



U.S. COURT OF APPEALS UPHOLDS FRACKING BAN

We're pleased to share that on June 5th, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to review a challenge to a court-ordered prohibition on offshore fracking in federal waters off the California coast.

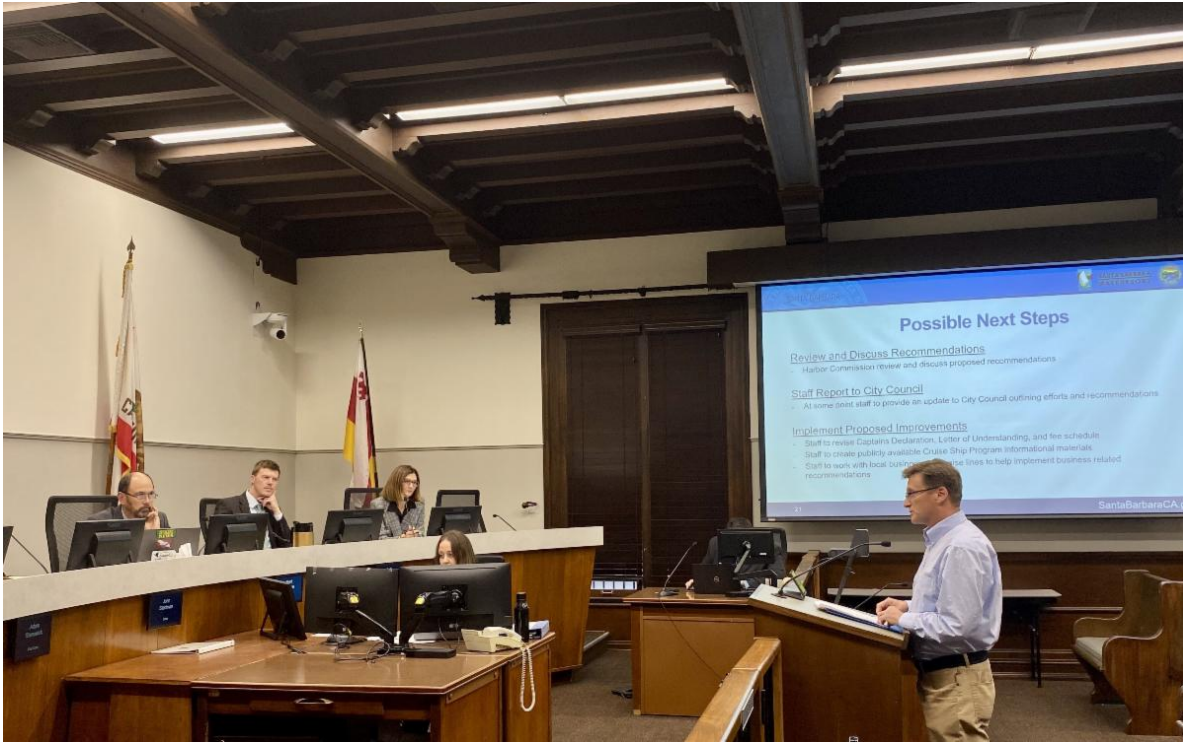
The decision leaves in place last year's ruling by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that two federal agencies violated the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, and Coastal Zone Management Act when they allowed fracking and acidizing extraction at offshore oil and gas wells in leased federal waters in the Santa Barbara Channel and other areas of the Pacific Ocean without a thorough environmental analysis, public notice, opportunity for public comment, and consultation with state and other federal wildlife and coastal management agencies.

The risks of offshore fracking are significant and include discharge of billions of gallons of toxic wastewater into the ocean, use of chemicals that can kill or harm marine life, and increased air pollution.

The ruling was the result of three separate lawsuits filed by Environmental Defense Center and Santa Barbara Channelkeeper, the Center for Biological Diversity and Wishtoyo Foundation, and the State of California.

The appeals court decision also forbids the Interior Department from issuing fracking permits until it completes an Endangered Species Act consultation and an Environmental Impact Statement that analyzes “the environmental impacts of extensive offshore fracking” and “fully and fairly evaluate[s] all reasonable alternatives.”

Read more about the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision [here](#).



CHANNELKEEPER PRESENTS CRUISE SHIP PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS TO HARBOR COMMISSION

For the past year, Channelkeeper has spoken out during each of the City of Santa Barbara’s Harbor Commission Cruise Ship Subcommittee meetings and encouraged community members to present their viewpoints about the City’s cruise ship program.

Channelkeeper has advocated for firmer program guidelines that reduce the risk of cruise ships in the Channel, better align the program with the City’s environmental goals and commitments and community priorities, and support improvements in cruise ship industry technology and practices.

