

2021

**A BANNER
YEAR FOR
THE BAY**





It's my favorite kind of story

because it captures the essential elements that make Baykeeper unique: a pollution hotline tip, boat and drone investigations, a major polluter caught red-handed, strong evidence of toxic pollution, and legal action to protect the Bay and local communities.

You can read about the details of this Baykeeper story inside. And you'll also see here that we're doing more than ever to defend the Bay. Despite the pandemic lingering on, Baykeeper is stronger than before and continuing to stand on the front lines of Bay protection.

And there's one more element that makes us effective: It's because of you that we're able to report on a banner year at Baykeeper. Your investments are paying dividends for the health of our beautiful Bay and for all of us living in the Bay Area. Thank you for believing in Baykeeper and making an impact to protect the Bay. I love having you by our side!

Warmly,

Sejal Choksi-Chugh
Executive Director





INVESTIGATING POLLUTION

Responding Rapidly to Bay Threats

With our patrol drone Osprey, we can be everywhere.

Earlier this year, local residents notified us of an oil slick on the Bay near Chevron's loading dock and reported that the Richmond waterfront smelled like a gas station. We jumped into action and arrived at the scene long before the response agencies. Using Osprey's high-resolution camera, we documented Chevron's failed efforts to stop the oil from spreading. Then we advocated for the spill response agencies to ensure proper cleanup and hold Chevron accountable for harming the Bay's sensitive habitats and nearby neighborhoods.

Baykeeper is first on the scene when the Bay has an emergency.



STOPPING POLLUTERS

Catching Polluters in the Act

When polluters are doing their worst, the Bay has a defender.

Thanks to an anonymous pollution hotline tip, our field team investigated an industrial facility loading cargo ships at the Port of Benicia. Using our drone over the span of multiple patrols, we captured shocking images of poisonous petroleum coke dust—a known toxic substance—polluting the Bay, in direct violation of the Clean Water Act. Petroleum coke is an oil refinery waste product that's shipped overseas, where it's burned as a dirty fuel, which contributes to the global climate crisis. Now we're taking the polluting company to court to clean up its act to protect the wildlife and communities nearby.

Baykeeper stands up for the Bay to stop corporate wrongdoing.



STRENGTHENING LAWS

Local Action Leads to Statewide Outcome

When we discover big loopholes in environmental laws, we close them.

Metal shredders used to be able to operate without a hazardous waste permit. For too many years, facilities like Schnitzer Steel in Oakland freely polluted the Bay and surrounding communities with heavy metals, shredder fluff, and other toxic substances from open-air metal shredding and storage operations. But no more! Baykeeper and our allies joined a lawsuit this year to close the loophole, and we won. So now Schnitzer, and other polluting companies like it in the state, must clean up their act to protect people and wildlife.

Baykeeper delivers big wins for the Bay Area and across California.

An aerial photograph of a bay with a boat and a pier. The water is a deep green color. A small boat is visible in the middle of the bay. In the top left corner, there is a pier with some structures and a blue canopy. The background is a solid green color.

FIGHTING FOR HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Keeping the Bay Free From Toxic Algae

The Bay comes in many different colors, but fluorescent green shouldn't be one of them.

That's the sign of toxic algal blooms, which have been known to cause severe health problems in recreational users—including swimmers, paddlers, beachgoers, and even dogs playing in the water. And they're happening more frequently around the Delta. These toxic growths could expand further into the Bay in the coming seasons with warmer temperatures and increased wastewater pollution. That's why Baykeeper is advocating for greater fresh water flows through the Bay's tributaries and putting pressure on San Francisco and other cities to support local wastewater recycling and water conservation.

Baykeeper fights for a healthier Bay for people around the Bay Area.

