

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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***For Immediate Release***

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**8,500 CALIFORNIA KIDS
CREATE AMAZING AERIAL FORMATIONS
EXHORTING THE PUBLIC TO “DEFEND THE SEA”**

(SAN FRANCISCO, June 12, 2012)—In honor of World Oceans Day last week, California students from San Diego up to Humboldt County “took a stand in the sand” to communicate to the public the need to protect the ocean from plastics and other forms of pollution. They delivered their message to “Defend the Sea” by forming enormous images in the sand with their bodies. These images were then photographed from the air, and are shown below.



*1,000 people at Crown Point Shores, San Diego;
organized by I Love A Clean San Diego*

These formations were designed in collaboration with Los Angeles-based artist John Quigley of Spectral Q. Quigley has created more than 150 aerial art formations, at least one on every continent.



*800 people at Bolsa Chica State Beach, Huntington Beach;
organized by Orange County Coastkeeper*

The aerial art formations took place at the end of beach cleanups the students conducted, which were all part of the 19th Annual Kids' Ocean Day Adopt-A-Beach cleanup event. Prior to their cleanups, the students had studied the dangers of debris in the world's oceans, the need for recycling and litter reduction, and how the storm drain system carries neighborhood litter to the ocean. By participating in the cleanup event, the youth were able to help address and raise awareness about the plight of the ocean, right in time for World Oceans Day.



*5,000 people at Dockweiler State Beach, Los Angeles;
organized by Malibu Foundation for Environmental Education*

"These kids are like modern-day knights in shining armor," said Mary Shallenberger, Chair of the California Coastal Commission. "They are asking us to join them in defending our ocean from marine debris and other forms of pollution that harm marine life. I'm so proud of them that they took this day to go forward into battle with everyday trash to keep it out of the sea. It makes me optimistic that these young people will continue the crusade to keep our coast and ocean clean." The California Coastal Commission coordinates the program statewide and provides financial support from the WHALE TAIL License Plate Fund.



*700 people at Ocean Beach, San Francisco;
organized by Richardson Bay Audubon Center*

The message from Kids' Ocean Day will be conveyed to a global audience later this month when Spectral Q, the Plastic Pollution Coalition, and Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) coordinate delivery of a collage of all these photographs to the Rio + 20 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where plastic pollution is on the international agenda.



*1,000 people at South Spit, Humboldt County;
organized by Friends of the Dunes*

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