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Dr. Chris Pincetich also to speak at Pacifica's Earth Day celebration

By Jean Bartlett | *Pacifica Tribune*

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Along with Dr. Wallace J. Nichols, Dr. Chris Pincetich will also take to the podium at the Pacifica Beach Coalition Earth Day 2012 celebration this coming Saturday. (Linda Mar Beach, South Lot, 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.)

Dr. Pincetich is a marine biologist, marine campaigner, and marine investigator. He is the founder of the Sea Turtle Restoration Project. He is also the son of Dan Pincetich, former Pacifica city manager. The mission of the Sea Turtle Restoration Project (STRP) is to protect and restore endangered sea turtles and marine biodiversity worldwide in ways that incorporate the ecological needs of marine species and the economic needs of local communities, both of which share our common marine environment.

Their mission is accomplished through grassroots and policy-maker education, consumer empowerment, strategic litigation and by promoting sustainable local, national and international marine policies.

The Sea Turtle Restoration Project moves under the fiscal sponsorship of the nonprofit Turtle Island Restoration Network (TIRN). TIRN is an international marine conservation organization headquartered in California whose 55,000 members and online activists work to protect sea turtles and marine biodiversity in the United States and around the world.

Pincetich did his undergraduate work (Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology) at UC Santa Cruz. He earned his Ph.D. in Pharmacology and Toxicology at the UC Davis in 2004. His doctoral research found that fish exposed to pesticide were dead at two weeks and he has been a challenger of EPA (Environmental Protecting Agency) toxicity testing since.

Pincetich has stated, "EPA toxicity testing only uses a 96-hour timeframe. This means if something takes two weeks to die, the chemical that causes the death is still classified as 'non-lethal' for the purposes of EPA testing."

This was most recently evidenced by the toxic dispersants approved in the 2010 BP disaster which have been deemed more damaging to the ecosystem as a whole than the oil alone.

Included among the 2011 grassroots victories of the Sea Turtle Restoration Project are they "gained endangered species status for all Pacific loggerhead sea turtles with legally-binding protections under the Endangered Species Act." They "galvanized a group of more than 60 scientists from the Gulf and nationwide to urge Louisiana Governor Jindal to repeal the law that bans state wildlife agents from enforcing laws that require the use of turtle-safe fishing gear." They "stopped the Hawaiian Longline Fishery from a proposed expansion that would have resulted in endangered Pacific loggerhead sea turtles dying in even greater numbers."

The Sea Turtle Restoration Project's long list of victories and challenges are an inspired read. Visit <http://www.seaturtles.org/> (<http://www.seaturtles.org/>)

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