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The SUSTAINABLE Solution

– the only solution that offers long -term environmental and economic benefit!

Letter from the Chairman



California Ships to Reefs has much to be thankful for as we celebrate this holiday season. We have had a year full of accomplishments, we’ve won new visibility and respect among legislators and ocean enthusiasts, and we are gaining momentum at a time when many non-profit organizations need to scale back.

This is the time to thank the many volunteers, supporters and donors who have had the vision and generosity to create our success. We are proud to have you join us in our mission to create rich new ocean life through artificial reefing.

We will shortly be publishing our 2011 Annual Report, describing in detail our accomplishments, including new legislation, reef development, fundraising, public relations and more. Check back on our website to gain a full picture of our year in review and a sense of where your energies and dollars are being used.

As the year winds down, we’re already looking ahead to 2012 and our plans for moving forward. One of our first orders of business for the year will be an important new piece of legislation that makes it easier for us to work with both state and federal authorities in the reefing application process. Currently, there are discrepancies in the definition of artificial reef between state and federal agencies. These differences mean that applications that are appropriate for California agencies would be in conflict with federal agencies. Our new legislation will bring these definitions into conformance, streamlining the application process. We are pleased to announce that we have obtained bipartisan support for the backing of our bill in the state legislature. We hope to soon have bipartisan authorship for the bill and to be able to introduce it simultaneously in the State Senate and the State Assembly.

This is what CSTR is about—working together with people to create win-win solutions for our ocean environment. Our mission makes environmental and economic sense. Your donations of money, merchandise, time and political activism are what fuel our mission and we urge you to make CSTR part of your 2011 end of year donations plan. Our goal is to make 2012 our most dynamic and successful year ever.

Sincerely,

Joel Geldin, Chairman and CEO
California Ships to Reefs, Inc.

California State News

Year-End Fundraiser



California Ships to Reefs is poised to have one of its most exciting years ever, and we hope you will join us on our journey to create new ocean environments through artificial reefing. With your support, we have made tremendous progress this year in our mission. We look forward to bringing many of these projects to fruition. We look back on our gains with pride, including:

The *USS Kawishiwai*, a retired Navy oiler, has been approved by the federal Maritime Administration as suitable and available for reefing. This vessel is now at the top of our list for sinking and we’ve chosen a site near Dana Point Harbor. Her sister, *USS Hassayampa* is also available if we can move quickly on *Kawishiwai*.

We’ve partnered with California State Universities at Northridge and Long Beach to develop baseline studies for our reefing site and to do ongoing monitoring once the ship is reefed.

We’re working with the City of Dana Point to make used harbor pier pilings available for reefing near the

harbor. This is all part of CSTR's mission to use ingenuity and existing materials that would have previously been scrapped to enhance our ocean environment.

We held a very successful Prize Boats Party in conjunction with SCUBA Show in Long Beach this year. It was a sold out event and we expect to do the same in 2012. We will also be holding a fundraiser in Northern California in May, 2012, in conjunction with the new Northern California Dive and Travel Expo in Santa Clara.



Your contributions to California Ships to Reefs go directly to support our projects. Our dedicated all volunteer organization has accomplished more legislative and practical victories than well funded private lobbying groups many times our size. As you consider your year-end donation plans, remember that your tax deductible contribution to CSTR is an investment in rich new ocean life. And it will pay off in economic benefits to our communities as new reefs bring in greater diving, fishing and other recreational opportunities.

The monetary and merchandise donations you give are only one way to be part of the adventure. We welcome your volunteer efforts through serving on our committees or staffing special events or writing letters to your legislators. Every contribution is valuable to us, and in this season of giving, we want to give our thanks to you for all you have done. Please help us make 2012 our most successful year ever.

You can donate in one of several ways. Visit our website www.californiashipstoreefs.org and click the Donate button at the top, or the Cash4Causes or Cars4Causes logos on the right side of the site. Or you can purchase CSTR merchandise at our store www.store.californiashipstoreefs.org.

Committee Reports

Education

Education is considering potential partners for the curriculum being developed for K-12 kids. Among those being approached are the Maritime Museum of San Diego and Sea World. It is anticipated that other museums and/or aquariums within California will also be approached.

