



UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHERS: ENTER SANTA MONICA PIER AQUARIUM'S PHOTO / VIDEO CONTEST

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SANTA MONICA, Calif. (Thursday, December 16, 2010) – Heal the Bay's Santa Monica Pier Aquarium invites all underwater photographers and videographers to [enter its Underwater Parks Day photo and video competition](#), a contest designed to highlight the undersea world just off the Southern California coast.

[Entries for photographs](#) and [videos](#) will be accepted through 5:00 p.m. Jan.10, 2011. Only one entry per person, consisting of a single image, will be accepted. Photographs will be judged for subject relevance and artistic vision by a panel of Heal the Bay staff. The winners will be announced and prizes awarded at 2:00 p.m. Jan. 15, at the Aquarium, 1600 Ocean Front Walk, beach level beneath the Santa Monica Pier's carousel.

Winners will be chosen in three categories: open photography, youth photography, for entrants under 18, and video. [Submission forms, complete rules and regulations are available online.](#)

January 15 will mark the third annual Underwater Parks Day, and Southern California aquariums and marine science centers are joining together to help all Southern Californians learn about and support newly designated underwater parks, called [Marine Protected Areas \(MPAs\)](#).

Presentations throughout the day will highlight marine protected areas of Southern California and the benefits of marine reserves in other parts of the world. Craft projects for all ages and special displays will encourage visitors to help protect the ocean through their everyday actions.

Santa Monica Pier Aquarium staff are collaborating with aquaria and marine science centers from as far north as Santa Barbara and as far south as La Jolla to present engaging exhibits, activities and materials about marine protected areas to be shared with visitors on Underwater Parks Day at each of the following institutions: Cabrillo Marine Aquarium in San Pedro, Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach, Ocean Institute in Dana Point, Birch Aquarium/Museum at Scripps in La Jolla, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History's Ty Warner Sea Center and the SeaLife Aquarium in Carlsbad.

The Santa Monica Pier Aquarium will be open from 12:30 to 5:00 p.m. on Underwater Parks Day.

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