

STATE OF THE BAY

explore our estuary through science



MORRO BAY
NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM

January–May 2020

During State of the Bay 2020, the Morro Bay National Estuary Program invites you to explore the estuary through science! Join us for fun hikes, a paddle on the bay, and lively events focused on the health of the bay. Find out more at [MBNEP.org](https://www.mbnep.org). Find all the event details and see the estuary's environmental health report card at [MBNEP.org](https://www.mbnep.org).

MORRO BAY SCIENCE EXPLORATIONS WITH THE ESTUARY PROGRAM

This annual series of talks features guest speakers who discuss new research and dive in deep to the night's theme.

January 23: Eelgrass Update—Cal Poly researchers reveal a scientific model of the estuary and discuss the status of Morro Bay's essential underwater meadows.

March 5: Estuary Health Update—experts discuss climate change, unveil a comprehensive map of the bay floor, and hone in on the health of local bird populations.

May 7: Creek Health Update—experts discuss water quality challenges, share a major local floodplain restoration project, and detail their work to conserve and restore sensitive lands.

THREE GUIDED HIKES AROUND THE ESTUARY

Explore the peaks and trails of the watershed and dive into natural history and estuary science with volunteer docents from ECOSLO and Estuary Program staff.

March: Los Osos Monarch Grove to the Dunes

April: Portola Point, Morro Bay State Park

May: Chumash Trail to Hutash Trail Loop, Morro Bay State Park

ANNUAL POETRY CONTEST: A NATIONAL TREASURE IN WORDS

Haiku and free verse submissions accepted **March 1–31**. Open to students ages 8 through 18 and adults 18 and older. Judges and winners will give a celebratory reading at Coalesce Bookstore in May. [MBNEP.org/Poetry2020](https://www.mbnep.org/Poetry2020)

TALK NERDY TO ME TRIVIA NIGHT

April 15, 8 p.m. Woodstock Pizza in San Luis Obispo. Gather all the science nerds you know and test your knowledge of marine and environmental science, oyster farming, natural history, and more. Study up at [MBNEP.org/state-of-the-bay-2020](https://www.mbnep.org/state-of-the-bay-2020)

PADDLE FOR A CAUSE

May 16, 8–11 a.m. Launch your kayak or paddleboard from Tidelands Park and pick up trash while you paddle. You'll enjoy some time on the water and help keep the bay clean, safe, and wildlife friendly. Bring



GET SOCIAL

I HEART ESTUARIES

February 12–14: Share what you love about the Morro Bay estuary on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter. Tag it with #IHeartEstuaries and #MorroBayEstuary to enter a drawing for our Estuary Octopus mug.

GOLDEN POOPER SCOOPER PUP PICKUP CHALLENGE

May 1–11: Every time you pick up your dog's doo take a picture of the bag of poo and your pup. Then, share it with #goldenpooperscooperMB. Each new picture you share earns you an e-ticket for our dog-themed prize basket!

[MBNEP.ORG/STATE-OF-THE-BAY](https://www.mbnep.org/state-of-the-bay)

#exploreour estuary

