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Education Department
(805) 456-8741 education@sbmm.org

ONLINE: The Goleta Kelp Reef Restoration Project

Presentation by Chris Goldblatt, Founder & Executive Director, Fish Reef Project,
A Zoom Webinar

Where: Santa Barbara Maritime Museum, 113 Harbor Way, Santa Barbara

When: Thursday, July 16, 2020 at 7:00pm

Cost: Free, but registration is required

Registration: <https://sbmm.org/santa-barbara-event/the-goleta-kelp-reef-restoration-project/> or (805) 456-8747

Sponsored by: Marie L Morrisroe



Image by Amador Bachar

Little understood by the public, kelp is a soft buffer that helps to retain wider beaches, protects coastal real estate, and reduces greenhouse gases. The 1982-83 El Nino storms caused the loss of kelp forests that were once 1000 feet wide and went from El Capitan to Carpinteria and resulted in the loss of Goleta Bay’s kelp beds and beaches. Another reason for the decline of the kelp beds is that the boulders, which come off the hills and hold kelp, wear down over time and the system had not been

recharging. The Fish Reef Project, named Goleta Kelp Reef Restoration Project, aims to create 220 acres of offshore reef systems with manufactured fish reef units and quarry rock. This process will give kelp a place to attach, grow, and kick off the recovery of kelp forests and critical habitats for many forms of marine life, including sea otters.

Chris Goldblatt, a 40-year veteran of our local waterways, founded the Fish Reef Project (<https://www.fishreef.org/>) to ensure long-term ocean health by turning empty seafloor into thriving marine ecosystems and home, breeding and feeding grounds to millions of marine mammals, sea birds, turtles, fish, lobster, abalone, scallops, marine algae and much more. These manufactured fish reefs will reduce pressure on natural reefs, thus reducing over-fishing while helping to restore damaged natural reef systems. Goldblatt has a BS in Fisheries & Business from Humboldt State, and has been a guest lecturer at UC Santa Barbara and an International Seabed Authority observer, contributor, and speaker since 2014. In 2018, he was the Invited Guest Speaker at the Civil Society Forum of the Blue Economy Conference in Nairobi, Kenya. An early pioneer of the sustainable seafood movement, Goldblatt is also an accomplished author, business owner, fisherman, diver, and fishing boat owner and operator.

Since 2000, the [Santa Barbara Maritime Museum](#) has featured many artifacts and stories to share the history of the Santa Barbara Channel with more than 40,000 visitors annually and provides year-round experiential maritime history and marine science education for local youth. Featuring the impressive *First-Order Fresnel Lighthouse Lens* from Point Conception, SBMM's current exhibits explore *the History of Oil in Santa Barbara Channel & Chumash Use of Asphaltum*, the *Honda Disaster*, and *Wives and Daughters: Keepers of the Light*.

SBMM is located at the historic Santa Barbara Harbor at 113 Harbor Way, Suite 190, Santa Barbara, CA 93109. Visit sbmm.org or call (805) 962-8404 for details.

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