

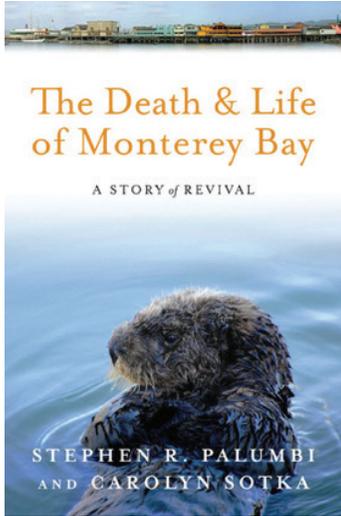


# EMERALD KEEPERS

## Celebrating World Ocean Week

### A MESSAGE FROM EMERALD KEEPERS

Coronado is fortunate to have one of the top beaches in the nation. We must remember, we share the ocean environment with some of the most amazing creatures. If you ever watch an eagle or manta ray swim, you will forever be changed. Their grace and beauty are indescribable. This week we take a look at the round sting ray. A sting ray is beautiful to watch but can cause pain should you step on one. It is up to us to care for our beaches and ocean. Visit our website to find out how you can be an Emerald Keeper.



### EMERALD READ KICK-OFF

*In Partnership with the Coronado Public Library*

Pick up your copy of *The Death and Life of Monterey Bay, A Story of Revival* by Stephen R. Palumbi and Carolyn Sotka. Check out our July events in partnership with the Coronado Public Library related to this beautifully written book. Books are available at the Coronado Public Library and for purchase at Bay Books.

Read about how a stunningly thriving ocean environment became threatened to destruction as humans invaded the sea, scooping up and marketing sea life. How was this devastation turned around? Through extraordinary acts by ordinary people, fierce determination, and a close-knit passionate community.

### JULY EMERALD READ EVENTS

#### July 9: Book Talk

Bring your beach chair and join us to talk about the book. Spreckels Park at 10am

**July 16: Discussion with author** Dr. Stephen R. Palumbi, Director, Hopkins Marine Station, Stanford University (Online details to follow) 7pm

**July 21: Screening of *Saving Otter 501*.** Discussion with SeaWorld Rescue Team. 7pm

## ROUND STINGRAY

### UROBATIS HALLERI



Photos by Neal Matthews

Southern California is known for its near perfect weather, beautiful beaches, and sunny skies, providing ideal conditions for beach goers and stingrays alike.

#### WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

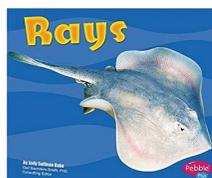
While there are several species of stingrays along Coronado's beaches, the round ray is the most abundant. They are grayish brown in color, some are solid or mottled. Their underside is whitish or light yellow. The tail of the round stingray is short and thick with a long thin stinging spine near the midpoint of the tail.

#### WHERE DOES IT LIVE?

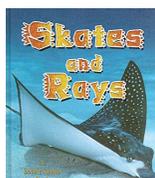
Round sting rays prefer sandy or muddy bottoms and are most often seen in the shallows to depths 50 feet. They are good swimmers and cover themselves with sand or mud as camouflage.

### LEARN MORE

The Coronado Public Library has books about stingrays for children and adults.



*Rays*  
by Jody Sullivan Rake



*Skates and Rays*  
by Rebecca Sjonger



*Stingrays*  
by Martha E.H. Rustad



*Stingrays*  
by Shane McFee

### Q & A

WITH CORONADO LIFEGUARD CAPTAIN SEAN CAREY



#### Q. What is the best way to treat a stingray wound?

Soak it in uncomfortably hot water, 105 to 115 degrees. You need to soak it for 30 to 60 minutes to make the pain go away. The hot water breaks down the toxin. You are either going to have a small puncture wound or laceration from the barb. You need to disinfect the wound, keep it clean, and keep an eye on it. The biggest risk from stingray stings is infection.

#### Q. What is the best way to avoid being stung by a stingray?

Avoid going into its environment. If you do go into the water, try to stay off the bottom. If you are on the bottom, shuffle your feet. Instead of picking up your feet, kind of drag your feet, and that may scare them away. You can also wear good swim fins like Duck Feet or Vipers that cannot be penetrated by the barb.

#### Q What kinds of warnings do you post?

When we begin to see a lot of people being stung by stingrays, we will fly a purple flag. The purple flag means marine pests. That could be jellyfish, stingrays, or sharks. But normally, it means stingrays. You can always check with a lifeguard or our conditions boards located on all of our lifeguard towers. We will also make announcements if a lot of people are getting stung.

#### Q Is there a season or time when more stings occur on our beaches?

More people are stung by stingrays in the spring and summer. I have noticed there are more stings when the water is warm and when the surf is small. It seems stingrays prefer calmer water. During low tide, more people tend to be stung. I don't know if it is the same for other beaches.

For more information visit [EMERALDKEEPERS.ORG](http://EMERALDKEEPERS.ORG)