Finance

We attended a free seminar in San Francisco in November to learn about online auction fundraisers and new innovations that could transform our fundraising events – in-room mobile bidding. One of

the major complaints CSTR as received about our silent auctions is that people have trouble getting back to the auction area to check their bids and/or raise them. With mobile bidding, attendees & non-attendees can receive notices on their phones when they have been out-bid and make an additional bid if they desire. This has been shown to increase auction results by approximately 30%. It also allows people who are unable to attend a fundraiser to participate and support CSTR.

On November 1st, we sent out almost 300 donation request letters to the fishing and diving industries for 2012 donations. It is hoped that by sending them during the last quarter of the year, our request will get on their 2012 donation lists. We've found in past years that if we wait until January, most budgets and donations allotments are already set. As of this writing we have already received over \$1100 in donations.

During October, we became affiliated with Cash4Causes.org and Cars4Causes.org. We have been notified by Cash4Causes that our account has received its first donation.

Governmental Relations

Casey Allen met with Tom Weseloh whose title is Consultant Joint Committee on Fisheries & Aquaculture for Assembly member Wesley Chesbro to discuss artificial reefing in general as well as the proposed sites in Mendocino & Humboldt counties. Dean & El met with Christine Anderson of US Rep. Mike Thompson's office, to bring the Congressman up to speed on CSTR and its proposed projects in Mendocino, as well as the fishing reef in Humboldt. We also discussed the "rules" that MARAD/Navy have about dealing only with States (not NGOs) and the "one ship at a time" rule. We are hopeful that Rep. Thompson will take some action in the House to change these rules. Dean & El also met with the City of Fort Bragg's City Manager to update her on CSTR's progress and discuss the new learning center being put in at Noyo Harbor.

State Senator Mimi Walters has agreed to carry our legislation to conform the State artificial reef definition to the Federal code. She has assigned us a liaison to work the bill and we will now gear up for its introduction in January 2012. We are now working to secure a co-author from the Assembly on the Democratic side of the aisle to have it covered by both houses & be bi-partisan.

The team has reviewed S-1119 The Trash Free Seas Act of 2011 to determine if CSTR should support the bill. The Executive Committee voted to ask the Board to approve a support letter.

Legal/Permits

The team has been very busy this month creating appropriate language for our Scope of Work Request for Proposal (RFP). The RFP was completed and sent out to consultants who have prior experience in artificial reefing. The desired goal of the RFP is to have a "compartment-by-compartment Scope of Work for complete preparation of the *Kawishitwi*. The team has now started to work on actual contract language to be used once the winning bidder has been selected.

In conjunction with Reef Development and Science, Legal has submitted a comment letter to the Dana Point Harbor Marina Improvement Project Draft SEIR Dated September 2011. This SEIR indicates disposal of the pier pilings by removal and dumping at a landfill. Because the Harbor and CSTR have been discussing, for at least the last two years, taking the approximately 1200 pier pilings to create artificial reefs, CSTR submitted a comment with three alternate options to the SEIR's disposal method. These options include Dana

Point retaining possession of the pilings and creating artificial reefs under the supervision of CSTR or donating them to CSTR for the same purpose. Three potential sites were included in CSTR's recommendation.

Public Relations

Announcement of our affiliations with Cash4Causes.org and Cars4Causes.org were completed and sent out. We are gearing up for announcement of our fundraising activities for Year-End and the new show/event year. We will also be announcing the 2011 Annual Report, hopefully within the next 30 days

Reef Development

On October 31st, formal requests for proposal were sent out to all three artificial reef consultants, to bid on preparing the compartment-by-compartment scope of work document. This Scope of Work will become the basis for CSTR's *USS Kawishiwiki* bidders documents. We expect the proposals no later than November 28th.

We submitted to CDFG the next letter required by MARAD to gain access to the *Kawishiwiki* for our Scope of Work and bidders' inspections. We are waiting to hear back from CDFG that the letter has been sent.

