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Join The Marine Mammal Center at Rodeo Beach for the 22nd Annual California Coastal Cleanup Day on September 16

(SAUSALITO, Calif. – September 14, 2006) - The Marine Mammal Center invites the public to take part in the 22nd Annual California Coast Cleanup Day, Saturday, September 16. The Center will coordinate the cleanup at Rodeo Beach in the Marin Headlands just north of the Golden Gate Bridge and in the Golden Gate National Recreation area. Rodeo Beach is one of 400 California beaches that the public will help rid of trash and debris that can be harmful to wildlife and to humans.

Members of the public who would like to participate alongside The Center's volunteers and staff, can show up at the Rodeo Beach parking lot located at the end of Mitchell Road, at 9 a.m. Participants should bring gloves and dress for the cool coastal weather. A free "thank you" barbecue for participants will be held afterwards at the Bay Model beginning at 12 p.m. and is sponsored by the Bay Model Association and the Sausalito Lion's Club.

"Last year, we collected more than 200 pounds of debris and 42 pounds of recyclables at Rodeo Beach within just a few hours," said Ann Bauer, Director of Education at The Marine Mammal Center. "In our 14-year history of removing trash on Rodeo Beach, one of the most unusual finds cleanup volunteers discovered was a pair of shiny metal spurs."

California Coastal Cleanup Day is organized by the Ocean Conservancy and is the highlight of the California Coastal Commission's year 'round Adopt-A-Beach program. This year, volunteers will span 1,100 miles of California coastline cleaning debris along the coast and in many of the bays, creeks, rivers, marshes and lakes where trash and debris may enter into the Pacific Ocean. For more information on Coastal Cleanup, go to www.coast4u.org or call 1-800-coast-4-u. For more information about the Rodeo Beach cleanup, call The Marine Mammal Center at (415) 289-7330.

About The Marine Mammal Center

Headquartered in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area in Sausalito, California, The Marine Mammal Center is a nonprofit hospital dedicated to the rescue and rehabilitation of ill and injured marine mammals, and to the research of their health and diseases. Volunteers and staff have treated more than 12,000 California sea lions, elephant seals, porpoises, and other marine mammals, along 600-miles of coastline stretching from Mendocino County to San Luis Obispo County. Once patients are healthy, they are returned back to the ocean. Staff and volunteers uniquely combine rehabilitation with scientific discovery and education programs to advance the understanding of marine mammal health, ocean health and conservation.

On the web: www.marinemammalcenter.org

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