



July eNewsletter

CHANNELKEEPER AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE CENTER SUCCEED IN COURT DECISION TO MAINTAIN INTERIM OFFSHORE FRACKING BAN

We're pleased to share a monumental victory for the environment. In a significant ruling, on June 3rd, the U.S. Court of Appeals prohibited fracking off California's coast until the federal government complies with environmental protection laws and evaluates the risks involved with fracking and acidizing. The decision provides greater protection for California's sensitive marine environment from offshore oil development activities. The Environmental Defense Center's Linda Krop and Maggie Hall led the impressive legal effort with support from Channelkeeper.

Fracking and acidizing are oil production processes in which large amounts of water and chemicals are injected into the ground or seafloor to dissolve rock. Companies are allowed to discharge the used fluids from these operations directly into the Santa Barbara Channel. Additional risks include accidental spills and damage to wells.

In 2014, after discovering that fifteen permits in the Santa Barbara Channel had been issued by the federal government without any public or environmental review, the Environmental Defense Center filed a lawsuit to stop fracking and

acidizing operations. That case was settled. The federal government agreed to conduct an environmental review.

However, in 2016, when the government failed to conduct a full environmental review or consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service about the impacts of fracking on threatened and endangered wildlife from offshore platforms, the Environmental Defense Center and Santa Barbara Channelkeeper brought legal action against the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and U.S. Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement.

After a prolonged legal process, last month, the court ruled that the two federal agencies violated environmental laws. The ruling will require the federal government to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement to thoroughly analyze the potential environmental impacts of fracking and acidizing off of Southern California's offshore platforms. These federal agencies must consult with wildlife agencies about the impact on threatened and endangered species. It also confirms that the California Coastal Commission must be allowed to review these activities. All of this must occur before fracking and acidizing activities can be permitted off California's coastline.

Read more about this clean water win:

- [Environmental Groups Prevail in California Offshore Fracking Case](#)
- [California Offshore Fracking Paused for More Environmental Study](#)



PLASTIC WASTE REDUCTION LEGISLATION SIGNED INTO LAW

California took groundbreaking steps yesterday to cut plastic pollution and hold the plastics industry accountable for plastic waste, setting the nation's toughest rules for reducing plastic waste.

On June 30th, Senate Bill 54 was signed into law by Governor Gavin Newsom. The bill represents the most significant overhaul of California's plastics and packaging recycling policy in history and surpasses other states' efforts to reduce plastic production at the source. It also advances work to build a circular economy, which is necessary to mitigate the effects of climate change, and provides funding to support communities in a variety of programs, especially those communities disproportionately impacted by the effects of plastic waste.

The legislation shifts the burden of plastic pollution from consumers to the plastics industry. The bill sets a 25% source reduction goal for single-use packaging production by 2032. In that same year, it requires that at least 65% of plastic items sold, distributed, or imported into the state be recyclable. The bill also requires the plastic industry contribute \$5 billion of environmental mitigation funding that will go toward environmental restoration and cleanup.

Ensuring industry accountability will be important to the success of these measures. In addition, even though the bill bans incineration and combustion of plastic, it leaves open the possibility for chemical recycling, which has significant environmental impacts and thus, should be closely monitored and discouraged.

With the passing of SB 54, the California Recycling and Plastics Pollution Reduction Act Initiative, a ballot measure that California voters were going to have the opportunity to vote for on the November 2022 ballot, will be removed.

Learn more in a Plastic Pollution Solutions webinar
July 15th
12:00 pm to 1:00 pm

On Friday, July 15th from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm, Channelkeeper's Penny Owens will join the CEC's Action Webinar Series as a panelist for a discussion about plastic pollution, recycling, reduction, and policy updates, focusing on local and state efforts to reduce waste. Click below to learn more about the webinar and to RSVP.

Webinar Sign Up



TAKE THE PLASTIC-FREE JULY CHALLENGE

Plastic Free July is a global initiative that inspires each of us to create a future with cleaner communities and oceans by reducing our dependency on single-use plastics. The campaign challenges us to commit to one month of doing our best to avoid disposable plastic while providing information about plastic pollution and solutions. Since 2010, more than 100 million people in 190 countries have pledged to avoid single-use plastics during the month of July.

Please join Channelkeeper, the Community Environmental Council (CEC), and partners around the world in the challenge to 'Choose to Refuse' single-use plastic this July. Post about your experiences on social media using the #PlasticFreeJuly hashtag and share your favorite plastic reduction ideas.

The challenge is simple, and you can choose from different levels of participation.

- Pick one disposable plastic item to avoid using for the month;
- Refuse the big 4: plastic bags, water bottles, takeaway coffee cups, and straws; or
- Commit to avoiding ALL single-use plastic.

[Take the Plastic Free July Challenge](#)



CHANNELKEEPER STAFF ATTEND THE 2022 WATERKEEPER CONFERENCE

Channelkeeper is a member of the Waterkeeper Alliance, a global network of over 350 grassroots organizations, all working on protecting clean water and habitats, each in their own watershed. Last month, Channelkeeper staff members Ted Morton and Molly Troup and board member Ken Falstrom traveled to Washington D.C. to participate in the biannual Waterkeeper Alliance Global Conference.

