



HARBOR COMMISSION VOTES TO INCLUDE PUBLIC INPUT IN CRUISE SHIP PROGRAM EVALUATION

In addition to resuming our cruise ship monitoring program this spring, Channelkeeper collaborated with the City of Santa Barbara's Waterfront Department to establish a voluntary vessel speed reduction to protect migrating whales from ship strikes and presented the City of Santa Barbara Harbor Commission with recommendations for the City's cruise ship program.

One of our recommendations is the establishment of a special subcommittee to conduct a public process to re-evaluate the cruise ship program as it relates to the City's economic, environmental, and community goals and to develop recommendations regarding the future path of the program.

In April, the Harbor Commission voted unanimously to establish a formal process in which the public can participate in the evaluation of the City's cruise ship program by voicing their opinions. The Commission also approved the formation of a new Cruise Ship Subcommittee as a first step in the assessment.

Channelkeeper looks forward to participating in the process and sharing information about how the public can get involved.



EDUCATION



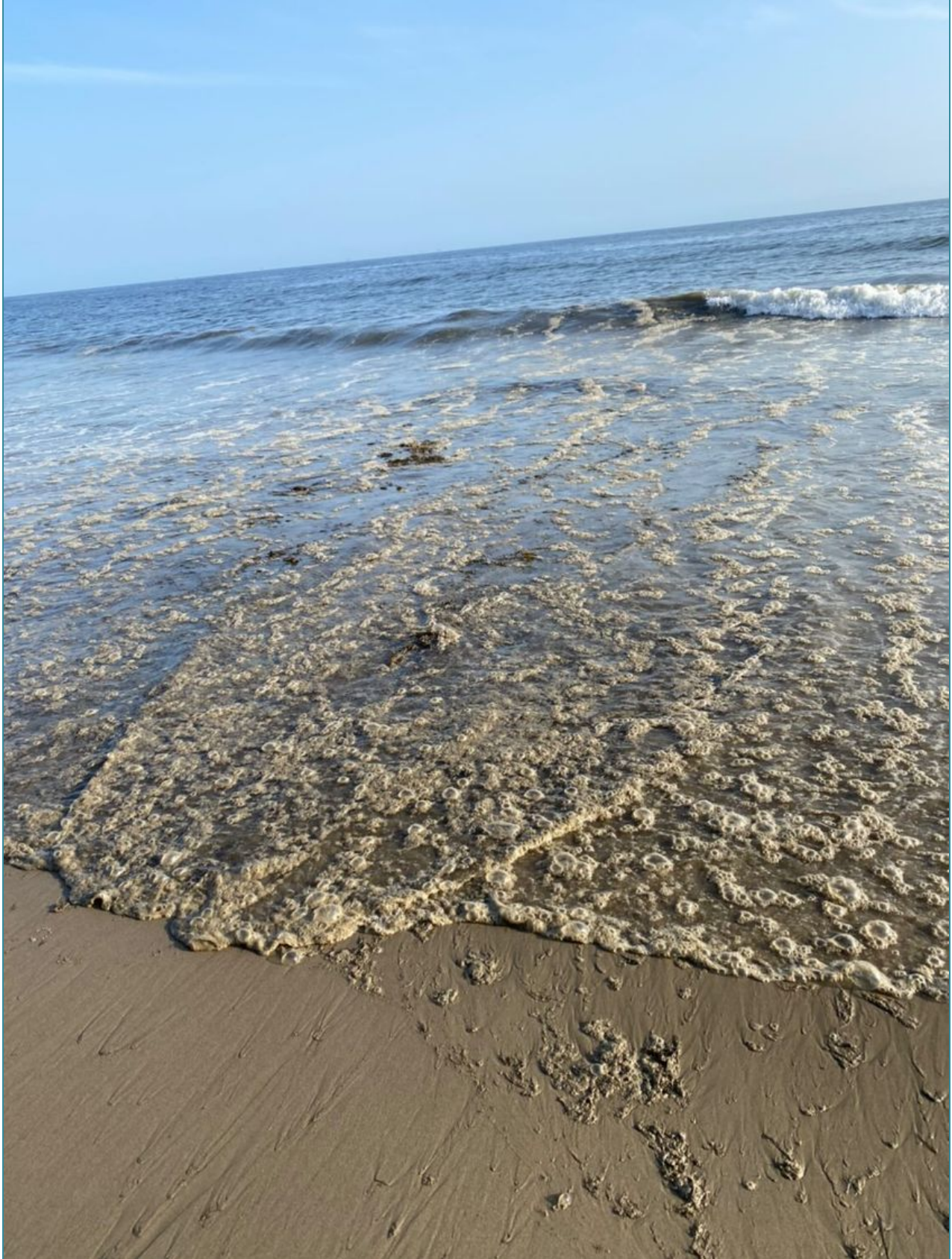
ADVOCACY



FIELD WORK



ENFORCEMENT



RED TIDE PRODUCES BROWN FOAM

Got foam? Santa Barbara Channel beach and ocean goes certainly do, based on numerous observations and reports that we have received from community members during the last two weeks. Channelkeeper received reports from concerned citizens about brown foam or sludge on beaches ranging from Santa Barbara to Carpinteria. Many were concerned that the foam substance was linked to cruise ship visits. Based on our investigations, Channelkeeper believes that the source is more natural in origin.

Dense phytoplankton blooms, which are also known as “red tides” have been detected across the Southern California Bight, including in waters offshore of Santa Barbara, since April 25th.

[According to the Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System \(SCCOOS\)](#), a bloom of plankton named *Akashiwo sanguinea* was detected last week off of Stearn’s Wharf by the Imaging FlowCytobot (IFCB), which provides automated phytoplankton imagery and classification of phytoplankton species every 30-minutes.