We had a meeting with the local fishermen of Fort Bragg to discuss potential sink sites in the area. Bill Hanna who is co-leading the Fort Bragg group joined Dean & El at the meeting. The potential sites selected by the bathymetric data are located in the Fort Bragg area crab and salmon fisheries. The fishermen suggested an alternate site, but that has proven to be too deep for CSTR's purposes. We have gone back to the fishermen for alternate suggestions that may be explored.

We got an alert that the US Coast Guard budget for the new year had passed the House. After reviewing it, we determined that the language to donate the *USCGC Iris* and *USCGC Planetree* to the school in Richmond was not included. We therefore prepared a proposed amendment to have them given to CSTR for artificial reefs. The Executive Committee submitted this to the Board for approval.

Science

We received the sediment and water column analysis budget from CSULB and have approved the list of tests to be conducted. This information has been forwarded to Dr. Larry Allen so he could incorporate the tests into their budget, which we have now received. The Science team approved the budget and the Executive Committee submitted it to the Board for approval.

Shows/Events

The Board approved our proposed 2012 Shows/Events schedule as follows:

- March 2012:** Fred Hall Fishing Show, Long Beach
- May 2012:** SCUBA Show, Long Beach; Northern California Dive & Travel Expo, Santa Clara
- May 2012:** Fundraising events in association with both shows
- November 2012:** DEMA 2012, Las Vegas

In addition, the team is proposing "small venue" events where CSTR can have info booths or small fundraisers. These include: DUI DOG Days within California, Dive-in Earth Day Monterey Info Booth April 21st @ Del Monte Beach. **Others could be added as we become aware of them.**

Speakers Bureau

The team has taken CSTR's standard presentation and broken it down into smaller blocks for posting on the website. Voice-over is being accomplished at this writing.

A presentation to the Newport Beach Harbor Commission has been requested as a result of last month's presentation to the Newport Beach Chamber of Commerce Marine Committee. The Commission has suggested either a February or March presentation. We have been advised that the Newport Beach Chamber has prepared a letter of support for placing ship-based artificial reefs near their harbor.

Due to scheduling conflicts, the presentation at Ocean Adventures Dive Club was moved to January. However, we did make presentations to the Marine Del Rey Anglers, who are very supportive and want to get involved, and Santa Clarita Dive Club. Due to holiday parties, there will be no club presentations in December.

Veterans

The team is attempting to get an updated version of the SBRF inventory to determine a better list of potential sink vessels. Once this is obtained, we will research alumni groups for these vessels and ask about presentations at their reunions

Website

The team completed the addition of credit card processing to both the website and Store.

The team developed a new website design that we believe is more visually appealing. Based on some feedback from our members, some modest changes have already been made. We expect to be adding the new "Who Is CSTR?" presentations as soon as voice-over is completed.

The team joined Finance at a seminar about online fundraising combined with in-room mobile bidding. It appears that the way this is programmed, it could be a vital addition to how we run auctions from our website.

National / International

Plastics in Oceans: More Damaging Than Climate Change

By Zulima Palacio
November 03, 2011

"CSTR's Chairman and CEO, Joel Geldin met Captain Charles Moore a couple of years ago and became aware of the danger of plastics in the ocean environment, and at that time CSTR committed to remove all plastics, particularly carpet fibers from the ships we reef, even though EPA's guidelines do not require it."

The United Nations estimates that each one of us uses nearly 140 kilograms of plastic each year. At least 6.4 million metric tons of that plastic has ended up in the oceans. Environmental activist Captain Charles Moore has found that in some areas, plastic outweighs zooplankton - the ocean's food base - and is entering the food chain. Our reporter talked to Capt. Moore about his efforts to document ocean pollution.

Once upon a time, the oceans of our planet were beautifully clean. Not any more. Captain Charles Moore calls this 'the age of plastic.'

"Between 250 and 300 million tons of plastic are produced every year," said Capt. Moore. "To get that into terms you can understand, every two years we make enough plastic to be the equivalent of the weight of the 7 billion people on earth."

In his new book, *Plastic Ocean*, Moore says less than five percent of all plastic is recycled and nearly three percent of world production is dumped into the ocean. That debris kills millions of sea creatures every year.

"We know over 100,000 albatross chicks are dying every year with their stomachs full of plastic; we have evidence that about 100,000 marine mammals die every year being tangled in plastic," he said.