DEFENDING WILDLIFE & PREPARING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

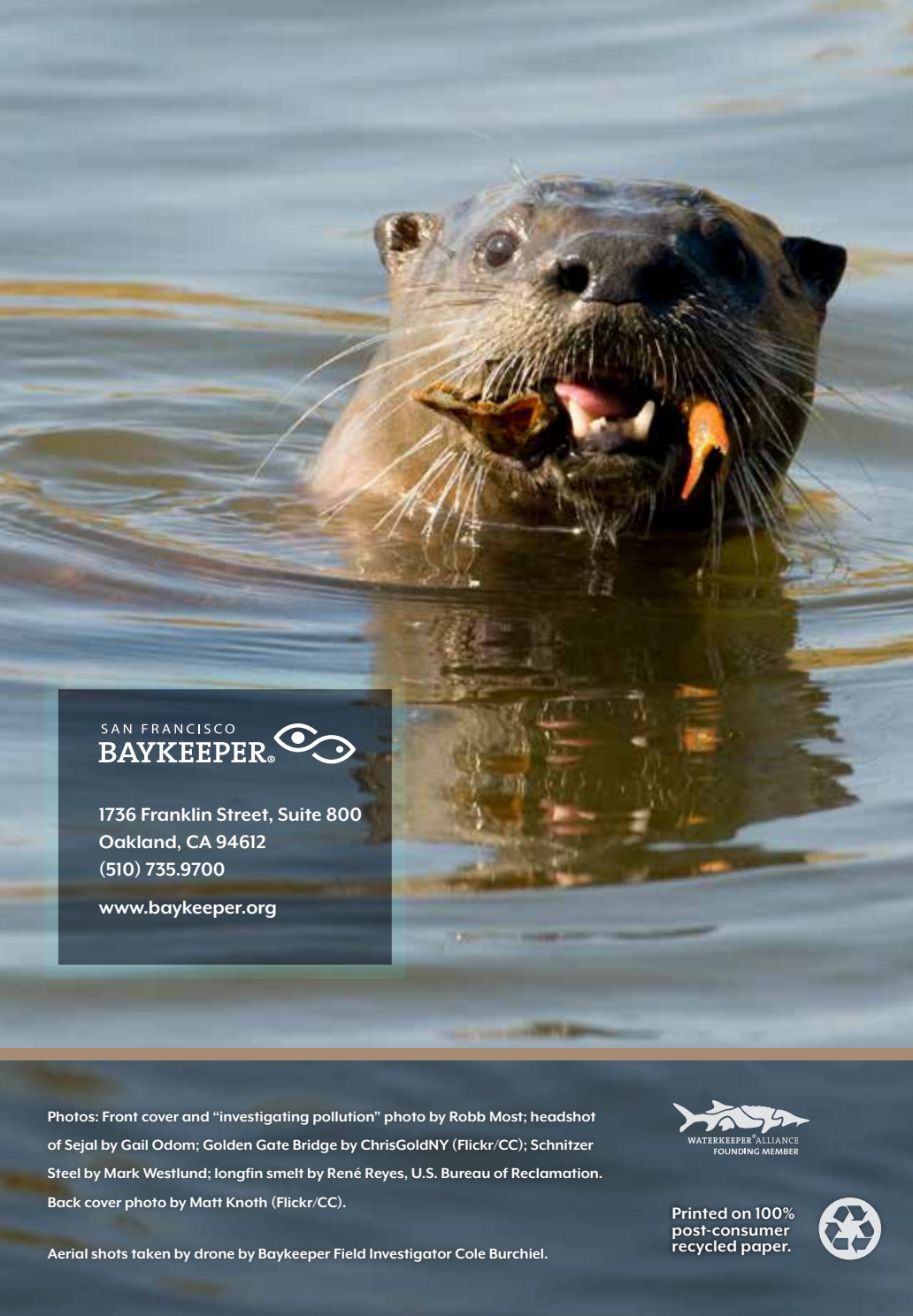
Using Science and Law to Protect Bay Fish



Sometimes tiny critters carry warnings of huge problems to come.

When once-plentiful fish like longfin smelt nearly disappear, it's a sign to our scientists that something has gone horribly wrong with the Bay ecosystem. The longfin smelt population is harmed by reduced fresh water flows, warmer temperatures, and habitat destruction throughout the Bay's tributaries. That's why Baykeeper is suing the federal government to list the longfin smelt as endangered. The EPA has inexcusably delayed making this classification for years, and if our lawsuit succeeds, mandatory new protections would safeguard the fish and improve the resilience of the Bay in the face of future climate threats.

*Baykeeper is bold and strategic on behalf of the Bay
and its wildlife.*



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Aerial shots taken by drone by Baykeeper Field Investigator Cole Burchiel.



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