**Secretary Speaker Series**

**Saving Californias Underwater Forests**

**Tuesday, June 17, 2025; from noon to 1pm**

**Secretary Wade Crowfoot**

<https://resources.ca.gov/About-Us/Who-We-Are/Secretary-for-Natural-Resources>

**Secretary Speaker Series:** <https://resources.ca.gov/About-Us/Secretary-Speaker-Series>

**Celebrate Pride with Us!** www.[resources.ca.gov/Pride](https://resources.ca.gov/pride)

**Patrick Webster, Marine Science Communicator and Underwater Photographer**

Patrick’s Website: <https://www.underwaterpat.art/>

Bio: <https://www.divephotoguide.com/underwater-photography-special-features/article/underwater-photographer-week-patrick-webster/>

Bio: <https://www.expeditions.com/about/expedition-team/patrick-webster>

Patrick Webster is an underwater photographer and science communicator based out of Monterey Bay, California. Raised in the foothills of the French Alps and on the outskirts of Stockholm, Sweden, Pat fell in love with the ocean when he was five years old thanks to the sea otters of the Pacific's kelpy coast.

Patrick has spent the last decade combining subtidal storytelling and his word asso-sea-ocean (association) syndrome to entertain and educate about the wonders of our water world—with the kelp cathedral and its tasteful nudibranchs as his muse. Patrick’s passion for sharing the sea has now grown into an award-winning science communication career at Monterey Bay Aquarium and a large social media presence. His work has been featured by National Geographic, The Nature Conservancy, The New York Times, BBC, and more. He is also part of National Geographic’s Lindblad Expeditions Team.

This Ocean Life Podcast Episode: <https://thisoceanlifetv.podbean.com/e/patrick-webster-underwater-photography-social-media-for-ocean-conservation/>

**Dr. Jenn Caselle, Research Biologist at the Marine Science Institute at the University of California at Santa Barbara**

Bio: <https://www.igpms.ucsb.edu/people/core-faculty/jenn-caselle>

Dr. Jenn Caselle is a Research Biologist at the Marine Science Institute, University of California Santa Barbara. She is also a PI for PISCO (Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans; www.piscoweb.org). She received her B.S. in Zoology from U.C. Berkeley and her PhD in Marine Ecology from U.C. Santa Barbara. Dr. Caselle’s research is broadly focused on marine conservation and reef ecology.

She currently splits her time in both coral reef and kelp forest ecosystems studying community dynamics, recruitment and larval dispersal and movement patterns of fishes. Dr. Caselle has designed and managed a large-scale field-based monitoring program of kelp forests in the California current ecosystem with goals of assessing long-term changes due to climate and anthropogenic impacts. This program has become the basis of Marine Protected Area monitoring throughout California and the west Coast of the United States.

$18 Million NOAA Grant: <https://www.nature.org/en-us/newsroom/ca-noaa-ocean-restoration/#:~:text=The%20Nature%20Conservancy%20(TNC)%20California,degraded%20marine%20ecosystems%20across%20California>

Marine Organisms: <https://www.igpms.ucsb.edu/research/marine-organisms>

Marine Resources & Conservation: <https://www.igpms.ucsb.edu/research/marine-resources-conservation>

Caselle Lab: <https://labs.eemb.ucsb.edu/caselle/jennifer/>

Publications: <https://labs.eemb.ucsb.edu/caselle/jennifer/publications>

**Dr. Rebecca F. Johnson, Director of the Center for Biodiversity and Community Science, California Academy of Sciences**

Bio: <https://reimaginingsf.org/rebecca-johnson>

Center for Biodiversity and Community Science: <http://www.calacademy.org/community-science>

