

Media Contacts:

Sylvie Lee, California Coastal Commission, (415) 904-5271

Miho Umezawa, Thank You Ocean Campaign, (916) 905-5649

CALIFORNIA'S OCEAN AND COASTAL AMATEUR PHOTO CONTEST NOW OPEN

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – Photographers are invited to pay tribute to California's spectacular coast and ocean by participating in the 17th Annual Ocean and Coastal Amateur Photography Contest. The contest starts on June 8, 2015 and all entries must be submitted online by 11:59 p.m. PST on July 17, 2015.

Entry is free and open to all amateur photographers. The contest categories include:

- Scenic coast and the Pacific Ocean off California
- People and the California coast
- California ocean and coastal wildlife

Winners will select from the following donated prizes:

- A two-night stay in Sonoma County and complimentary bottle of wine, courtesy of The Fairmont Sonoma Mission Inn & Spa
- A two-night stay in Orange County, including valet parking, courtesy of the Fairmont Newport Beach Hotel
- An overnight stay in San Jose and complimentary brunch for two, courtesy of the Fairmont San Jose Hotel
- A complimentary dinner and cocktails for two at the Tonga Room, courtesy of the Fairmont San Francisco Hotel, plus two tickets to a show, courtesy of Beach Blanket Babylon

Plants and animals photographed should be native species in their natural setting. Photographs must be taken from a public place. To avoid disturbance, photos of marine mammals must be taken from 50 yards away or more. Please visit www.MyCoastalPhoto.com to view the contest rules.

The public is also invited to participate in this contest by becoming a judge. Online voting will open on June 8th and must be completed by 11:50 p.m. PST on July 31, 2015. Online voters will pick a "viewers' choice" winner, while three additional winners will be selected by a panel of judges. Please visit www.MyCoastalPhoto.com for details on how you can participate.

The 17th Annual Ocean and Coastal Amateur Photography Contest is sponsored by the Thank You Ocean Campaign, California Coastal Commission and Fairmont Hotels & Resorts of California. The contest features photographs that reflect the importance that the coast and

1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311, Sacramento, CA 95814 Ph. 916.653.5656 Fax 916.653.8102 <http://resources.ca.gov>



ocean has for California residents and the role that the Coastal Commission, Natural Resources Agency and Ocean Protection Council have played in preserving coastal and marine resources.

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California Coastal Commission

Committed to protecting and enhancing California's coast and ocean for present and future generations. The Coastal Commission's [Public Education Program](#) works to increase public knowledge of coastal and marine resources and to engage the public in coastal protection and restoration activities. The commission offers a variety of conservation, education and community involvement programs which are made possible through sales of the [WHALE TAIL® License Plate](#).

Thank You Ocean Campaign

A non-profit partnership supported by the state of California, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries and the Ocean Communicators Alliance. The Thank You Ocean Campaign's mission is to raise awareness on the benefits of the ocean and to identify ways the public can help protect it in their everyday lives. For more information about the campaign and to find out how to become involved, visit www.ThankYouOcean.org or follow them online on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

California's Drought

For more than two years, California has been dealing with the effects of drought. To learn about all the actions the state has taken to manage our water system and cope with the impacts of the drought, visit Drought.CA.Gov.

Every Californian should take steps to conserve water. Find out how at SaveOurWater.com.

