



PRESS RELEASE

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Sea Center on Stearns Wharf Celebrates World Oceans Day

SANTA BARBARA, CA— Come celebrate World Oceans Day (WOD) at [the Sea Center on Stearns Wharf](#) with free admission for all, 10:00 AM–5:00 PM on Saturday, June 10, 2023, *sponsored by the [UCSB Associated Students Coastal Fund](#)*.

“World Oceans Day acknowledges our beautiful, blue planet and is a reminder that we are all interconnected,” said Sea Center Naturalist and Volunteer Program Manager Tessa Cafritz, a co-organizer of WOD at the Sea Center. “I hope that people visiting the Sea Center’s celebration experience a deeper connection to our Santa Barbara Channel.”

In addition to exploring the Sea Center’s interactive exhibits, guests can enjoy storytime, crafts, and an appearance by the Sea Center’s very own Toothy the Shark! The Sea Center features life-size models of a Gray Whale mother and calf, touchpool habitats where guests can touch sea stars and sea anemones, a Wet Deck modeled after a scientific research vessel’s lab, and Shark Cove, where visitors can get up close with small local sharks. At 3:30 PM, enjoy a fireboat display by Santa Barbara Harbor Patrol.

Scheduled activities:

- Storytime at 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM
- Meet Toothy the Shark at 11:15 AM and 1:15 PM
- Harbor Patrol Fireboat Display at 3:30 PM

Sea Center School & Community Programs Specialist Rachel Metz, M.S., co-organizer of WOD at the Sea Center shares, “Our planet is made up of mostly water, and the connectedness of its oceans can serve as a powerful reminder that we are all called to good stewardship of the world’s marine life and ecosystems. Our community, specifically, has such a special role to play! Worldwide, the Santa Barbara Channel is acknowledged as an ecologically and geographically precious, unique location.” The Sea Center’s upstairs exhibit, Dive In: Our Changing Channel, highlights the habitats of our biodiverse region.

From 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, guests can talk with the Sea Center’s event partners, including [Santa Barbara Channelkeeper](#), [Channel Islands Naturalist Corps](#), [California Department of Fish & Wildlife](#), UCSB’s [Caselle Lab](#), the [Chumash Indian Museum](#), the [Santa Barbara Maritime Museum](#), [Channel Islands Restoration](#), [Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara](#), [Santa Barbara Landing](#), and [Lil’ Toot](#).

Members of the Museum and Sea Center will be eligible to win a 60-minute boat trip for up to 19 guests on Lil’ Toot, the harbor’s waterfront taxi. This package is valued at \$175. Members can enter the drawing by either attending World Oceans Day at the Sea Center or by joining/renewing membership onsite at the Sea Center between World Oceans Day and June 30.

No reservations required. For more information and upcoming events, please visit sbnature.org/calendar.

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About the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History Sea Center

Located on historic Stearns Wharf, this highly interactive regional aquarium and marine education facility offers guests close encounters with marine animals, and exploration of the Santa Barbara Channel on the Wet Deck. In addition to permanent exhibits, the Sea Center hosts unique events and special educational programming, including Underwater Parks Day and World Oceans Day.



The Sea Center on Stearns Wharf



Guests enjoy meeting sea stars at the Sea Center



Rachel Metz and family with Toothy the Shark



SB Channelkeeper will be present at WOD



A young guest excited to touch local sharks at the Sea Center



Giant Pacific Seahorse at the Sea Center