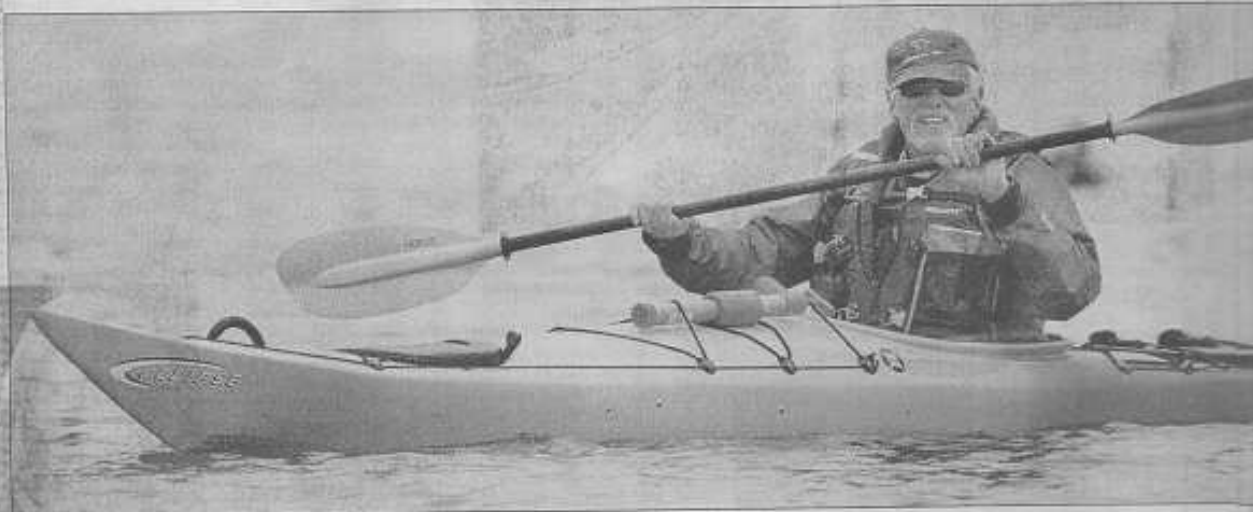


COMMUNITY VOICES



Kayaking for the SANCTUARY

By M.L. FISCHER
Special to the Sentinel

I have a wonderful job — wonderful because I'm doing something I normally do for fun and because I'm helping a cause I strongly believe in.

I'm a member of Team Ocean, the kayak educational and interpretive patrol.

Our team paddles kayaks for the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary along the Monterey Coast, Elkhorn Slough and possibly Santa Cruz.

We watch for violations of sanctuary rules, caution people who get too close to protected species, answer questions about the sanctuary and its flora and fauna, and help kayakers who are having problems.

We're a bit like park docents in a liquid park.

For years, I've paddled these waters, watched out for seals and otters and helped tourists who find themselves unable to get back to the dock.



TOP: M.L. Fischer patrols Elkhorn Slough in a kayak. BOTTOM: Fischer carries his kayak out of the water at Moss Landing after a paddle.