

# NEWS RELEASE



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Local Conservation Working Group Named National Marine Sanctuary Partner of the Year

On Tuesday, October 27, the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council's (CINMSAC) Conservation Working Group (CWG) will be presented with the **Partner of the Year Award** by the Office of the National Marine Sanctuaries for its outstanding dedication and service. The CWG is being recognized for its volunteer work to support the Sanctuary, and – in particular - to help the Sanctuary identify and minimize new and rising threats to the Santa Barbara Channel including ocean acidification. As noted by Chris Mobley, CINMS Superintendent, "The Conservation Working Group remains vigilant to emerging threats and readily jumps in to do the heavy lifting on new issues. This type of volunteerism is immeasurable in its value."

In the fall of 2008, the CINMSAC unanimously adopted a report prepared by the CWG: "**Ocean Acidification and the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary: Cause, effect, and response.**" This comprehensive report examines the current body of scientific research on the chemistry of ocean acidification, biological impacts, ecosystem effect, and provides management recommendations for the Sanctuary ([Ocean Acidification Report](#)). The Partner Award recognizes the CWG's initiative in preparing this report and pursuing a cooperative, consensus-building approach that reaches out to diverse community members for perspective and information.

Often referred to as the "other carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) problem," ocean acidification is a process that is making the oceans more acidic as atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> emissions increase. Calcifying marine creatures including corals, coralline algae, urchins, lobsters, abalone, and small ecologically important groups of planktonic swimming snails have difficulty developing their shells in more acidic water. Since many of these marine creatures provide habitat and food for other marine life, their loss would have a devastating ripple effect on the foodweb.

"Our goal is to bring the critical issue of ocean acidification to the attention of not only the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, but to the nation as a whole. The fact that several other National Marine Sanctuaries have passed resolutions in support of our report highlights the importance of the issue and makes the CWG proud to receive this national award," said Linda Krop, Chair of the CWG and Chief Counsel at the Environmental Defense Center (EDC). "Immediate action is necessary to reverse this alarming trend and protect our oceans."

The **Partner of the Year** award will be presented at a free movie showing hosted by EDC on October 27. The movie [A Sea Change](#), is the first documentary about ocean acidification. A Sea Change explores the consequences of acidification in the world's oceans and its implications for marine life and humans. This movie brings home the indisputable fact that our lifestyles on land are changing not only our earth- but also our oceans.

# Showing of *A SEA CHANGE*

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

[**\$3.50 donation optional, in honor of "350 Day," which highlights the need to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions to 350 ppm**]

**AWARD PRESENTATION- MOVIE SHOWING- PANEL OF EXPERTS!!**

**WHEN:** October 27, 2009

**TIME:** 7PM – 9:15 PM

**WHERE:** Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History: Fleischmann Auditorium  
2559 Puesta del Sol  
Santa Barbara, California 93105

**A PANEL OF EXPERTS WILL FOLLOW THE FILM:**

Panelists Include:

Chris Mobley, Superintendent, Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

Bruce Steele, Local Fisherman

Paul Matson, Ph.D Student, UCSB Hoffman Lab

Since 1977, the Environmental Defense Center has worked to protect and enhance the local environment through education, advocacy, and legal action. For thirty-two years the Santa Barbara based environmental non-profit has empowered community-based organizations to advance environmental protection. Their program areas include protecting coast and ocean resources, open space and wildlife, and human and environmental health. EDC works primarily within Santa Barbara, Ventura and San Luis Obispo counties.

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