



## **DITCH THE FOAM!**

**The Santa Cruz Chapter of Surfrider needs your help to keep non-biodegradable Styrofoam off of our beaches and out of the ocean.**

### **HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP:**

**Attend the Capitola City Council meeting Thursday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm**

**What:** Capitola City Council hearing to revisit the city's ban on polystyrene food service ware in city restaurants

**Where:** Council Chambers: 420 Capitola Ave. in Capitola

**Why:** Due to pressure from the California Restaurant Association, the City Council is going to revisit the ordinance they passed to ban the use of Styrofoam and non-biodegradable food service items from use within the city.

**Action:** Let the council know you support efforts to reduce non-biodegradable litter from the source, that this ban is a step in the right direction, and that as a surfer/beach-goer, you appreciate cleaner beaches and breaks.

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Plastics are wreaking havoc on our oceans and marine life, which we depend on for our existence.

Plastics do not biodegrade--they only break into smaller pieces. They're also being ingested at an alarming rate by marine animals.

Because it is crucial to turn the tide around, we are asking for your help in our efforts.

### **BECOME PART OF THE SOLUTION: It's soooooo easy...**

1. Bring your own mug to the café BYO!
2. Bring your own tote bag to the grocery store... BYO!
3. Bring your own to-go container to the restaurant! BYO!

### **EDUCATE YOURSELF – HERE ARE SOME RESOURCES**

<a href="http://www.surfrider.org">www.surfrider.org</a>	Oceans, waves & beaches
<a href="http://www.algalita.org">www.algalita.org</a>	Pacific gyre, plankton to plastics ratio
<a href="http://www.earthresource.org">www.earthresource.org</a>	CAPP, research clearinghouse
<a href="http://www.healththebay.org">www.healththebay.org</a>	Public policy, legislation
<a href="http://www.cawrecycles.org">www.cawrecycles.org</a>	Recycling research clearinghouse
<a href="http://www.ourstolenfuture.org">www.ourstolenfuture.org</a>	Endocrine disruptors, chemicals
<a href="http://www.mindfully.org">www.mindfully.org</a>	Research tool; survey of plastics articles

Plastics and Styrofoam alternatives at:

<http://www.excellentpackaging.com>

<http://www.worldcentric.org>

### **WHAT'S SO BAD ABOUT STYROFOAM?**

#### **Polystyrene in the marine environment results in significant problems for wildlife:**

- Small plastic pieces, similar in size to plankton and more abundant than plankton, represent a particular risk to filter feeders.
- Worldwide, people have reported entanglement for at least 143 marine species, including almost all of the world's sea turtles.
- At least 162 marine species, including most sea birds, have been reported to have eaten plastics and other litter.
- Ingestion of polystyrene pieces, which look like food to many species, results in reduced appetite, reduced nutrient absorption, and starvation for wildlife.

#### **...And also boat users:**

- Marine debris also creates problems for fishermen and recreational boaters, particularly when plastics get into boat engines and cause damage

#### **...And humans:**

- Medical studies suggest that chemicals in polystyrene foam are carcinogenic and may leach into food or drink.