



Santa Monica Pier Aquarium's Ocean Appreciation Celebration August 23-24

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Santa Monica, CA (August 11, 2008) - Heal the Bay's Santa Monica Pier Aquarium is introducing a new exhibit of majestic sea jellies during its Ocean Appreciation Celebration, August 23rd and 24th, at the Aquarium, 1600 Ocean Front Walk, beach level at the Pier. The marine education facility will be open regular summer hours, from 12:30 to 6:00 p.m. both days of this special celebratory weekend.

Ocean Appreciation Celebration marks the debut of an exhibit featuring a 180-gallon jelly kreisel, a circular tank specially designed to protect the delicate structure of the approximately 40 moon jellies on display. The kreisel is one component of an exhibit under construction that will highlight the connection between the inland urban communities and the ocean environment, illustrating the human impact along the way.

With about 70 percent of the Earth's surface covered with water, the ocean plays an integral role in the air we breathe, the food we eat, and for many, economic health. Special presentations touching on the myriad ways the ocean impacts our lives - and the affects people have on the ocean - will be the focus of the weekend. Learn about SCUBA diving, discover which marine life has vital medicinal benefits, check out a safety demonstration by Santa Monica Harbor Patrol at the west end of the Pier, and

drive the Aquarium's remotely operated vehicle to see what's going on directly beneath the waves. Back in the Aquarium's lab, observe phytoplankton and learn how a healthy ocean is critical to every breath we take. Arts and crafts, face painting, screenings of environmental films and story times for the youngest visitors will be on-going as well.

A detailed schedule of events is available at the website:

<http://www.healthebay.org/smpa> or call 310-393-6149 for more information.

Admission is free for children under 13 when accompanied by an adult; for all others admission is \$5. The Aquarium is offering a special admission break for our neighbors; those living within the 90001 through 90411 zip codes will pay a \$2 entry fee by showing valid identification.