Our crew joined nearly 250 other representatives from Waterkeeper groups from around the world to connect, learn, inspire action, and be inspired. They networked with colleagues and discussed environmental threats, challenges, opportunities, and victories in each Waterkeeper's geographic area. They gained new knowledge by participating in concurrent learning sessions on topics ranging from the Clean Water Act and plastic pollution to communications strategies and justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion practices.

Our team was inspired by speakers like Tom Goldtooth, an activist and executive director of the Indigenous Environmental Network, who spoke about the relationship between people and water and reminded us why we do the important work that we do. They returned rejuvenated and recharged for the work ahead, and are excited to implement new strategies, share new learnings, and continue to build upon the connections made with our colleagues doing similar work across the globe.

Thank you to the Keith Campbell Fund for the Environment for supporting staff participation at the conference through a grant.



ON-THE-WATER EXPERIENCES WITH LOCAL STUDENTS

In June, Channelkeeper was excited to lead an ocean kayak experience with 6th grade students from McKinley Elementary School. This outdoor adventure was the culmination of a fun watershed education program in which students learned about the path pollution takes through the watershed to the ocean and tested the water quality of Mission Creek with a hands-on experience in their classroom. This was the first time kayaking for almost all of the students, but it won't be their last! They enjoyed paddling around the harbor entrance buoy, barking along with the seals, and playing a game of kayak polo.

We're grateful for the Santa Barbara Sunrise Rotary Club's sponsorship of this fun and memorable experience. Thanks to their support, Channelkeeper was able to work with kayak guides from Santa Barbara Adventure Company to make the day extra special for the students.



MONITORING PLANKTON TO PROTECT WILDLIFE, PEOPLE, AND OCEAN HEALTH

Plankton are tiny yet vital marine organisms. They form the base of the food web and play a fundamental role in many ocean systems. Plankton are also excellent indicators of the health of water due to their short life span and sensitivity to environmental changes.

Channelkeeper conducts plankton tows to help monitor algal blooms in the Santa Barbara Channel. When environmental conditions in ocean water change, phytoplankton populations can grow rapidly, in a process called a “bloom.” Some blooms are innocuous, while others can deplete oxygen in the water, block sunlight, or secrete toxins. Harmful algae blooms can sicken and kill marine wildlife and negatively affect humans who are exposed to them.

While out on our boat conducting MPA Watch surveys, our team collects samples which we send to the California Department of Health. We do this in an effort to better understand harmful algal blooms and to protect both people and wildlife from their effects.

Learning about these tiny ocean drifters can also help us better understand important ocean systems and changes in fish populations, pollution levels, and climate. Read our latest blog post to learn more about why we monitor plankton and how we collect it.

[Read Blog](#)



WATERSHED BRIGADE JULY 5th CLEANUP WITH THE CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

The July 4th weekend means fireworks, festivities, and lots of activity at our local beaches...and trash left behind. Channelkeeper's Watershed Brigade is collaborating with the City of Santa Barbara to help pick up trash along local beaches after the Independence Day celebrations so that it doesn't end up in the ocean where it can harm wildlife. On July 5th, from 9 am to 11 am, we hope you'll join us at one of three specified locations along the Santa Barbara Waterfront for an in-person cleanup!

Cleanup supplies and parking passes will be provided. Let's make sure that our beaches are clean and healthy! Click below to sign up!

[Sign Up](#)



WEBINAR SERIES PROVIDES INSIGHT INTO CALIFORNIA'S MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

The California Marine Sanctuary Foundation is presenting an exciting webinar series to share the results of California's long-term MPA monitoring studies.

These presentations provide an opportunity to learn directly from the researchers who conducted monitoring of key habitats both inside and outside of MPAs, including kelp forests, rocky reefs, rocky shores, estuaries, and sandy beaches. The results from the researchers' monitoring projects will help inform the first MPA Decadal Management Review report to the California Fish and Game Commission in February 2023. Participants are invited to interact with the scientists and ask questions. With no pre-registration necessary, just click below to join!

California Cooperative Fisheries Research Program

Monday, July 18, 2022

4:00p.m.- 5:00 pm

Commercial and Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel Fisheries

Wednesday, July 20, 2022

5:00p.m.- 6:00 pm

[**Join Webinar**](#)



DOUBLE YOUR CONTRIBUTION

Channelkeeper is pleased to team up with musician and environmentalist Jack Johnson on his *Meet the Moonlight Tour* as an *All At Once* Non-Profit Partner.

All At Once is Jack Johnson's social action network connecting nonprofits with people who want to take action and give back to their community. *All At Once* promotes sustainable and equitable food systems, plastic-free initiatives, healthy watersheds, and more.

As part of this partnership, the Johnson Ohana Foundation is matching donations contributed to Channelkeeper through October 15, 2022, up to a total of \$2500. Make a contribution using the link below or with *All At Once* noted on your check and it will be doubled by the Johnson Ohana Foundation, founded by Kim and Jack Johnson to support environmental, art, and music education.

[Donate and Double Your Gift](#)

KEEPING WATCH FOR CLEAN WATER
SINCE 1999



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