Akashiwo sanguinea is a form of phytoplankton that excretes a “mucus” substance from its pores that produces foam when churned by rough sea conditions and washes onto beaches.

Foam events from algal blooms are well documented and occur semi-regularly. [According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\)](#), seafoam from harmful algal blooms can cause health impacts to humans such as eye irritation or respiratory distress for individuals with asthma or related conditions. However, the events are typically short-lived. Other types of harmful algal blooms can produce biotoxins such as domoic acid, which is well known locally for its impact on marine mammals. The source and trends of such blooms are currently the subject of [robust research programs](#) throughout California.

Out of caution, Channelkeeper did process a water sample containing the substance to analyze it for fecal bacteria. The sample results were within normal limits and did not indicate sewage contamination.

We are grateful for our network of vigilant community members helping to keep watch for clean water. Pollution reports may always be submitted to Channelkeeper via our [online reporting form](#) and photos are helpful for documentation. In the event that individuals observe conditions they believe to be related to visiting cruise ships, we strongly encourage that they also report those observations directly to the [Santa Barbara Waterfront or Santa Barbara Harbor Patrol](#).



BLACK ROCK BEACH LOBSTER TRAP REMOVAL EVENT

Saturday, May 21, 2022

8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Help remove derelict lobster traps from the beach! Channelkeeper has identified approximately eighty lobster traps on Black Rock Beach below More Mesa. In addition to cluttering up our beaches, derelict lobster traps can entangle marine wildlife, release microplastics, and create safety hazards for vessels and beachgoers. On Saturday, May 21, Watershed Brigade volunteers will gather at 8:00 am at the Goleta Beach parking lot and will walk across the slough together and about 1.5 miles east down the beach to remove traps.

Volunteers will use shovels, bolt cutters, and pry bars to dig out buried traps, remove rocks and debris, and stage traps in piles for removal offshore to a commercial fishing boat. Commercial fisherman Chris Voss from Fishermen of Santa Barbara and his team will provide vessel support to load traps and transport them to the Santa Barbara Harbor for proper on-shore disposal. We hope you'll join us!

Find more information [here](#) and sign up below:

Sign up



First place winner, Molly Grant, from San Marcos High School with her piece "Cormorant Nest."

19TH STUDENT ART SHOW IS A SUCCESS!

On Saturday, April 23rd Channelkeeper was honored to host the 19th annual student art show, "What the Channel Means to Me." Students from local high schools created art in celebration of the Channel. This year's show was juried by local artist Molly Gwitt of the Clay Studio Santa Barbara. The award winners were announced at the CEC Earth Day Celebration and the artwork was on display for the community to view.

We'd like to thank all of the art teachers and the show's sponsors, Trillium Enterprises, Inc, and the City of Goleta Grant Program. We're also grateful for additional support from Imlak'esh Organics.

Be sure to check out this [online gallery](#) of the incredible student artwork and congratulations to all the student artists who submitted impressive pieces for consideration!



ABLITT'S FILM PLASTIC COLLECTION PROJECT IS ON HOLD

Due to increased costs associated with shipping and transporting film plastic to the processing plant in Colton, California, the Ablitt's film plastic collection project is **temporarily on hold** as they work to resolve the issue and find a solution that works for all parties: Ablitt's Fine Cleaners, the production facility, and the manufacturer of the composite plastic decking material, Trex.

Until a solution is determined, there will be no film plastic collection at Channelkeeper's offices or Ablitt's. Please stay tuned for updates.

Since 2018, Channelkeeper has been proud to support Ablitt's project by being a film plastic collection site. Unfortunately, this setback is a reminder that recycling most of our plastic is not economically viable and demonstrates the need to shift away from single-use plastics to a more circular economy.



GET TO KNOW MPA WATCH INTERN, ANDREA CHAGOYA!

Channelkeeper is lucky to have two UCSB student interns to support our [MPA Watch](#) community science program this year, thanks in part to a grant award from the UCSB Coastal Fund. Andrea Chagoza and Andrew Palacios conduct weekly surveys to ensure consistent coverage of all the coastal MPAs, conduct data entry of volunteer surveys and data quality control checks, assist with volunteer training workshops, and conduct volunteer field training sessions.

“Andrea is a wonderful addition to Channelkeeper’s MPA Watch program and we are lucky to have her as an MPA Watch intern this year. She’s dedicated to marine conservation, hardworking, and has even joined us for additional Channelkeeper activities outside of her MPA Watch duties like helping out at our East Side Community Watershed Brigade Cleanup event,” says Education and Outreach Director, Penny Owens. “We are thrilled to have her on our team.”

Read more about Andrea, her interest in marine biology, and her first dolphin sighting on our blog.

[Read Blog](#)



BECOME AN MPA WATCH VOLUNTEER!

Channelkeeper's MPA Watch program conducts surveys of human use activities in our local marine protected areas (MPAs) at Campus Point MPA (IV/Goleta), Naples MPA, and Kashtayit MPA (Gaviota State Beach). The data collected helps to inform MPA monitoring and enforcement efforts. Surveys involve walking a designated transect along the beach at the MPAs mentioned above and recording all human use activities observed on the beach or just offshore. Volunteers are asked to conduct just three surveys per month.

The spring volunteer training workshop will take place (virtually) on Thursday, May 12th from 5:30-6:30 pm. Following the online workshop, there will be several opportunities to join a field training session at Campus Point in the Campus Point MPA. For more info or to sign up for the volunteer training workshop click [here](#).



SUPPORT CLEAN WATER

Want to make a difference for the environment and your community? Making a tax-deductible contribution to Santa Barbara Channelkeeper today is an investment in clean beaches, healthy watersheds, and a more sustainable future.

[Donate](#)

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