

# Update on Recently Funded Proposition 84 Projects & the Proposition 84 Competitive Grant Program

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November 1, 2017 | Ocean Protection Council Meeting | Sacramento



# OPC's Work on Seagrasses and OA

- OPC funded two projects exploring role of seagrass habitat in modifying local seawater chemistry and mitigating OA
- Project lead by UC-Davis expanded deployments to Newport Bay, Elkhorn Slough, continue deployments in Tomales, Bodega
- Promising results about how fast seagrass sediments store carbon
- Other project led by HSU (near Hog Island Oyster Hatchery in Humboldt) completed eelgrass survey and now will start OA measurements to understand relationship between eelgrass, OA, and aquaculture



# This Work in the Press...

## Can local eelgrass help fight global ocean acidification? Newport Bay research may help provide answers



LA Times, August 2017

## Can eelgrass in Newport Beach help fight acidity in the ocean?



The OC Register, September 2017

# Second Round of Statewide Marine Protected Area Signage Project

## Nearly 200 locations statewide

- 20 harbors, marinas, bait shops
- Highly visible locations like Terranea Resort, Birch Aquarium, Pebble Beach, elephant seal viewing areas
- Educational and regulatory signage

## California Coastal Commission approved permits

- Installation to begin mid-2018



# Dungeness Crab Fishing Gear Working Group

- Met on September 27-28
- Supporting thriving whale populations & a thriving and profitable Dungeness crab fishery
- Piloting a draft, voluntary Risk Assessment & Mitigation Program (RAMP)
- Updated the Best Practices Guide for the upcoming 2017-2018 fishing season

<http://www.opc.ca.gov/whale-entanglement-working-group/>



**Dungeness Crab Fishing Gear Working Group**

*Working Collaboratively to Reduce the Risk of Whale Entanglement in the California Dungeness Crab Fishery*

## California Dungeness Crab Fishing 2017-18 Best Practices Guide to Minimize Whale Entanglement Risk



### Support for Best Practices

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has confirmed significant increases in large whale entanglements over the last few years, and specifically in California Dungeness crab fishing gear. This situation threatens the stability of the fishery and coastal fishing communities. In response, a Working Group has developed this Best Practices Guide to highlight voluntary actions believed to be an important step towards reducing whale entanglements.



### BEST PRACTICES

- No excess lines should be floating at the surface. Floating line should only be between the main buoy and trailer.
- When changing set location across depths, adjust the length of trap lines by adjusting shots (i.e., measured length of line) to maintain taut vertical lines.
- Avoid setting gear in the vicinity of whales whenever possible.
- Maintain gear to ensure lines and buoys are in good working condition and will not break under natural conditions causing gear to become lost or irretrievable. Lost gear contributes to marine debris and increases risk of whale entanglements.
- All gear should be clearly marked consistent with applicable regulation. All gear should be maintained so markings are clearly legible to facilitate correct identification of the origins of the gear involved in entanglements.
- Use the minimum amount of scope required to compensate for tides, currents and weather. Whales are more likely to become entangled with slack lines, which can potentially create a "floating snare".
- Remove all fishing gear by the end of the season when gear is no longer allowed in the water.

