



COLLABORATING TO CLEAN UP LOBSTER TRAPS

Channelkeeper volunteers and members of the commercial fishing community worked together on April 20th to remove more than fifty lobster traps that had washed ashore between Goleta Beach and More Mesa.

This is the fourth year of shoreline cleanup collaboration between Channelkeeper and the Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara, and we were pleased to welcome Tidy Seas as a new partner at this year's event.

During the cleanup event, volunteers pulled the heavy, metal-framed traps from the rocks along the shore and carried them to collection points on the beach. The traps were clipped onto a buoyed rope and hauled through the surf to one of two fishing vessels owned by fishermen Chris Voss and Ray Kennedy.

Fishermen ferried the buoy line to shore by kayak, loaded the traps onboard the vessels, and transported them to Santa Barbara Harbor for proper disposal. This year, in addition to the lobster traps, the team cleared metal fencing, a few bags of trash, construction materials, and two shopping carts from the beach.

By working together, we were able to remove approximately 2,500 pounds of debris from this two-mile stretch of beach.



NEXT STEPS FOR SANTA BARBARA'S CRUISE SHIP PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS

The Santa Barbara City Council's April 9th decision to improve the City's Cruise Ship Program represented a positive step forward for the environment and our community.

By a vote of six to one, the City Council took action to limit the number of ships visiting Santa Barbara to no more than twenty annually, require ships to have advanced wastewater treatment systems, and reduce speeds to protect whales. It also approved several other measures, including prioritizing those ships with advanced pollution prevention technology and solid environmental compliance records. This vote directly reflects and builds upon the recommendations that Channelkeeper presented to the Harbor Commission in February.

In the coming weeks, the Harbor Commission will work with Waterfront Staff to develop a plan to operationalize the changes approved by the City Council. Channelkeeper looks forward to assisting in this process and supporting the implementation of new policies and procedures.



AN EXTRAORDINARY 2024 STUDENT ART SHOW

This year's 21st Annual Student Art Show filled our hearts with hope and sparked our imaginations. A reception honoring the young artists and showcasing their exceptional work took place on May 2nd at Jodi House Gallery.

Sixty-two works of art ranging from vibrant acrylic, watercolor, and oil paintings to intricate scratchboard pieces, paper collages, and ceramics were selected to be in the show from approximately 250 submissions.

Local artist Kelly Clause, who participated in the Student Art Show as a high school student in 2005, juried the show and selected pieces for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Honorable Mention, and Juror's Choice awards. She also selected the recipient of the newly retitled Chris Potter Environmental Ethics award, named after a dearly loved friend of Channelkeeper, esteemed artist, and generous community supporter who passed away earlier this year.

The awards were presented in person by Santa Barbara County Supervisor Laura Capps.

First place was awarded to Maddie Medina for her exquisite scratchboard piece titled, *Soaring First Steps*. Second place went to Yaira Zavala for *Recycle*, a painting of a crab with a discarded water bottle. Gianna Mills' kaleidoscopic octopus piece, *Otherworldly*, earned third place, while the Chris Potter Environmental Ethic Award went to Dazli Rosario Guterrez for *Captured*, a mixed-media painting of a hammerhead shark caught as bycatch in a net. The Juror's Choice Award went to Jaden Licha for his scratchboard piece, *Channel Fox*. Honorable mention awards were given to Dazzy Bohonko, Elina Lopez Garcia, Jennifer Herrera, and Victoria Martinez.

We're grateful for sponsorship by Trillium Enterprises, and the City of Goleta Grants Program as well as in-kind support from The Frame-Up.



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA STEELHEAD NOW PROTECTED AT THE STATE LEVEL

We're pleased to share that the California Fish and Game Commission (CFGC) voted unanimously on April 18th to list Southern steelhead as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). While the Southern California steelhead has been a federally protected species since 1997, it has not been listed as endangered at the state level. Protecting the species under CESA will ensure that projects to rehabilitate critical habitats are prioritized, funded, and implemented at a faster pace and boost recovery efforts.