Dr. Rebecca Johnson directs the Center for Biodiversity and Community Science and the Thriving California Initiative at the California Academy of Sciences. She and her team focus on designing equitable, inclusive, and meaningful events and campaigns to gather biodiversity data and mobilize those data to understand climate change and stem biodiversity loss in California. She is passionate about building partnerships and coalitions around place-based nature connection, biodiversity data use, and on-the-ground action for positive change. In 2016, along with Alison Young and Lila Higgins of the Los Angeles County Natural History Museum, she co-founded the[City Nature Challenge](http://citynaturechallenge.org/), a now global, annual contest between cities and metro areas to share observations of nature over a four-days in April. She also co-created and directs [Snapshot Cal Coast](https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/snapshot-cal-coast-all-years), an annual effort funded by the State of California, that mobilizes partners along the California Coast to make and share observations of coastal species to inform marine protected area management and document species range changes. Rebecca is on the California Biodiversity Network Steering Committee and leads the Academy’s biodiversity work with the City of San Francisco. She is the board chair for Bay Nature Magazine and a TOGETHER Bay Area board member. Rebecca earned her B.A. in Integrative Biology from the University of California, Berkeley, her M.A. in Systematics and Ecology from San Francisco State University, and her Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from the University of California, Santa Cruz. She lives in San Francisco with her family.

Sunflower sea star rearing, Cal Academy members talk: <https://www.youtube.com/live/qAliPxQV9EI>

Solstice Sea Star Search: <https://www.calacademy.org/community-science/solstice-sea-star-search>

Snapshot Cal Coast (including events listing): <https://www.calacademy.org/calcoast>

Blog about last year's Snapshot Cal Coast: <https://www.calacademy.org/phenomena/the-coast-with-the-most>

Tidepooling Tips: <https://www.calacademy.org/community-science/californias-tidepools>

Pacific Coast Ocean Restoration Partnership: <https://www.nature.org/en-us/newsroom/ca-noaa-ocean-restoration/>

**Josie Iselin, Author of *Ocean Garden: The Secret Life of Seaweed*; and *The Curious World of Seaweed***

Bio: <https://www.josieiselin.com/>

Bio: <https://design.sfsu.edu/people/josie-iselin>

Josie Iselin is a fine art photographer and book author with nine books to her credit. She has published with Abrams Books, Chronicle Books, and Heyday Books as well as created custom books on commission. She has a B.A. in visual and environmental studies from Harvard and got her M.F.A. in the photography department at SF State. She is passionate about broadening recognition for under-recognized organisms of our ocean world by combining art and science.

Josie is intent on looking closely at the objects of our world and asking how we can learn both about and from them. Her newest project is an in-depth website titled The Mysterious World of Bull Kelp devoted to the bull kelp forest of the North Pacific Coast. She has been working with Marianna Leuschel as co-directors of *Above/Below* to bring this ambitious web-based book to fruition. Josie’s previous book, *The Curious World of Seaweed,* takes a deep dive into the ocean universe of marine algae, creating a nexus where art and science converge. It was published in August 2019 by Heyday Books, Berkeley CA. She uses her scanner exclusively to make portraits of seaweeds, beach stones and other treasure we find at the beach. Her fine art prints and trade books let the fantastic of the familiar speak to us directly. Josie’s design studio, Loving Blind Productions, is busy with ongoing projects: from art and science workshops and ocean advocacy to bold new scarf designs. Please join the exploration!

The Curious World of Seaweed page on my website: <https://www.josieiselin.com/the-curious-world-of-seaweed> (slide 1)

The Mysterious World of Bull Kelp web story: <https://bullkelp.info/> (slides 4/5)

The North Coast KelpFest! <https://www.northcoastkelpfest.org/> (slide 6)

Josie Iselin’s Website: <https://www.josieiselin.com/>

WWF Gallery; Artwork by Josie Iselin: <https://www.worldwildlife.org/magazine/issues/summer-2020/articles/gallery-artwork-by-josie-iselin>