### BUOY SET-UP BEST PRACTICES



# Proposition 84 Competitive Grant Program Update

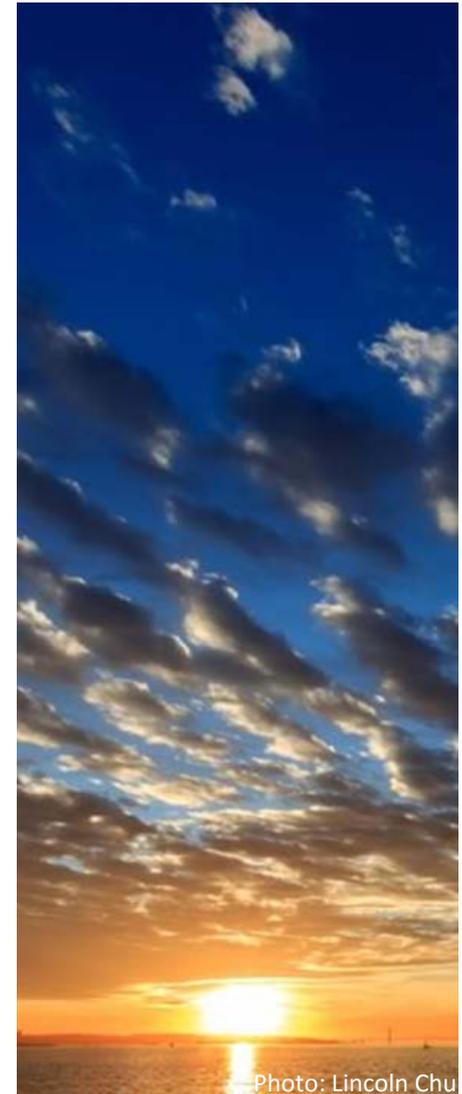


Photo: National Park Service

# Council Action at the August Meeting

**Approved: Up to \$7,000,000 to the two California Sea Grant programs to administer and fund a competitive grant program for scientific research projects that support the OPC's priorities.**

- **Up to \$3,500,000 to California Sea Grant**
  - Ocean acidification & hypoxia
  - Sustainable fisheries & aquaculture
- **Up to \$3,500,000 to USC Sea Grant**
  - Sea-level Rise Adaptation & Coastal Resilience
  - Coastal Sediment Management
  - Marine Pollution
  - Marine Renewable Energy



# Informational Update on the Proposition 84 Competitive Grant Program

## Outline for this presentation:

- Scientific research project Priority Topic Areas
- Request for Proposals (RFP) Information, including OPC Staff and Council involvement
- Competitive Grant Program Outreach
- RFP Timeline



Photo: Erik Piro

# Priority Topic Areas for the California Sea Grant Program

- Ocean acidification and hypoxia & other changes in ocean conditions from a changing climate
  - Understanding the effects of changing ocean conditions and ocean acidification on fisheries and ecosystems to evaluate tolerance to change and ability to adapt
  - Assessing vulnerability of fisheries and coastal communities and advancing management actions
- Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture
  - Fostering collaborative research and development among fishermen, managers, and other partners to enhance fisheries economic and ecological sustainability
  - Advancing scientific understanding of the impacts of, and opportunities for, aquaculture in state marine waters, particularly with respect to minimizing potential impacts on marine species and habitats



# Priority Topic Areas for the USC Sea Grant Program

- **Sea-level Rise Adaptation & Coastal Resilience**
  - Assessing vulnerability to sea-level rise
  - Supporting communities, especially those with unequal burdens from climate risks or insufficient resources to respond to risks, by developing decision-support tools and implementing adaptation measures to ameliorate risks and impacts
- **Coastal Sediment Management**
  - Advancing the scientific understanding of the impacts to the coast resulting from impediments to natural sediment supply.
  - Assessing the potential ecological and economic impacts of coastal sediment management projects; e.g., beach nourishment, wetlands restoration, beneficial reuse of sand, managed retreat.



# Priority Topic Areas for the USC Sea Grant Program

- Marine Pollution

- Conducting effectiveness assessments of actions taken to improve water quality
- Advancing assessments of emerging water quality issues that impact human and ecosystem health

- Marine Renewable Energy

- Demonstrating the technological, economic, and environmental feasibility of deploying either wind, wave and tidal energy devices at a specific location.
- Identifying and assessing the effectiveness of methods to reduce or eliminate harmful effects of marine renewable energy projects on the environment.



# Request for Proposals (RFP) Information & Proposal Review Process

- Range of funding for Projects: \$80,000-\$250,000
  - The competitive grant program will support a minimum of 24 projects
- Outreach to Stakeholders
  - Provided priority topic areas to our agency partners for review
  - Informational webinar to provide background information and application requirements to grantees
- Proposal Review
  - Expert panels to review pre- and full proposals for each focus area
  - Expert panels will include: OPC staff, state agency representatives, and scientists



# Process & Anticipated Timeline

- **Early 2018:** Anticipated release of Request for Proposals with 10-week period for applicants to submit pre-proposals.
  - OPC and the Sea Grant Programs will host an informational webinar for prospective applicants
- **Summer 2018:** Applicants notified whether they are invited to submit a full proposal
- **Late Summer 2018:** Anticipated full proposal submission deadline
- **Late Summer/Early Fall 2018:** Review panels convene for full proposal review
- **Late Fall/Early Winter 2018:** Projects selected through this review process will be brought back to the Council for final consideration of grant awards.
- **Early 2019:** Projects begin and must be complete by **early 2022**



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