

# Call for Nominations: Ocean Protection Council Science Advisory Team

*The Ocean Protection Council (OPC) welcomes nominations for multiple vacancies on the OPC Science Advisory Team (OPC-SAT).*

## Nomination Process

**Deadline: Nominations will be accepted until November 17, 2018.**

All nominations are to be submitted to Hayley Carter ([hayley.carter@oceansciencetrust.org](mailto:hayley.carter@oceansciencetrust.org)), Program Scientist, Ocean Science Trust, via email with subject line "OPC-SAT nomination". A nomination should include:

- The name, affiliation, and contact information for the nominee
- A brief rationale for the selection based on the areas of expertise being solicited
- A CV/resume

We encourage individuals to self-nominate.

## Overview

The OPC-SAT provides scientific analysis and advice to the OPC and works to ensure that OPC policy and funding decisions are informed by the best available science. The OPC-SAT was established in 2008 to help meet the goals of the California Ocean Protection Act and offers a critical venue to bring state leaders and scientists together around pressing ocean and coastal challenges. The work of the OPC-SAT is supported by the Ocean Protection Council. Ocean Science Trust serves as the Secretariat. To learn more about their work, visit:

<http://www.opc.ca.gov/science-advisory-team/>.

## Desired Expertise

In this solicitation, we welcome all nominations of individuals who can provide scientific guidance to the OPC to support the goals within OPC's priority program areas and funding initiatives, including:

- **Marine protected areas** - Ensure that California's MPA Network is on track to meet the goals of the Marine Life Protection Act, is adaptively managed, and informed by robust science and stakeholders are broadly engaged in stewardship through a partnership based approach.
- **Climate change** - Prepare for and reduce harmful impacts of climate change on ocean and coastal resources by encouraging adaptation and understanding of climate change, and engaging decision makers at all levels of government.
- **Sustainable fisheries** - Enhance the sustainability of California's ocean fisheries while protecting marine ecosystems, port communities, and coastal economies.
- **Marine pollution** - Protect marine ecosystems and human health by preventing ocean pollution and ensuring clean water for recreation, fishing and other ocean uses.
- **Sustainable ocean economy** - Ensure that commercial and industrial uses of the ocean balance social and economic benefits with long-term protection and sustainability of marine and coastal resources



To compliment existing expertise on the OPC-SAT, we are particularly interested in individuals with knowledge in the areas of social science (including anthropology and environmental justice), resource economics (including impacts of climate change), fisheries science, coastal engineering, geology, environmental toxicology and public health, and ocean data technology and management, but we strive for broad representation of ocean and coastal-related expertise and encourage nominations of any qualified individuals.

## **About the OPC-SAT**

The mission of the California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) is to ensure that California maintains healthy, resilient, and productive ocean and coastal ecosystems for the benefit of current and future generations. The OPC was established by the California Ocean Protection Act of 2004, and is chaired by the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency. Central to the OPC is a commitment to science informing policy. To that end, the OPC established a Science Advisory Team (OPC-SAT), currently consisting of 23 members across a range of ocean and coastal disciplines and research institutions. Members include expertise in natural and social science, law, and tribal perspectives and interests in coastal and ocean resource management. The mission of the OPC-SAT is to ensure that the best available science supports OPC policy and funding decisions.

Ocean Science Trust convenes and coordinates all activities of the OPC-SAT on behalf of the OPC. OST 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 Liz Whiteman also serves as co-chair of the OPC-SAT and Science Advisor to the OPC.

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

OPC-SAT members operate in a complex institutional and political space, and serve as an effective portal to the wider scientific community for the OPC, as well as other state agencies and offices. 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 availability, but a proven track record of working collaboratively and constructively with people from a range of backgrounds and perspectives.

OPC-SAT members support the state with advice related to, but not limited to, the following areas:

- Providing recommendations on high level strategic planning to the OPC based on emerging issues and/or scientific innovations;
- Identifying critical emerging science issues that should be of concern to the state, and recommending potential actions that the OPC could take to respond to these issues;
- Assisting in describing, refining, and ranking research priorities;
- Developing recommendations on scientific issues identified by the OPC;
- Responding to information requests from the OPC;
- Evaluating the technical merit of scientific and technical projects proposed to the OPC;
- Suggesting outside experts to serve as peer reviewers for OPC proposals and projects, as well as products of other state, federal, and non-governmental entities;
- Providing technical expertise and advice on and review of OPC project reports, literature reviews, and agenda items; and
- Convening technical working groups to address critical management problems.

## Member Commitments and Expectations

New members of the OPC-SAT are asked to serve an initial **three-year term**, with the possibility of renewal. OPC-SAT members are expected to actively engage in activities to the best of their ability and consistent with their area of expertise. Service includes:

- Attendance at up to two annual in-person workshops in Sacramento or the San Francisco Bay Area, California
- Participation in working groups and other forums, as appropriate
- Response to State requests in a timely manner

The time commitments of OPC-SAT members will vary, depending on their expertise and the number and nature of requests for OPC-SAT work from the OPC.

OPC-SAT members are expected to have:

- Scientific expertise in an area or field of study germane to providing scientific advice, guidance, and recommendations to the OPC, state agencies and representatives, and other clients on priority coastal and ocean issues.
- Strong scientific credentials as evidenced by a record that includes scientific publications and reports, serving as an investigator on research grants and contracts, scientific presentations, and participation in scientific organizations. Consistent with this record, members are expected to have demonstrated strong written and oral communication skills and analytical ability.

The OPC-SAT does not engage in advocacy activities and members are expected to serve and provide scientific guidance to the OPC in an unbiased and objective manner, representing their expertise and not any specific organization or entity.

## Compensation

OPC-SAT members serve without compensation. However, members may receive honoraria for participating in working groups and scientific and technical reviews. OPC-SAT members are also reimbursed for all reasonable expenses related to participation, including travel and other direct costs, consistent with State reimbursement policies.

## Member Selection Process

Following the nomination period, Ocean Science Trust will reach out to nominees by email to inform them of their nomination and to confirm whether or not the nominee is willing to serve if chosen. The recommended nominee(s) for each vacant position will be identified following evaluation by Ocean Science Trust, the OPC-SAT Executive Committee, and the OPC, at which point the recommendations(s) to fill each vacancy will be made. The recommended candidate(s) for each vacancy will then be advanced to the OPC for consideration.

OPC leadership will discuss the recommended candidate(s) for each vacancy with the Secretary for Natural Resources, who is also the Chair of the OPC. The final selection to fill the seat is discussed and made public at an OPC public meeting.

The OPC-SAT member selection process will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, or marital and familial status.