

HI I'M PERCY THE PELICAN! WELCOME TO  
THE HUMBOLDT BAY WATER TRAIL QUEST!

## HOW TO QUEST:

You are holding a treasure map! Follow the movement clues (*italicized*) between stops (numbered) to ride the tides and discover how Humboldt Bay produces a swell home for people, plants, and animals. At your final destination you will find your Quest Clue. This is a “key” to your prize! (See “Now that you’ve finished...” section for your next step).

### KNOW BEFORE YOU GO:

**MARINA AREA:** Paddlers are not always visible to exiting boats. Stay in the main channel and out of the boat slip area.

**SHORT HORN BLASTS:** One long blast or five short blasts from a nearby vessel signals immediate DANGER. Be aware of your distance from moving boats at all times.

TIDES • WIND • WEATHER • CURRENTS  
[www.wrh.noaa.gov/eka/](http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/eka/)

**Coast Guard Emergency Number:**  
**(707) 839-6113**

## QUEST INFORMATION:

**Start:** Public dock in front of the **Humboldt Bay Aquatic Center** located at 921 Waterfront Drive, Eureka. Don't have a watercraft? The Humboldt Bay Aquatic Center rents kayaks, stand up paddleboards, and canoes along with life jackets and gear to get you started on your EdVenture!

**Contact:** Humboldt Bay Aquatic Center,  
707-443-4222.  
<https://tinyurl.com/hbaquatic>

**Quest Name:** Humboldt Bay Water Trail

**Total Length:** 0.75 miles round trip

**Difficulty:** Easy to Moderate depending on water conditions and type of watercraft.

### Driving Directions:

From the NORTH: Head south on Highway 101. Turn right onto L Street. Turn left onto Waterfront Drive.

From the SOUTH: Head north on Highway 101. Turn left onto I Street. Turn right onto Waterfront Drive.

## NOW THAT YOU'VE FINISHED YOUR QUEST:

Take your clue and head back to the Humboldt Bay Aquatic Center where you can pick up your prize at the front desk. For current hours, please call 707-443-4222.

Or, you can register your clue on the Redwood EdVentures website (below) and we will mail you your prize.

### WHERE WILL YOUR NEXT QUEST TAKE YOU?

The journey you've just completed is one of many Redwood EdVentures Quests. Find Quest locations and download free copies at [www.redwood-edventures.org](http://www.redwood-edventures.org). Teachers, students, and families can also explore hundreds of outdoor places and educational opportunities on the beautiful Redwood Coast. Find out why **nature is closer than you think!**



THINGS I SAW ALONG THE WAY...



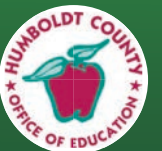
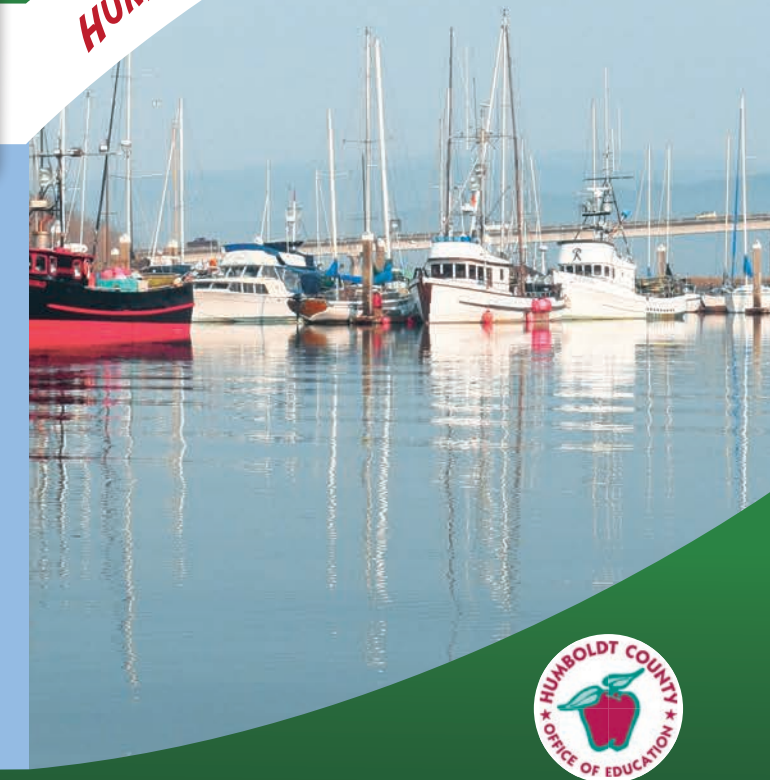
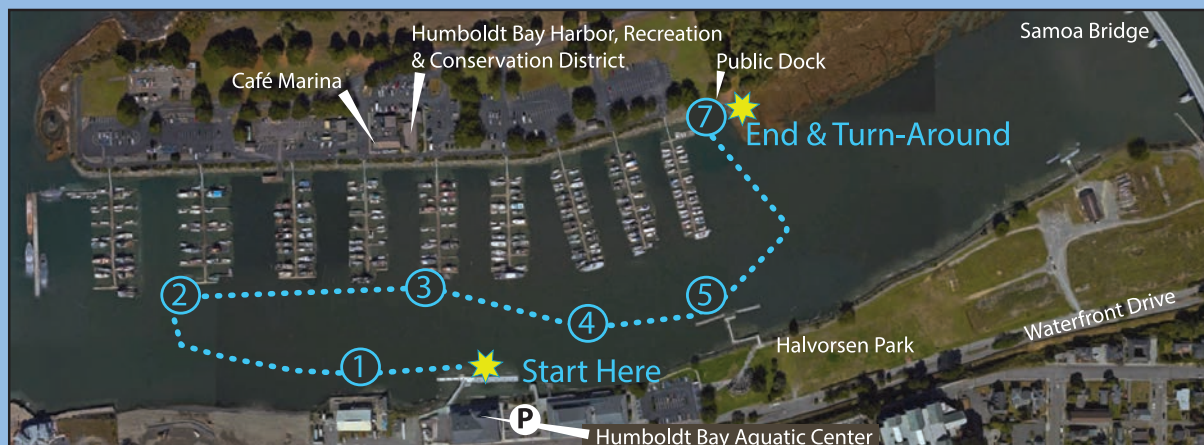
HUMBOLDT BAY  
AQUATIC CENTER

