



CALIFORNIA TAKES STEPS TO REVIEW OUR NETWORK OF MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

The state's network of Marine Protected Areas (MPA) is currently undergoing its first ten-year review. In March, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Ocean Protection Council, and the California Fish and Game Commission hosted a public forum and meeting in Monterey, following the release of the [Marine Protected Area Decadal Management Review report](#).

Channelkeeper attended the events, alongside tribal representatives from throughout California, marine conservation groups, recreational and commercial fishing interests, and the public.

- At the MPA Forum Day, Channelkeeper shared MPA dive maps that our team created as an MPA outreach tool to build community support and stewardship for local MPAs and to promote local eco-businesses that benefit from the MPAs.
- At the Marine Resources Committee meeting, Channelkeeper provided comments in support of encouraging effective management and enforcement of the MPAs. In addition, Channelkeeper urged the Commission not to back-slide on existing protections afforded to

California's MPAs and expressed support for stronger water quality protections for MPAs.

The review process will continue throughout the upcoming year. The next step is the April 2023 Fish and Game Commission meeting where the Commission will review adaptive management recommendations from the report and the public to be considered for the next ten years of MPA management.

Stay tuned for opportunities to voice your support for California's network of Marine Protected Areas!



CHANNELKEEPER HOSTS ISLAND BEACH CLEANUP

On March 6th, thirty-four volunteers headed out from Ventura Harbor on the Island Packers boat and spent the day on Pink Ribbon Beach picking up plastic and trash, digging out derelict lobster traps, and loading all of the debris onto a

boat for transport and disposal back on the mainland.

Collectively, we were able to remove 1,560 pounds of trash, derelict lobster traps, and debris from Santa Cruz Island. We'd like to thank all of the volunteers for their hard work. We'd also like to thank Island Packers and Santa Barbara Adventure Company for their incredible support as well as our partners from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, and California State University Channel Islands. An award from the Santa Barbara Foundation's Conservation, Environment, and Public Trails Grant Program supported this collaborative cleanup.



Tickets Now On Sale!

BLUE WATER BALL

2023

TICKETS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR THE BLUE WATER BALL

We hope you'll join us on May 7th for this fun-filled event, which raises critical funds to support Channelkeeper's work to protect local beaches, creeks, and coast, and defend your right to clean water and healthy habitats.

Keynote speaker and marine ecologist Benjamin S. Halpern, recently named among the World's Most Influential Scientific Minds, will present "Healthy Oceans in a Changing Climate," and community dynamo Geoff Green will

emcee.

We will also have a beachy art installation, a splashy multicourse dinner, local wines and beers, special guests, live music, a fun raffle, exciting live and silent auctions, and more.

We look forward to seeing you on Sunday, May 7th, at the Cabrillo Pavilion in Santa Barbara, to honor the impressive environmental impact we've made together and share details about our future work.

The event is likely to sell out quickly so get your tickets now!

[Purchase Tickets](#)



INTRODUCING VERONICA MORAN!

Channelkeeper is delighted to welcome Veronica Moran to our team as a Part-Time Administrative Assistant. In addition to her friendly, can-do approach and passion for environmental science, Veronica brings professional experience and a strong work ethic. She will be supporting Channelkeeper's clean water work by helping with community outreach, administrative duties, and monitoring fieldwork.

Click below to learn more about the experiences that inspired Veronica to join our staff.

[Read More](#)



HELP REMOVE BEACHED LOBSTER TRAPS
April 22nd

Attention volunteers! Channelkeeper has identified an onshore lobster trap debris hotspot between Ledbetter and Hendry's Beach.

On April 22nd, from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm, you're invited to help dig out buried

lobster traps and place them at collection points where they will be loaded onto a commercial fishing vessel and transported to the Santa Barbara Harbor for reuse or proper disposal.

In addition to cluttering up our beaches, derelict lobster traps can entangle marine wildlife, release microplastics, and create safety hazards for vessels and beachgoers. We hope you'll join us and help get these traps off of the beach!

Volunteers will gather at 8:30 am at the La Plata Steps near Ledbetter Beach and will walk about 2.5 miles down the beach towards Hendry's Beach to remove traps. Protective clothing and closed-toe shoes are required as traps can have sharp edges.

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. Fisherman Chris Voss from Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara and his team will provide vessel support to load traps and transport them to the Santa Barbara Harbor.

This is the third year of shoreline cleanup collaborations with Chris Voss and the Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara. We're excited to work together on this community event and we hope you'll join us! Sign up below!

[Sign Up!](#)



EARTH DAY 2023
April 29 & 30

We're excited to participate in this year's Earth Day Festival hosted by the

Community Environmental Council!

We hope you'll join us on April 29th and 30th in Alameda Park for two days of inspiring events focused on the environment, live music performances, great speakers, a green car show, and the Environmental Hero Awards presentation. Stop by Channelkeeper's booth to say hi and spin the wheel to win prizes!

Collage photos by: Sarah Block and Sarita Relis.



CHANNELKEEPER'S 20th ANNUAL STUDENT ART SHOW RECEPTION May 4th

With its colorful array of shapes, textures, contours, and patterns, the artwork produced by local teens for Channelkeeper's Student Art Show honors the remarkable beauty and biodiversity of the Santa Barbara Channel, and it also inspires our community to protect it.

For twenty consecutive years, high school students from Carpinteria to Lompoc have been invited to create and submit their interpretations of what the Santa Barbara Channel means to them. Their artwork is featured at an artists' reception and remains on display in order to inspire our community to protect the Santa Barbara Channel.

Local artist Michael Irwin, who for a decade supported the show as an art teacher, will jury the show along with friend and art teacher Judith Raimondi.

We hope you'll join us in celebrating the artists and the show's twenty-year legacy at a student reception on Thursday, May 4th, from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Jodi House Gallery at 625 Chapala Street in Santa Barbara.

We'd like to thank the show's sponsors, Trillium Enterprise, Inc. for their generous support.

In celebration of the Student Art Show's 20th Anniversary, we thought we would take a walk down memory lane and share a few photos of past student artist finalists and award winners.



2022 Honorable Mention winner
Laila Ordonez.



2019 First place winner James
Serrano.



2009 student artist Oliver Aquilon
with teacher Michael Irwin.



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