

**PRESS RELEASES APRIL-MAY 2019**

## **Reef Guardians works with Heal the Ocean to locate leaking oil well heads and cap them.**

Reef Guardians (RGH) has teamed up with California State Lands Commission, Interact and Hillary Hauser, Executive director of world renowned Heal the Ocean to locate leaking offshore abandoned oil well heads in Santa Barbara County. Since discovering crude oil on the beaches near Miramar and Hammonds beach back in March of 2017, Reef Guardians Founder Harry



Harry Rabin with Interact at Becker well capping.

Rabin has spent the last 3 years locating and overseeing the capping of wells along with Hillary Hauser. Using technology provided by RGH they were able to follow the oil trail using drones right to one of its sources. A wellhead known as the Becker well which was later capped in 2018.

The latest leaks are coming from another wellhead known as Treadwell. Reef Guardians was there to locate it and also sent samples to Dr. David Valentine at UCSB's Geology Lab to

assess its origins or "fingerprint" as coined by the scientists working with him. This is the same scientific technique that has been used to establish crude oil origins such as was the case during the Deepwater Horizon spill in the Gulf.

The work continues as an additional 3 unknown sources have been located in the same area as Becker and Treadwell. Over 192 offshore wells were installed in the early 1900's off of Summerland's Lookout Park, so the art of properly capping wells was not a practice even considered back when all the wells were shutdown due to financial losses. Unfortunately the ghost of mistakes past are resurfacing in the form of oil slicks and noxious fumes in the area today.



RGH will be deploying a new state of the art Boxfish ROV as well as aerial and underwater drones to get directly to the sources and mark their locations with GPS data so these wells can be properly capped like Becker. The goal is to get Treadwell and all of them capped by Spring of 2020.