



GATHERING SUPPORT FOR CRUISE SHIP PROGRAM CHANGES

In recent months, Channelkeeper has continued to advocate for changes to the City of Santa Barbara's Cruise Ship Program.

Channelkeeper is calling for stronger requirements for cruise ships to have and use advanced technologies when transiting through the Channel and waters close to shore. We are also calling for a reduction and cap on the annual number of cruise ship visits, slower speeds to protect whales, and prioritization of ships with strong environmental and public health compliance records.

Over the summer, staff presented Channelkeeper's recommendations for programmatic improvements, gave testimony at Santa Barbara Harbor Commission and Harbor Commission's Cruise Ship Subcommittee meetings, and participated in public panel discussions about our recommendations. Subcommittee members are currently reviewing the recommendations and public statements, and we anticipate the next steps in the process to take place at a Harbor Commission meeting early next year.

In the meantime, Channelkeeper is working to safeguard the environment by greeting ships as they arrive in the early morning. Our team was on the water this fall to hail three of the thirteen visiting ships to confirm their compliance with the City's voluntary no-discharge agreement.

Public input is crucial to the cruise ship program's future. Your voice is needed to help create meaningful change. If you would like to become an advocate and get involved in improving Santa Barbara's Cruise Ship Program, click [here](#) to send us an email and join our fast-growing community of changemakers.



REPORT LOBSTER TRAPS TO KEEP OUR COAST DEBRIS-FREE

With the help of volunteers, Channelkeeper monitors lobster traps that have washed ashore and alerts the California Department of Fish and Wildlife with information shared with us so that traps can be recovered by their owners and possibly reused. Last week, volunteers reported the first lobster trap of the 2023 season at Ellwood Beach. We passed along the information.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife established a trap tag program in 2016 to help track fishing gear. The tags attached to lobster traps contain coded information that helps agency officials identify the trap owner and the year the trap was set.

If you see a trap on the beach, please take a photo of the tag and provide information about the location (beach name, geographical description, and/or latitude and longitude details) on Channelkeeper's Lobster Trap Reporting Form. Our staff will report the tag to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and will track it to determine if it is removed from the beach.

[Lobster Trap Reporting Form](#)



Maria Ygnacio Creek Cleanup

December 16

9:00 am to 11:30 am

NEW DATE FOR MARIA YGNACIO CREEK CLEANUP

December 16

9:00 am to 11:30 am

Channelkeeper's Watershed Brigade will partner with the Environmental Defense Center, the City of Goleta, and Santa Barbara County Project Clean Water to clean up Maria Ygnacio Creek on December 16th. This cleanup event was originally scheduled for November 18th but was rescheduled due to rain.

We hope you will join us on Saturday, December 16th, 2023, from 9:00 am to 11:30 am to clear the creek of trash before winter rains can wash it out to the ocean. Volunteers will meet at the corner of Ribera Drive and Matorral Way (where the Maria Ygnacio Bike Path crosses under Highway 101).

The terrain may be rocky and wet, so we encourage volunteers to wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Don't forget your hat, sunscreen, and reusable water bottle.

We hope you will join us to help keep this waterway healthy and clean!

[Sign Up](#)



JOIN THE SOLSTICE SEA STAR SEARCH December 11 - 27

Each year, researchers from the California Academy of Sciences ask the public for help identifying sea stars along the California coast. This is a great opportunity to explore tidepools and contribute to an important community science initiative.

Researchers are documenting all sea stars but are especially interested in finding Sunflower Sea Stars (*Pycnopodia helianthoides*) living along the California coast. Last year, over a four-day period, 318 people made 2,866 observations of 11 species off our coast.

We hope you will join the Solstice Sea Star Search from December 11th to December 27th.

Here's how to participate:

- Visit tidepools during the lowest low tide on December 11th through 27th.
 - Document any sea stars that you see on [iNaturalist](#).
 - If a Sunflower Star is spotted send the iNaturalist observation link to: solsticeseastarsearch@gmail.com and report it here: <https://bit.ly/3h8A2Mh>
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Channelkeeper Board Walk

January 11

Rincon Beach Park

SAVE THE DATE: CHANNELKEEPER'S JANUARY BOARD WALK

January 11

Rincon Beach Park

Our January Board Walk will be a tidepooling excursion at Rincon Beach Park. We plan to meet at the picnic tables next to the parking lot on the northwest side of Rincon Point at 3:30 pm. Join us to learn about intertidal habitats and how our local marine life adapts to this dynamic environment. This short hike will be led by board member Sarah Sikich, who will share information about our local coastal environment.

The walk includes a steep beach access stairway and uneven sandy and cobble terrain. It is of slight to moderate difficulty. Participants should wear sturdy shoes or rubber boots that can get wet, and bring a hat, jacket, water, and sunscreen.

We look forward to seeing you on Thursday, January 11th at 3:30 pm. We'll wrap up around 5 pm, so everyone can enjoy the fabulous sunset view that Rincon Beach offers over the Santa Barbara Channel.



HELP US MAKE MEANINGFUL CHANGE

We're deeply grateful for the support from our community. As 2023 comes to a close we hope you will consider supporting Channelkeeper with a tax-deductible donation.

Making a contribution to Santa Barbara Channelkeeper today is an investment in clean beaches, healthy watersheds, and a more sustainable future. Help us care for the Santa Barbara Channel and the people and wildlife that depend on it.

Please consider making a donation today.

[Donate](#)

KEEPING WATCH FOR CLEAN WATER
SINCE 1999



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