**Rosa Laucci, Marine Program Manager for the Tolowa Dee-ni’ Nation**

Bio: <https://indigenousaquaculture.org/rosa-laucci/>

Rosa Laucci is the Marine Division Manager and Marine Biologist for the Tolowa Dee-ni’ Nation in northern coastal California. She received her Master of Science in marine biology from Nova Southeastern University in Davie, Florida. Upon her arrival to Tolowa Dee-ni’ Nation in 2012, she established the Marine Division in the Tribe’s Natural Resource department and has managed it successfully ever since. In her program she monitors and conducts research on a variety of culturally important marine species, including surf smelt, night smelt, surfperch, mussels, clams, sea stars, seaweeds, and plankton. She also monitors the health of intertidal habitats, the status of biotoxin levels in shellfish, the effects of sea level rise on intertidal species through 3D mapping of the habitat, human use of Tolowa beaches, and was instrumental in establishing the Tribe’s first laws of marine resource management. She has also just started a program that trains tribal citizens in traditional stewardship techniques that will prepare them to take care of their ancestral territory. All of her efforts have established a strong foundation for resource management for the Tribe that will ensure conservation and sustainability for generations to come.

Tolowa Dee-ni’ Nation: <https://www.tolowa.gov/>

Yurok-Tolowa Dee-ni' Indigenous Marine Stewardship Area: <https://www.tolowa.gov/341/Yurok-Tolowa-Dee-ni-Indigenous-Marine-St>

Tribal Marine Stewards Network: <https://tribalmsn.org/>

Si~s-xaa-dvn (Marine Division**):** <https://www.tolowa.gov/189/Sis-xaa-dvn-Marine-Division>

**Ghvtlh-k’vsh shu'-srnelh-'i (Kelp Guardians)** [**https://www.humboldt.edu/food-sovereignty/kelp-guardians**](https://www.humboldt.edu/food-sovereignty/kelp-guardians)

**Senior Biodiversity Program Manager & Tribal Liaison at the California Ocean Protection Council Michael Esgro**

Mike joined OPC in March 2018. As Senior Biodiversity Program Manager and Tribal Liaison, he leads efforts to advance OPC’s strategic priorities related to enhancing coastal and marine biodiversity, including implementing California’s 30×30 goal in coastal waters, protecting and restoring threatened ecosystems including kelp forests, adaptively managing California’s statewide network of marine protected areas (MPAs), and enhancing engagement with California Native American tribes. Mike earned a B.S. in Biology from UCLA and an M.S. in Applied Marine Science from CSU Monterey Bay. His graduate research focused on MPA monitoring and the role of “other effective conservation measures” in ocean conservation. Mike is an avid scuba diver and can usually be found underwater when not at work. Topside, he enjoys kayaking, cycling, and backpacking.

Ocean Protection Council: <https://opc.ca.gov/>

OPC Kelp Action Plan: <https://www.opc.ca.gov/webmaster/ftp/pdf/agenda_items/20210216/Item7_KelpActionPlan_ExhibitA_FINAL.pdf>

Update on kelp action plan implementation: <https://opc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Item-8a-Kelp-Action-Plan-update-508.pdf>

CDFW Kelp Restoration and Management Plan: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/Kelp/KRMP>

Detailed information on kelp research and restoration projects: <https://caseagrant.ucsd.edu/kelp-research>

Interactive maps of kelp canopy available here: <https://kelpwatch.org/>

Storymap on how scientists are working to restore CA's kelp forests: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/d35a011b5dd747b89d4d94d324e62693>

California’s Marine Protected Area Network Recognized as International Gold Standard for Marine Conservation - <https://opc.ca.gov/2025/06/for-immediate-release-californias-marine-protected-area-network-recognized-as-international-gold-standard-for-marine-conservation/>

California Marine Protected Areas (MPAs): <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs>

 Tribal Marine Stewards Network: <https://tribalmsn.org/>

30x30: <https://www.californianature.ca.gov/pages/30x30-partnership>

Sequoias of the Sea: <https://sequoiasofthesea.org/>