

There's Beauty in Beach Wrack



Western Gull



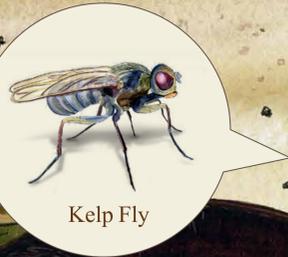
Local and migrating birds feed on the creatures found in wrack. Many migrating birds depend on this food source to fuel their long-distance journeys.

WHAT IS THAT SEA SMELL?

That familiar scent is not just the ocean air. Much of it comes from *beach wrack*—a mixture of seaweed, driftwood and other debris washed up on shore. Natural wrack provides both home and food for many insects and crustaceans, and a feast for the birds that feed on them.

Piles of wrack collect windblown sand, providing nutrients and a more stable place for beach plants to grow.

Semipalmated Plover



Kelp Fly



Sanderling

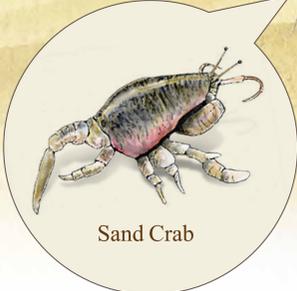
Black-bellied Plover



Beach Hopper



Flightless Rove Beetle



Sand Crab



Beach Pill Bug

KEEPING Beach Wrack Natural

Sometimes our trash gets tangled in beach wrack, creating a hazard for wildlife and an eyesore for beach goers. You can help by keeping trash off the beach and out of the ocean.

Some beach managers remove wrack, but California State Parks does not. Beach wrack provides important food and habitat, and a base for sand dune formation. Leaving wrack leads to a healthier beach for native animals and plants.

