

September 11, 2020

Dear friends,

Since June of this year, the intertidal zones along the Southern California coast have seen a rapid increase in visitors coming to harvest invertebrate sea life including, but not limited to, mussels, crabs, sea snails, whelks, sea urchins, sea stars, and more. Some of the take is legal within specific limits for those who carry fishing licenses, while the taking sea stars are illegal under any circumstance. The trend became popularized by online outdoors cooking videos and social media posts instructing people on how to find tide-pools and harvest from them.

The influx of visitors taking from the tide pools has caused a massive loss of life and a devastating disruption to the ecosystem. At White Point Beach in San Pedro, a group of concerned community members came together to form a group called the White Point Patrol (WPP). Volunteers collect data on human behavior and engage with visitors to provide information on legal harvesting limits and information on methods of harvesting that are and are not permitted (e.g. using tools to remove sea life instead of hands). Our primary position at WPP is to advocate for conservation and for visitors to enjoy the tide pools as a public good without disturbing the ecosystem. We've partnered with local organizations, government agencies, and affected communities in developing a coordinated response and a social media campaign.

We need partners from different communities in advising on culturally sensitive messaging tailored to each community. We currently need help from those who have linguistic and cultural proficiency with the following languages/cultures: Chinese, Korean, Spanish/Hispanic and Vietnamese. If you are interested in helping to tailor messaging for a specific community or participating in the sharing of information upon launch of a coordinated social media campaign, please let us know.

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With warm regards,



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Community Organizer
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