Special thanks to HSU's  
Interpretation students

Revised 06/2018

# REDWOOD EDVENTURES QUEST

HUMBOLDT BAY AQUATIC CENTER



## MARINA WATER TRAIL





**BEGIN AT THE PUBLIC DOCK IN FRONT OF THE HUMBOLDT BAY AQUATIC CENTER. USE THE TRAIL MAP ON THE OTHER SIDE. RIDE THE TIDES TO DISCOVER HOW HUMBOLDT BAY OFFERS A 'SWELL' HOME FOR ANIMALS, AQUATIC LIFE AND YOU!**

*Your first stop will be on the same side as this dock. Pause at the next dock down on your left, near the fishing building.*

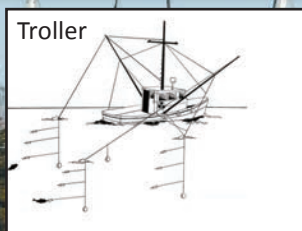
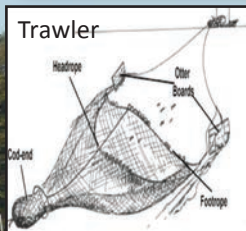
- 1** Look on the docks, what do you see? Stacks of crates from the fishing industry. People have long fished Humboldt Bay, for oysters, clams and catch of the day. It's important to keep this water clean and safe, because the local fish may end up on your plate.

*Paddle across the bay channel towards the marina. Pause at the end of the boat dock. The boat dock 'slips' house many different types of fishing vessels and pleasure craft.*

- 2** Originally built in 1856, Its fog horn and lights once signaled to ships. The Table Bluff Lighthouse holds quite a bit of history, Honoring today those sailors lost at sea.

*Paddle towards the Samoa Bridge along the marina, but do not go between the boat slips as you may not be visible to moving boats. Pause about halfway, you'll see the patio of Café Marina.*

- 3** Let's play a game of "how many boats can you spot?" From trawlers to trollers, there sure are a lot! Each boat has a name and what harbor it's from, Read the back of some boats and remember just one.



Boats often have names and harbor of origin on their sterns.

*From here, head toward a big green Victorian home perched above the Bay. Point your watercraft toward it for Stop 4.*

- 4** Imagine a railroad that ran by the bay, Those rails hauled lumber to towns far away. The Carson Mansion sits above these tracks, A modern reminder of past lumberjacks.



Historic Carson Mansion and lumber mill near Halvorsen Park.



*Stay on your current side of the channel, and continue heading towards the Samoa Bridge. Stop to examine the dock near the bridge.*

- 5** See what aquatic life you can spot Living alongside this sturdy dock. Barnacles, crabs, and eelgrass too, Make Humboldt Bay home, just like you.



Barnacles (above) and eelgrass (right).

*Be aware of any moving vessels. When clear, paddle out toward the Public Dock as shown on map. Pause briefly in the open channel for Stop 6.*

- 6** Along with small creatures come big ones as well, Like harbor seals and waterbirds who think the Bay is swell. Look skyway and you will see the Pacific Flyway. Birds of all feathers employ this place of travel, Finding food and rest along the Bay channel.

### Wildlife Viewing Etiquette

**P**ass far so you do not impact animals.  
**A**pproach indirectly and avoid direct confrontation.  
**D**iscreetly view from a distance.  
**D**efer when you observe behavior changes.  
**L**ease wildlife alone.  
**E**xplain that protecting wildlife protects paddling.

(PADDLE guidelines adapted from the Farallones Marine Sanctuary Association)

*Paddle toward Woodley Island Marina's small cement public dock along the rocky shore. Pull up for a rest before you turn around.*

- 7** Tides rise and fall two times a day, Mixing water and nutrients throughout the Bay. Can you find clues of which way the tide is going? If going out, a 'wrack line' is showing ('Bathtub ring' of plant material along shore).

### Final Quest Question:

*Find a quote on a plaque hidden just below the cleat on the edge of the wooden public dock facing the bridge.*

*Cleat for hitching up boats.*



**WRITE YOUR QUEST CLUE HERE:**



Harbor Seal

Photo: Hailey Leurck