Moore has spent his life on the ocean, and witnessed its transformation. In his book he tells about his 1997 voyage, discovering tons of plastic, floating in an endless spiral. In what is now known as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, plastic outweighs plankton, by a factor of six to one.

Moore created the Algalita Marine Research Foundation, and began to collect samples from the world's oceans. He says plastic waste flows into oceans from rivers, beaches... and ships.

"Not only all the navies of the world but all the merchant vessels of the world, until the 1980s were routinely dumping all their garbage at sea," said Moore.

Moore says today ships of all flags and functions continue to ignore international agreements, dumping their trash into the ocean - synthetic chemicals, pesticides, nuclear waste, nerve and mustard agents.

He says he is upset by the destruction of his own habitat.

"Whether I am surfing, whether I am sailing, whether I am swimming, I am touching, seeing, running into persistent waste that will be there longer than any of our children, any of our grand children. It will be there for centuries, it doesn't go away, we are adding to it," said Capt. Moore.

The pollution expert carries with him a bag of sand, collected from a beach in Hawaii. He had it analyzed. It is more than 90 percent plastic.

Captain Moore has worked with environmental filmmaker Bill Macdonald to document the plastic takeover of the oceans. Macdonald provided most of the video in this story, including this octopus living in a plastic shower head

"There is not a lot of beauty in a river full of trash, I see herons that are frightened by Styrofoam floating around them," said Macdonald. "I see sea gulls trying to eat rubber gloves and all sorts of animals foraging around in what used to be natural debris is now contaminated with synthetics."

And so the campaign continues. In *Plastic Ocean*, Captain Charles Moore calls plastic pollution more damaging than climate change, and issues a call to protect the oceans - where life began - for future generations.

Vandenberg Artificial Reef Wins Award

By David Conway
November 4th, 2011



The Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg, an artificial reef located in the Florida Keys, was lauded with a Society of American Travel Writers' Phoenix Award. The honor was announced at the organization's annual convention being staged now in New Zealand.

Created in 1969, the Phoenix Awards recognize conservation, preservation, beautification and environmental accomplishments as they relate to travel. The Vandenberg project was among four North American tourism projects chosen.

"The creation of the Vandenberg Reef is a profound example of how business, environmental and marine biology experts can work together to promote and maintain a valuable infrastructure that attracts tourists from around the world," an unidentified Phoenix committee member wrote in a SATW news release.

A 13-year project in the making, the Vandenberg, a former Army troop transport ship and Air Force missile tracking vessel, was scuttled about seven miles south of Key West May 27, 2009.

The bulk of the \$8.6 million funding needed to acquire, clean and sink the ship came from the Monroe County Tourist Development Council, Monroe County, City of Key West, State of Florida, U.S. Maritime Administration and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The Phoenix award for the Vandenberg is not a first for the Keys. Past honors have been conferred on area organizations including Old Town Key West Development, The Turtle Hospital, Crane Point Hammock and the Monroe County Tourist Development Council. A formal Phoenix award presentation is to take place in the Keys at a future date.

California Event Calendar

December 2011

- 05 Veterans Committee Conference Call 8pm
- 08 Website Committee Conference Call 7pm
- 12 Government Relations Conference Call 7pm

- Speaker's Bureau Conference Call 8m
- 13 Science Conference Call 7pm
- 19 Legal/Permits Conference Call 7pm
- Reef Development Conference Call 8pm
- 22 Executive Committee Meeting 7pm
- Finance Committee Meeting 8pm
- 26 Public Relations Conference Call 7pm
- Shows/Events Conference Call 8pm
- 27 Newsletter Deadline
- 29 Board of Directors Meeting 7pm

Finance:

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Governmental Relations:

Dean Rewerts DeanR@CaliforniaShipstoReefs.org

Legal/Permitting:

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Newsletter:

Jeremy Bonnett JeremyB@CaliforniaShipstoReefs.org

Non-Ship Artificial Reef Materials Committee

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Veterans:

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Web Site:

Ken Thompson KenT@CaliforniaShipstoReefs.org

Ships To Reefs Event Calendar

2011

TBD Annapolis Reefing, British Columbia, Canada

Contact Your Board

If you have questions, concerns or suggestions, want to volunteer, please feel free to contact any of your Board Members.