At the May Subcommittee meeting, the City’s Waterfront Department staff provided its recommendations for cruise ship program improvements. While the suggestions included some positive changes, Channelkeeper believes that a stronger programmatic framework must be put in place that is more protective of the environment and the health of our communities.

In response, at June’s Harbor Commission meeting, Channelkeeper presented our recommendations for the Harbor Commission to consider. These program improvements involve reducing and capping the number of visiting ships, ensuring that ships that visit Santa Barbara have state-of-the-art technology

and a record of environmental compliance, and maintaining community engagement in the program.

The Harbor Commission instructed its Subcommittee to work to incorporate Channelkeeper's recommendations with those offered by the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council and the Waterfront Department before presenting a final proposal to the Santa Barbara City Council.

If you'd like to get involved, email cruiseship@sbck.org.



TOXIC ALGAL BLOOM ENDANGERS CALIFORNIA MARINE MAMMALS

Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties are currently experiencing a harmful algal bloom event that has resulted in hundreds of stranded marine mammals that are currently suffering from domoic acid toxicity.

Domoic acid is a potent neurotoxin naturally produced in phytoplankton (tiny floating plants) by the algal diatom genus *Pseudo-nitzschia*. Sometimes an overabundance of this phytoplankton is referred to as "red tide."

Although the production of this neurotoxin is naturally occurring, the extreme growth of this marine algae can be harmful. It threatens the health of marine mammals and seabirds and can affect humans through exposure via the food web. When wildlife consumes filter-feeding bivalves or fish that feed on the toxic algae, domoic acid transfers to larger marine creatures up the food web.

The clinical signs of domoic acid toxicity in wildlife can include disorientation, agitation, head bobbing and weaving, swaying body, foaming at the mouth, bulging eyes, muscle spasms, seizures, inability to move out of the water, unresponsiveness, and potentially death.

Signs of acute domoic acid toxicity typically subside after 72 hours as the toxin is eliminated from the body through urine. Some marine mammals are able to return to the wild and survive depending on the dose and their long-term exposure to domoic acid.

Should you encounter a marine mammal in distress, please keep your distance (at least 50 feet) and call Channel Islands Marine and Wildlife Institute's Hotline to report the animal and the situation: (805) 567-1505 or complete their [rescue form](#).



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.

Here are three options to consider:

- 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.

Click below to take the pledge!

Take the Pledge!

2ND ANNUAL

Plastic Free July EXPO



PLASTIC-FREE JULY EXPO
July 27

Please join Santa Barbara Channelkeeper and Community Environmental Council (CEC) on Thursday, July 27th, for our 2nd Annual Plastic-Free July Expo featuring plastic-free information and activities at CEC's brand new Environmental Hub at 1219 State Street! The fun will take place from 5:30 to 8:00 pm.

Meet local organizations working on plastic-free initiatives and learn how you can get involved. It will be an evening of action, with tasty refreshments, fun activities, and prizes! Click below for more info and to RSVP!

RSVP



JULY 5th CLEANUP
July 5th
9:00 am to 11:00 am
Santa Barbara Waterfront

On July 5th, Channelkeeper's Watershed Brigade is collaborating with the City of Santa Barbara to clean up our waterfront beaches. Although a fun start to the summer, the Fourth of July celebration usually leaves behind a lot of trash. This additional waste can end up in the ocean and threaten our wildlife.

Volunteers will meet at one of the three cleanup locations along the Santa Barbara Waterfront.

The locations are:

- East Beach 1: Beach entrance at the [Palm Park Parking Lot](#)
- East Beach 2: Beach entrance at the [Cabrillo West Parking Lot](#)
- Leadbetter Beach: [West of the public restrooms](#)

Cleanup supplies and parking passes will be provided.

We're looking forward to this collaborative, community event and hope you'll join us!

[Sign Up](#)



SWIMMABLE CALIFORNIA DAY July 25

Join us in celebrating clean, swimmable water! Swimmable CA Day is a day recognizing your right to waters that are safe for recreation.

Channelkeeper works to protect the Santa Barbara Channel and its watersheds and to ensure that they're clean and safe for everyone to enjoy. We monitor water quality along the South Coast and respond to pollution reports to help keep our community healthy.

In 2013, the California Legislature passed a resolution to officially commemorate July 25th as "Swimmable California Day," recognizing Californians' right to waters that are clean and safe for swimming.

We hope that you have an opportunity to get out and enjoy your favorite swimming spot this month!

KEEPING WATCH FOR CLEAN WATER
SINCE 1999



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