



News Release

For Immediate Release

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Become a Seal Monitor at MacKerricher State Park Training Session April 18

California State Parks and the non-profit Mendocino Area Parks Association will present a training session for people who want to monitor harbor seal and help to protect them. Training will be held at 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 pm on Saturday, April 18 at the MacKerricher State Park Office. Bottled water and snacks will be provided. If you are interested in helping the next generation of Harbor Seals, please contact Fred Andrews at 707-961-0471 or sending an e-mail to fred.andrews@parks.ca.gov.

Harbor Seal Pupping Season is here and the harbor seals need your help! Every year in April and May harbor seals give birth to the next generation along the Mendocino Coast. Harbor Seals are an important part of the kelp forest ecosystem off our shore where they serve as top level predators. Harbor Seals need safe places to haul out on land to rest and give birth. Although they are fast in the water, Harbor Seals are slow on land and are wary of disturbances. If a haul out is disturbed too often, Harbor Seals will abandon it.

MacKerricher State Park is looking for people willing to volunteer as little as a few hours a week to serve as Harbor Seal Pupping Monitors. Monitors help maintain a safe area in MacKerricher State Park for Harbor Seals to give birth and raise their young by maintaining a symbolic fence to keep people away from harbor seal mothers and pups and assisting in keeping people out of the closed area. Seal Monitors also answer questions about harbor seals and assist in research by tracking births and keep records of observations. Monitors also have the opportunity to learn about harbor seals, and watch as the new generation of Harbor Seals enters the world.

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