Chairman & CEO, **Joel Geldin**

joelg@CaliforniaShipstoReefs.org

Secretary / Treasurer & VP Communications / Finance,

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<http://californiashipstoreefs.org>

State Committees

For information or to volunteer on the following Committees please contact the people below.

Education

Patrick Smith PatrickS@CaliforniaShipstoReefs.org

In the News

Each month we will provide links to recent articles about or affecting Ships To Reefs. If you see something online that we have not included here, please contact Jeremy Bonnett at jeremyb@CaliforniaShipstoReefs.org.

Let's sink a SHIP

*By Ed Killer
November 5th, 2011*

As a Treasure Coast native I've seen the area dearest to my heart grow exponentially. And like many natives, I gripe plenty about growing pains, like unnecessary stoplights and the proliferation of strip malls. <http://bit.ly/v9ex5s>

Art as Reef project under way in Brielle

*By Dan Radel
November 2nd, 2011*

BRIELLE — Just under the Route 35 bridge that spans the Manasquan River, on the docks behind the Shipwreck Grill on Ashley Avenue,

artists are working on a special addition to New Jersey's artificial reef system: a giant horseshoe crab. <http://on.app.com/tm9hol>

By Surf Dubai

'Big Round Thing' from NASA's Stennis Space Center sunk south of Pascagoula to form artificial reef

*By Harlan Kirgan
November 3rd, 2011*

PASCAGOULA, Mississippi -- A 107,000-gallon tank once used to store liquid hydrogen at NASA's Stennis Space Center was sunk in Fish Haven 13, which is located 23 miles south of Pascagoula, to form an artificial reef. <http://bit.ly/uVQmga>

An artificial reef in Dubai. Solving multiple problems all in 1 go! Protect beaches from erosion, create better surfing waves, promote healthy marine life and create platforms for new diving attractions. Putting Dubai on the Map once again! <http://bit.ly/tgXFmP>

Bunbury to get artificial reef

November 17th, 2011

A \$2.12 million artificial reef will be trialled off the South-West coast, the State Government announced today. <http://bit.ly/vh84A6>

Historic Coast Guard cutter pulled from Delta

*By Mike Taugher
November 14th, 2011*

Pattaya plans artificial reefs for Jomtien, Naklua

*By Phasakorn Channgam
October 28th, 2011*

Hoping to boost the local fish population, Pattaya plans to create artificial reefs from old drainage pipes off Jomtien and Naklua beaches. <http://bit.ly/uGTWET>

A Coast Guard cutter that hosted the surrender of Japanese forces at the end of World War II is to be pulled Wednesday from the Delta, where it has been abandoned for 10 years, according to state recycling officials. <http://bit.ly/sU8kYo>

Pew Applauds Congress for Supporting Fisheries Science, Coastal Communities

*By Pew Environment Group
November 18th, 2011*

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18, 2011 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- Lee Crockett, director of federal fisheries policy for the Pew Environment Group, issued the following statement today in response to President Obama signing the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2012, which allocates \$161 million to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for much-needed fisheries research and monitoring programs. <http://bit.ly/uFiQz4>

Demolished Ellicott City Dam Becomes Home for Oysters

*By Alison Kitchens
November 6th, 2011*

ON THE CHESAPEAKE BAY - Rubble from a demolished dam on the Patapsco River moved to its new home on the bottom of the Chesapeake Bay this week, where it will soon be joined by a boatload of new neighbors -- 4 million baby oysters. <http://bit.ly/tfAaEo>

Multipurpose Artificial Reef Dubai



JOIN THE
SHIPS TO REEFS
REVOLUTION!

Divers & Anglers Can Help Ships to Reefs by:

- Volunteer to help in your area of expertise
- Visit our web site www.CaliforniaShipstoReefs.org and become familiar with Ships to Reefs, then promote at every opportunity to your friends
- Join a local sink project
- Write your elected officials (local, state & federal)
- Refer people who show interest in helping to info@CaliforniaShipstoReefs.org