



SeaLife Stewards



SeaLife Stewards is an interagency program that started in April 2016 and whose purpose is to place trained volunteers in kayaks on Morro Bay waters to educate kayakers, stand-up paddleboarders, and others about how to observe wildlife while minimizing disturbance and while following applicable laws. The program focuses on seabirds, sea otters, sea lions, harbor seals, and other wildlife.

The program developed out of an increasing awareness of disturbance to Morro Bay wildlife, and a sense that many visitors may be unaware of wildlife sensitivity to human disturbance, both intentional and unintentional. Marine wildlife often has a limited “energy budget” and must conserve energy to stay warm in the cold ocean and bay environments. SeaLife Stewards educates visitors in an informal manner about these aspects of wildlife ecology, and discusses how to watch wildlife without disturbance.

The SeaLife Stewards program is modeled on the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Team OCEAN, which has operated effectively in Monterey and Moss Landing for a number of years with a proven reduction in wildlife disturbances. Our local partners include Morro Bay Harbor Department, Central Coast State Parks Association, Morro Bay National Estuary Program, Seabird Protection Network, and the California Department of Fish & Wildlife.

The program operates on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, with volunteers on the water from approximately 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM. Watch for kayaks with the distinctive SeaLife Stewards signs, launching from the North T-pier and from State Park Marina, then positioning themselves near concentrations of marine wildlife.

For more information about SeaLife Stewards, contact SeaLifeStewards@gmail.com or 805-548-0388.