Southern California steelhead require cool, clean, and connected waters to support their life cycle. According to California Trout, there are less than 500 Southern steelhead across the species' range. Without significant work, this species could become extinct within the next 25 to 50 years.

The CFGC's vote to list Southern California steelhead under CESA is a positive step towards protecting watersheds in Southern California for humans and fish.

Channelkeeper would like to acknowledge the California Fish and Game Commission for recognizing the urgency of the species' status and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for their comprehensive status review as part of the CESA process. We would also like to thank [California Trout](#) and all of the community members who signed petitions, provided testimony, and advocated on behalf of the Southern California steelhead's recovery.



STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT WATER QUALITY TESTING

This spring, we are happy to be back out at the Ventura River estuary providing outdoor education and experiences for students from the Ventura River watershed with our partners at [Once Upon a Watershed](#).

On these field trips, students learn about water quality testing and use their skills to test the water themselves at the estuary to see if conditions can support the endangered southern California Steelhead trout. We love engaging with students and providing them with firsthand experiences in the Ventura River that bring environmental science to life.



MAY BOARD WALK

Tuesday, May 14


5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Santa Barbara Maritime Museum

We're pleased to announce that our May Board Walk will be a film screening with award-winning filmmaker and Channelkeeper board member Mimi deGruy. Mimi will share film footage shot in and around the Channel Islands that reveals some of the incredible wildlife that lives just offshore. The footage is taken from three films Mimi and her late husband Mike deGruy completed for National Geographic, the BBC, and PBS.

The screening will take place on Tuesday, May 14th, from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum's Auditorium (113 Harbor Way, Ste. 190). We hope you will join us for this wonderful opportunity to experience the ecological richness of the Santa Barbara Channel.

Channelkeeper Board Walks are occasional walks and talks around town to explore water from different perspectives. They are designed for the whole community to understand our place in nature, especially with respect to life-giving water, and the importance of protecting our environment. Each is led by a Channelkeeper board member, drawing upon their expertise as naturalists, hydrologists, nature film producers, native plant gardeners, and more.



West Beach Cleanup & Sunset Picnic

In collaboration with Women In The Water

Monday, May 20

6:30pm – 8:30pm

WEST BEACH CLEANUP & SUNSET PICNIC

Monday, May 20

6:30pm - 8:30pm West Beach

Channelkeeper is excited to co-host a sunset beach cleanup event with our friends at Women In The Water this month! Please join us on Monday, May 20th, at West Beach, from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, to pick up trash and connect with like-minded people! We're thrilled to work together for a cleaner coastline! Enjoy friendly contests, fun prizes, and a delicious sunset picnic. Food and drinks are provided.

[RSVP](#)

American Wetlands Month



EXPLORE LOCAL WETLANDS THIS MONTH

May is American Wetlands Month and a perfect time to take a moment to appreciate these beautiful habitats and all that they offer to wildlife and our communities.

From providing habitat for forty percent of the Earth's plant and animal species to helping clean water, and storing carbon, wetlands are vital ecosystems. This month we invite you to explore a wetland near you. Observe the incredible biodiversity, enjoy the natural tranquility, and reflect upon the importance of preserving and restoring our remaining wetland habitats for the species that rely on them and the communities that they enrich. Read more on our blog.

[Read Blog](#)



HELP KEEP BALLOONS OUT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

With graduation season upon us, we would like to ask our community to avoid using balloons. Thousands of Mylar balloons like the one in the photo above blow from the mainland each year and litter our ocean, where they can be mistaken as food by sea creatures or entangle wildlife.

Instead, we encourage you to choose eco-friendly balloon alternatives like paper decorations, flowers, or natural garlands. We also invite you to take the pledge to be Mylar-free at [MylarMistake.com](https://mylarmistake.com).

If you choose to use balloons, please do so responsibly by securing them well and disposing of deflated remnants in the trash. Deflated Mylar balloons can be dropped off at the Channelkeeper office to be recycled.



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. Thank you for your support!

[Donate](#)

KEEPING WATCH FOR CLEAN WATER
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