

## **Call for Nominations: Ocean Protection Council Science Advisory Team**

**From: California Ocean Science Trust**

**Date: June 30, 2014**

---

### **Call for Nominations**

The California Ocean Protection Council now welcomes nominations for a vacancy on the Ocean Protection Council Science Advisory Team (OPC-SAT) for **30 business days, or by close of business Tuesday, August 12, 2014.**

New members of the OPC-SAT are asked to serve an initial three-year term, with the possibility of renewing for two or three years at a time. Service includes two annual in-person meetings, response to requests for experts for peer review, and potential participation in workgroups as necessary.

OPC-SAT membership is intended to reflect the diversity of scientific expertise needed to support the Ocean Protection Council in its mission of science-supported policy decisions.

In this solicitation, we are specifically seeking:

- an expert with experience and broad understanding of tribal perspectives and interests in ocean resource management and stewardship throughout California, and expertise in the cultural, sustenance, and ecological perspectives of tribal governments and tribal members. Expertise in the emerging field of traditional ecological knowledge would be beneficial, and a graduate degree is preferred.

### **Nomination Process**

- Nominations will be accepted for **30 business days, or through Tuesday, August 12, 2014.**
- The Ocean Protection Council will conduct broad outreach in an effort to garner a diverse and robust response to this solicitation.
- Nominations should be submitted to Skyli McAfee ([skyli.mcafee@calost.org](mailto:skyli.mcafee@calost.org)), executive director of California Ocean Science Trust and science advisor to the Ocean Protection Council.

- Nominations should include a brief explanation/justification based on the described area of expertise being solicited, and the information on the background and role of the OPC-SAT provided below.
- Please feel free to nominate yourself.

### **Selection Process**

Nominations will be evaluated by a subcommittee that includes three members of the OPC-SAT, the science advisor to the Ocean Protection Council, the Ocean Protection Council executive director, and an independent expert knowledgeable in this area. The recommendation that emerges from this subcommittee will be forwarded for consideration by the Ocean Protection Council.

### **Background of the OPC-SAT**

The California Ocean Protection Council is a state body designed to ensure *California maintains healthy, resilient, and productive ocean and coastal ecosystems for the benefit of current and future generations*. The Ocean Protection Council was established by the California Ocean Protection Act of 2004, and is chaired by the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency. As directed by statute, and to promote the best available science in informing decision-making, the Ocean Protection Council established a Science Advisory Team (OPC-SAT) consisting of 20 to 25 respected scientists from across a range of ocean and coastal disciplines and research institutions. Members represent a variety of disciplines, including both the natural and social sciences.

The workload of OPC-SAT is driven by the needs of the Ocean Protection Council, and ultimately the OPC-SAT strives to provide unbiased technical and scientific information that is useful to decision makers. The California Ocean Science Trust was designated by the Ocean Protection Council to coordinate all activities of the OPC-SAT. Authorized by statute, the Ocean Science Trust is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) public benefit corporation dedicated to helping scientists and decision-makers work together more effectively. Ocean Science Trust's executive director serves as co-chair of the OPC-SAT and as the science advisor to the Ocean Protection Council.

### **Role of the OPC-SAT**

OPC-SAT members serve as liaisons to the wider scientific community for the Ocean Protection Council and its staff. Members must be willing to respond to the State's needs, and provide requested information or reviews, sometimes on short notice. This means not only having the appropriate authority and availability to provide scientific and technical information within their specialty and discipline, but a proven track record of working collaboratively and constructively with people from a range of backgrounds, disciplines, and perspectives.

OPC-SAT members support the State with scientific guidance related to, but not limited to, the following areas of marine and coastal management:

- Keeping the State apprised of emerging science issues and scientific innovations;

- Assisting in describing, refining, and ranking research priorities;
- Synthesizing and translating complex scientific knowledge around issues identified by the Ocean Protection Council or its staff;
- Responding to information requests;
- Evaluating the technical merit of scientific and technical projects proposed to Ocean Protection Council;
- Suggesting outside experts to serve as peer reviewers for Ocean Protection Council proposals and projects, as well as products of other state and federal entities partnering with the Ocean Protection Council;
- Providing technical expertise and advice on and review of Ocean Protection Council project reports and literature reviews; and
- Convene and run working groups at the direction of the science advisor (Ocean Science Trust executive director) to support scientific and technical components of management issues.

### **What the OPC-SAT is NOT**

The OPC-SAT is not a body that is responsible for independently reviewing regulatory decisions made by the Ocean Protection Council or any other state or federal entity, or otherwise informing or managing particular regulatory processes. It is not a policy-oriented body, and is, therefore, not required to assist the State in assessing particular regulatory choices. The OPC-SAT is strictly comprised of scientific experts seeking to provide State decision-makers with the best available scientific and technical information on topics or decisions the Ocean Protection Council has determined need additional scientific study or consideration. Therefore, neither the OPC-SAT nor the Ocean Science Trust are independently empowered to convene and make recommendations on laws or regulations for which the State has not asked for analysis, nor will OPC-SAT members be asked to promote particular view points or agendas. Rather, it is the goal of the Ocean Protection Council that the OPC-SAT remain a body that can provide objective analysis and synthesis of the best available science, so that the Ocean Protection Council itself can make more informed policy choices and decisions.

Importantly, there have been other science advisory teams convened by the State from time to time, and in particular the California Department of Fish and Wildlife convened such a body for purposes of considering decisions it was making relative to the Marine Life Protection Act. The OPC-SAT is not the same science advisory team that was convened to inform the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's decisions in that regard, nor is it expected to revisit or otherwise endorse those decisions or that process. Finally, since the OPC-SAT does not self-direct its workload, its individual members will not be able to promote or otherwise use state resources to revisit decisions that members of the public feel were misinformed.