

MARCHing to the beat of change

This month:

- ⊗ *event* SF Ocean Film Festival
- ⊗ *news* Shark fin bans
- ⊗ *education* Head-Royce School
- ⊗ *news* COARE Blog
- ⊗ *event* Dive & Travel Expo
- ⊗ *event* Earth Day

Hello fellow ocean lovers!

It's only just April, and it's already been a fantastic year for us. March was an exciting month, and we expect the next few months to be eventful as well.

⊗ Head-Royce School

The Head-Royce School is an independent, college preparatory day school with classes from kindergarten through twelfth grade. They held a school-wide celebration called Ocean Week, and invited us to speak to



Christopher Chin speaking with curious students in the hall.

the middle school about sharks and conservation. The audience of 230 or so gave their rapt attention to our Executive Director as he spoke about the role of sharks in the ecosystem and why they are in

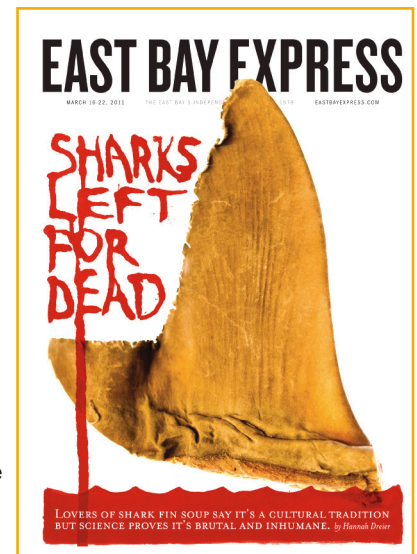
desperate need of our protection. After the presentation was complete, the students posed a variety of great questions, evidencing their enthusiasm. When asked if they learned, as a result of the presentation, that sharks were in need of our protection, the vast majority raised their hands in agreement.

Many heartfelt thanks to Riva, one of Head-Royce's graduating students, for the invitation and for coordinating the opportunity to speak to the assembly.

⊗ Shark Fin Bans

Speaking of shark conservation, it's been a thrilling month for conservation policy. We reported in our last newsletter that Guam's proposed ban on shark fins passed through its legislature quickly and was awaiting the Governor's signature. We're pleased to report that on 09 March 2011, Governor Calvo signed Bill #44-31 into law, thereby making it illegal to sell, trade, possess, or distribute shark fins or ray parts.

Stateside, Washington has made some great strides, and Senate Bill 5688 has been flying through the legislative process. Last month we reported that the Senate unanimously approved the amended Bill, and that it was about to move to the Washington House of Representatives. In just a few short weeks, the Bill was assigned to and subsequently released from Committee, and was assigned to second reading on the House Floor. We were gearing up for an extended support campaign, but the...



COARE was featured in a recent EB Express article on shark finning.

See Fin Bans on page 3...

🕒 SF Ocean Film Festival

The eighth annual San Francisco Ocean Film Festival was a wonderful series of events, and we enjoyed seeing many familiar faces and making new connections.

The Sharks & Vanishing Marine Life program was sold out, and much of the packed theater funneled over to the Aquarium of the Bay for the panel discussion entitled, “Sharks, Fins, and Sustainability”, hosted by



Christopher Chin leading the SFOFF panel.

our own Executive Director, Christopher Chin. The discussion was a lively one with great questions from the audience, demonstrating a great interest in shark conservation.

🕒 COARE Blog

We appreciate your loyal subscription to our newsletter, and we’ve heard many positive things about the topics and content we share. We are aware, however, that some of you would like to hear things more often or in more depth. This newsletter will continue to be published on a relatively regular monthly schedule. More late breaking news will usually be mentioned on our Facebook page (facebook.coare.org) or via Twitter (twitter.com/coare), but now more in-depth stories will be posted on our new Blog: blog.coare.org. We’ll look forward to your comments, suggestions, and feedback.

🕒 Dive & Travel Expo

This coming weekend, (09-10 April) we’ll be attending the Dive & Travel Expo in Tacoma, Washington.

This will be our second year at the Northwest expo, and we’re excited about seeing familiar faces and making new friends. Current arrangements have us in booth D, which is just outside the main hall. If we end up moving inside, we’ll post that change to Twitter. In either case, if you’re planning on coming to the show, stop by and say hello. We look forward to talking to you more in depth.

🕒 Earth Day

On Saturday, 16 April, our colleagues at the Marine Science Institute in Redwood City, California are holding an event in celebration of Earth Day, and have asked us to join the festivities.

The event should be a fun one for all ages, and promises to include music, art, and dancing.

If you’re in the area, please stop by and say hello! To learn more about the Marine Science Institute and their Earth Day Event, visit:

www.sfbaymsi.org/earthday.html

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...Bill continued with its momentum and hit the house floor with welcome arms.

We're thrilled to report that just yesterday (05 April), the Washington House of Representatives passed SB 5688 with a stunning 95-1 vote. That, especially combined with the 47-0 Senate vote, is both an incredibly strong statement and an act to follow. The Bill now simply awaits the governor's signature.

Last month, we reported the introduction of California Assembly Bill 376, which seeks to prohibit the sale, trade, possession, or distribution of shark fins in California. Assembly Bill 376 has sparked a bit of debate over the importance of shark fins in Asian culture, and the media has come out in support of both arguments. Most of the reporting has been narrowly focused or poorly researched, but one recent cover story article stands out as being extremely well written, thoroughly researched and fairly balanced. COARE is proud to be featured in such a fine piece of journalism. We have some print copies on hand for our local fans who prefer the feel of newsprint, but you can also find it online at:

www.eastbayexpress.com/ebx/the-great-shark-slaughter/Content?oid=2519696

AB 376 was heard in the California's State Assembly Committee for Water, Parks, and Wildlife on 22 March, and our Executive Director attended to provide supporting testimony. The Bill was released from the Committee with a unanimous vote, and was subsequently heard in the Appropriations Committee, where it was assessed for potential costs to the State. After it was determined that only "minor unknown costs" were to be expected, the Bill was released from Committee, and will be sent to the Assembly floor for its next reading and vote.

If you're a California resident, please be sure to contact your Assemblymember and let him/her know that you support AB376. Visit www.coare.org/act/ab376 for more information and to find your legislator. By spending five minutes to call your legislator, you can help protect millions of sharks.

The third West Coast State in the US, Oregon, is also making progress with its proposed shark fin ban, House Bill 2838. It is scheduled to be heard in the Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee on Friday, 15 April 2011. If you live in Oregon, now is the time to contact your Representatives to urge them to support this Bill.

For more information, visit:
www.coare.org/act/hb2838