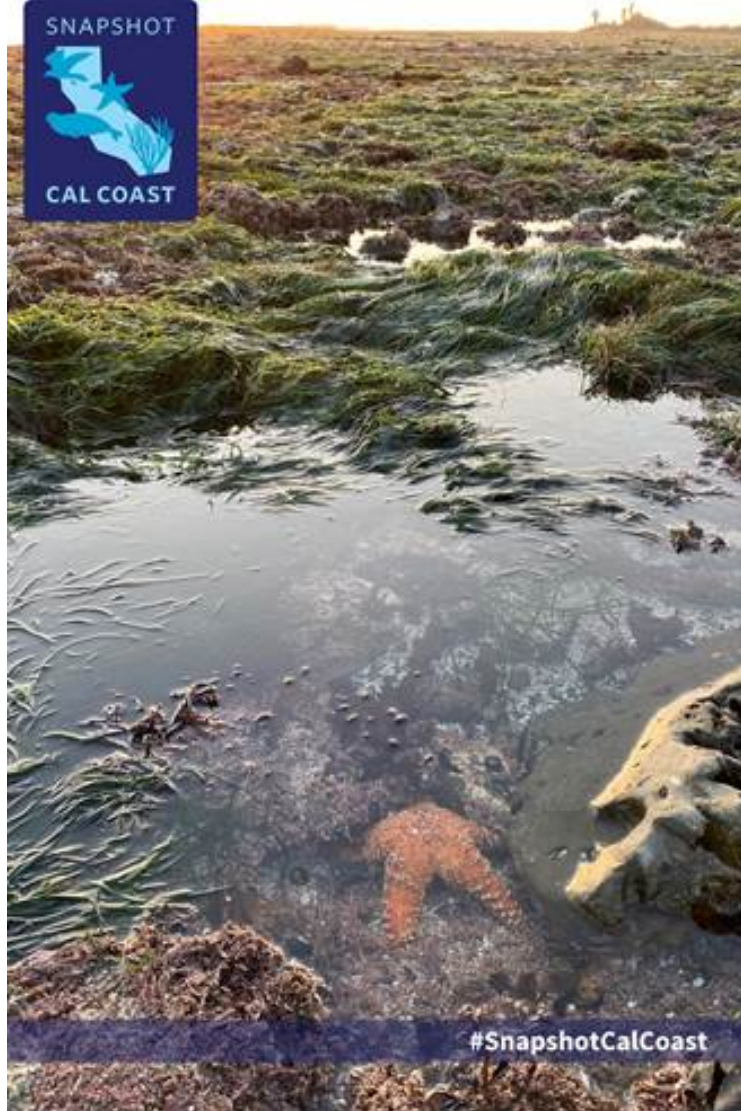
LOBSTER TRAP CLEANUP EVENT

June 19, 9:00-1:30pm
Ellwood Beach

Each winter, storms that bring heavy swells wash many lobster traps onto our coastline. Most of these traps are not recovered and persist on our local beaches as marine debris. As ghost traps drift, they can entangle marine organisms, release microplastics, and pose safety hazards to beachgoers. Ultimately, they wash up on beaches as pollution.

Channelkeeper has launched an initiative to remove derelict lobster traps from local beaches. In May, Watershed Brigade volunteers surveyed the beaches for derelict lobster traps and identified 44 traps that have washed ashore between Haskell's Beach and Hammonds Beach, with the highest concentration (38 traps) between Haskell's and Ellwood Beach. Now it's time to clean up those traps!

Join us on **June 19 between 9 and 1:30 pm** to help out. This will be our first group event since February 2020 and we are excited to get together in person! If you would like to join this event, please [sign up](#) so we know how many people to expect. Thank you!



VISIT TIDEPOOLS & HELP COLLECT DATA

Our friends at the California Academy of Sciences are recruiting volunteers throughout California to join them for the [2021 Snapshot Cal Coast event](#) from June 11th -30th. With the goal to connect people to their coastal biodiversity, build community, and make observations from as many places along the coast as possible this event is fun for the whole family.

Using the [iNaturalist](#) app (for iPhone or Android) visit a local beach or tidepool and take photos and make observations of seaweeds, plants, and animals. Be sure to follow the [Snapshot Cal Coast 2021 project](#) in iNaturalist and use the #SnapshotCalCoast hashtag when recording your observations. Weekend mornings in June have good low tides, but check the [NOAA tide tables](#) for more info. Areas of particular interest in collecting citizen science data include Coal Oil Point in the Campus Point MPA and Tar Pits.

Enjoy the tidepools and remember to follow tidepooling best practices for your safety and the protection of wildlife- never remove any animals or seaweeds; take care to step on bare rock wherever possible; never move animals from place to place and; leave the tidepools as you found them.



SANTA BARBARA HARBOR CLEANUP SUCCESS

Channelkeeper would like to extend a huge thank you to the volunteers and partners that worked together on May 16th for the City of Santa Barbara's annual Harbor Cleanup. This year's effort targeted the City Pier, Fish Float North, and the Urchin Dock, and also included a beach cleanup at West Beach.

