

# The Ocean Protection Council SCIENCE ADVISORY TEAM

*Providing scientific advising to the Ocean Protection Council to ensure policy and funding decisions are informed by the best available science*

## CURRENT MEMBERS

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*Southern California Coastal Water Research Project*

### SECRETARIAT - OCEAN SCIENCE TRUST

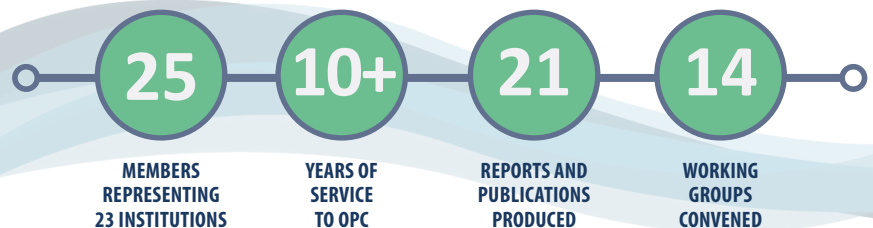
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## What is the OPC Science Advisory Team?

The Ocean Protection Council Science Advisory Team (OPC-SAT) was established in 2008 and provides the expertise needed to assist the California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) in meeting the purposes of the California Ocean Protection Act (COPA). The OPC-SAT is composed of esteemed, interdisciplinary scientists along the West Coast and beyond, and offers a critical venue to bring state leaders and scientists together around pressing ocean and coastal challenges. The OPC-SAT takes on a range of topics with emphasis on state priorities to address issues impacting coastal and marine ecosystems in California.

The OPC-SAT and its members engage in four principal work modes: Expert Taskforces, Advisory Committees, Expert Panels, and as individuals. The work of the OPC-SAT is supported by the Ocean Protection Council. Ocean Science Trust serves as the Secretariat.

For more information about how the OPC-SAT participates in its activities, forms collaborative groups, and reviews and approves its work products, see [The Ocean Protection Council Science Advisory Team: Responsibilities and Working Procedures \(2018\)](#).



*The OPC-SAT comes together as a whole at least once per year in an in-person workshop. These workshops bring together OPC-SAT members, decision-makers, and science integration specialists across the spectrum to share information and updates, discuss priorities, launch new initiatives, or hold technical workshops on specific questions.*



**OCEAN PROTECTION COUNCIL**



**CALIFORNIA OCEAN SCIENCE TRUST**

# OPC-SAT IN ACTION: Snapshot of Achievements

Supporting OPC's Vision for California's Ocean and Coasts, 2012-2017

## CLIMATE CHANGE



### West Coast Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Science Panel

January 2013 - April 2016

The West Coast Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Science Panel, comprised of 20 leading experts, developed a body of products that serve as a scientific call to action, synthesizing the state of knowledge and identifying science-based options to address OAH at the regional and local levels. The Panel informed science funding priorities, OA legislation, and spurred an international alliance to combat OA. For more info, visit [westcoastoaah.org/westcoastpanel/](http://westcoastoaah.org/westcoastpanel/)

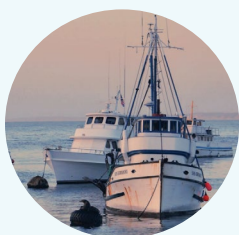


### Rising Seas in California: An Update on Sea-Level Rise Science

January 2017 - April 2018

An OPC Science Advisory Team was convened to consider the implications of recent scientific advances on ice melt/loss dynamics to update sea-level rise projections, and develop a 'state of the science' summary of the drivers of sea-level rise and implications of model selection, approach and uncertainty. The guidance helped inform development of statewide policy guidance on sea-level rise on behalf of the California Natural Resources Agency and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research. Download the report: <http://bit.ly/2MRz95A>

## SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS



### Climate Change and California Fisheries Guidance

January 2016 - May 2017

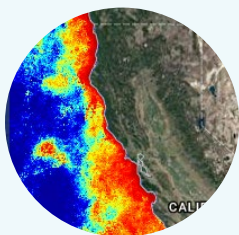
California fisheries are at risk from a variety of impacts including a changing climate. An interdisciplinary OPC-SAT working group provided guidance to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife on the potential impacts of climate change on fisheries as well as deliver science-based approaches to manage these impacts. This report helped inform the state's process to amend the Marine Life Management Act Master Plan. Download the report: <http://bit.ly/2rNYbYI>



### Fishery Management Plan Peer Reviews

June 2014, May 2015

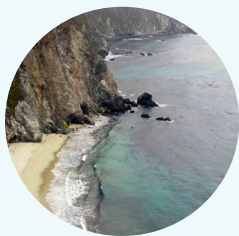
For California marine fisheries management, peer review is a vital component of meeting the goals of the Marine Life Management Act and ensuring that California Department of Fish and Wildlife fishery management plans (FMPs) are defensible and meet high scientific quality standards. In 2014 and 2015, OPC-SAT peer review panels provided scientific recommendations for red abalone density methods and the draft Spiny Lobster FMP, respectively. For more information, visit here: <http://bit.ly/2MO8wi3>



### Harmful Algal Blooms and the California Dungeness Crab Fishery

October 2016

In 2015 and 2016, elevated levels of domoic acid were observed in major commercial and recreational shellfisheries in California, including Dungeness crab and rock crab, leading to health advisories and fishery closures during the 2015/16 season. In response, an OPC-SAT working group developed recommendations and guidance for California agencies to better understand harmful algal blooms and minimize impacts. For more information, visit: <http://bit.ly/2MOrEfK>



### Informing Permitting of Scientific Activities in MPAs

July 2017

Marine protected areas (MPAs) and MPA networks are important management tools that often have multiple goals and must balance potentially conflicting activities, one of which is scientific research. An OPC-SAT working group, at the request of the Department of Fish and Wildlife, developed a quantitative, ecologically-based decision framework to estimate the impacts of scientific research with the goal of facilitating scientific permitting decisions in California's newly established network of MPAs. Download the report: <http://bit.ly/2MRAAB0>