"Operation Clean Sweep" removed approximately 3,000 pounds of debris from the harbor floor near the City Pier. This brings the cumulative 13-year total to over 22 tons of debris removed from the harbor floor. We're grateful to all of the volunteers who provided dockside support collecting sunken trash.



COASTAL OSPREY SIGHTINGS

It always feels like a special omen when an Osprey flies overhead and lands on a nearby perch. Channelkeeper staff has been lucky enough to spot them recently while conducting MPA Watch surveys at Naples MPA, walking along Ellwood Beach in the western Campus Point MPA, and during an outdoor environmental education program at the Ventura River estuary.

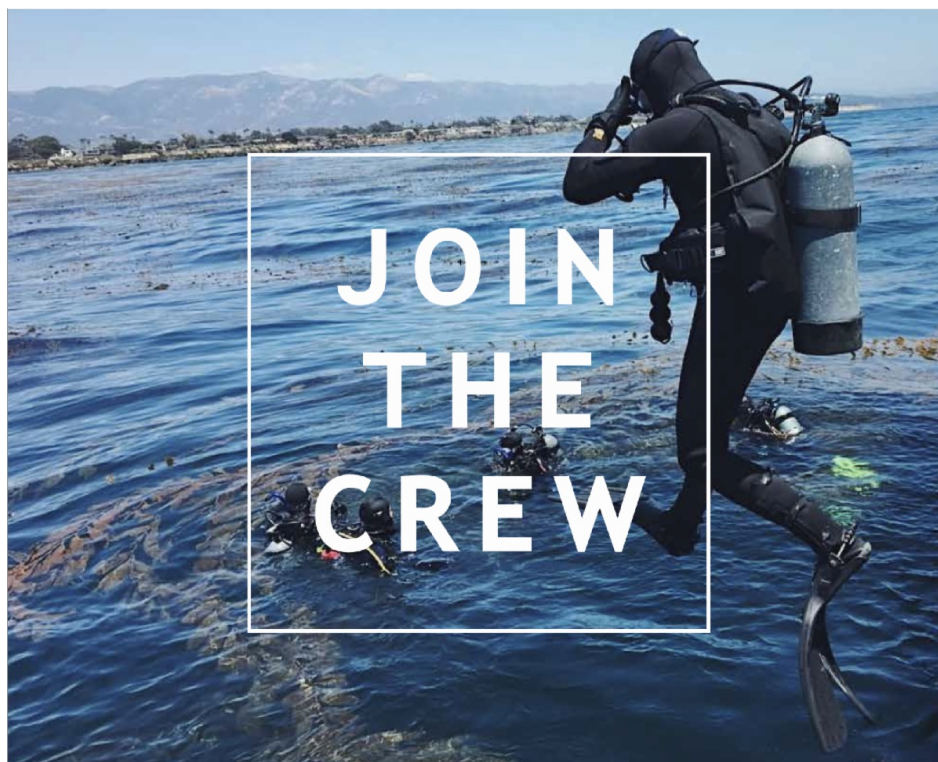
Osprey are distinct-looking raptors with a dark band across their forehead and mature adults have piercing yellow eyes. These birds can be found all over the world near large bodies of water and feed almost exclusively on fish. The Southern California population declined due to the same DDT pollution that impacted bald eagles in our area, but their populations have been recovering. Keep a lookout for this majestic bird next time you're at the harbor or walking along the beach! Here's a helpful [resource](#) for identifying osprey and other birds in the field.



PLEASE BALLOON RESPONSIBLY

With graduation season upon us, we'd like to remind our community to please balloon responsibly. Thousands of Mylar balloons blown from the mainland litter our ocean, where they can be mistaken as food by sea creatures or entangle wildlife. If you choose to use balloons, be sure to secure them well and toss the deflated remnants in the trash. If you have deflated Mylar balloons you can drop them off at the Channelkeeper office to be recycled thanks to a student project -- Mylar Mistake—that purchased a TerraCycle recycling box. TerraCycle is a recycling company that focuses on recycling hard-to-recycle materials and sells collection boxes for these materials. Channelkeeper also invites you to find eco-friendly

alternatives [here](#) and to take the pledge to be Mylar-free at MylarMistake.com. Congratulations, graduates!



**Your support for Channelkeeper's efforts
is needed now more than ever.**

Become a member of the Channelkeeper crew today with your tax-deductible donation. You'll be investing in clean water and healthy communities along the Santa Barbara Channel today and for future generations.

With your membership, you will receive our regular newsletters, news updates and action alerts, invitations to special Channelkeeper events and fun volunteer opportunities, and a free Channelkeeper sticker. All new donors contributing \$50 or more can also receive a Channelkeeper t-shirt, and for donations of \$250 or more, bi-annual issues of [Waterkeeper magazine](#). Become a member today!

BECOME A MEMBER



Including Santa Barbara Channelkeeper in your estate planning will provide the funds needed to protect water quality, fight pollution, and educate our community about the Santa Barbara Channel and its watersheds for years to come. [Contact us](#) to learn more.

KEEPING WATCH FOR CLEAN WATER
SINCE 1999



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