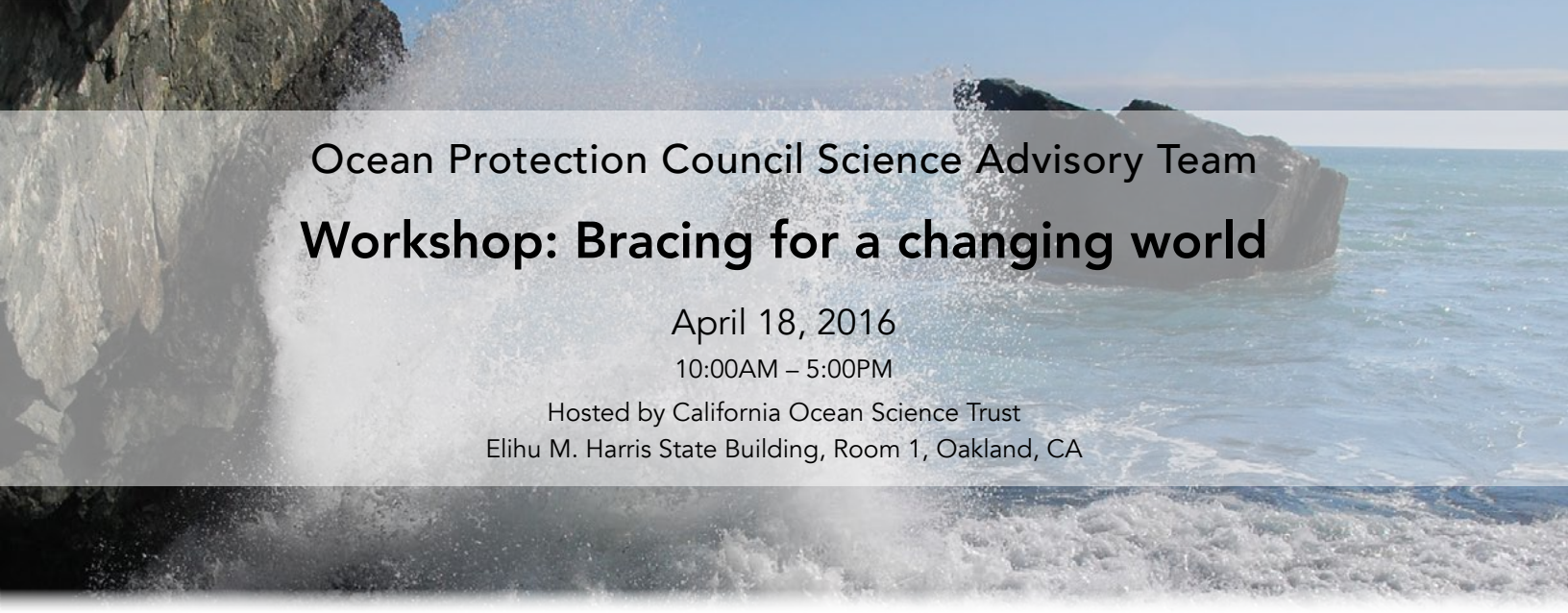

Ocean Protection Council Science Advisory Team

Workshop: Bracing for a changing world

April 18, 2016

10:00AM – 5:00PM

Hosted by California Ocean Science Trust

Elihu M. Harris State Building, Room 1, Oakland, CA

Workshop Participants

SAT Executive Committee: F. Chavez (Co-chair), K. Nielsen (Co-chair), M. Carr (Co-chair Emeritus)

Other SAT Members: R. Ambrose, A. Boehm, D. Cayan, H. Doremus, J. Field, B. Fraley, G. Griggs, M. Hall-Arber, G. Hofmann, S. Johnson, B.W. McCovey, S. Murray, J. Paduan, J. Schubel, J. Stachowicz, C. Striplen, W. Sydeman, S. Weisberg

State Participants: D. Aseltine-Neilson (California Department of Fish and Wildlife), L. Bedsworth (Office of Planning and Research), J. Bishop (State Water Resources Control Board), J. DeLeon (State Lands Commission), D. Halberstadt (Ocean Protection Council, California Natural Resources Agency), B. Ota (California Department of Fish and Wildlife), M. Small (State Coastal Conservancy)

Ocean Science Trust Staff: H. Carter, M. DeLapa, B. Duncan, S. Finstad, E. Knight, D. Liebowitz, E. Meyer, R. Meyer, E. Ramanujam, L. Sievanen, M. Villarreal, S. Wheeler, E. Whiteman

SAT workshops are open to the public.

Workshop Summary

The impact and relevance of the Ocean Protection Council Science Advisory Team (SAT) has grown substantially over the last five years. From ocean acidification and hypoxia (OAH), to sea-level rise and sustainable fisheries, the SAT has advanced science-informed actions on a wide array of state priorities. However, as the threat of climate change looms ever larger over our ocean and coast, the State increasingly recognizes the need to work even more closely with the scientific community. At this workshop, Ocean Science Trust brought the SAT together with decision-makers to:

- reflect upon the SAT's progress as the State's conduit to the scientific community, refine its vision and discuss its working procedures; and
- conduct a deep dive into the final Recommendations and Actions of the West Coast Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Science Panel (the Panel) – to identify next steps that the SAT can carry forward.

CALIFORNIA OCEAN SCIENCE TRUST

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Part I: Reflecting on the SAT's Progress and Improving Its Value to the State

The partnership among the Ocean Protection Council (OPC), Ocean Science Trust and the SAT is a unique and innovative model for science advice and integration into ocean management and policy. The impact of the SAT has grown significantly over the last five years, with an increasing demand for working groups over a broader range of topics.

Next Steps: SAT Working Procedures

Ocean Science Trust, the OPC and the SAT will work together to develop a Working Procedures document that will articulate and formalize:

- the role and value of the SAT, including it's role in identifying emerging issues on the horizon to help the State recognize and potentially get ahead of issues;
- processes for convening working groups, providing review of products, and identifying what constitutes a SAT product; and
- the pathways for external partners to engage with the SAT, solicit guidance and use it as a resource for independent scientific expertise.

This document will be widely disseminated among ocean and coastal management agencies, and the public.

Part II: Carrying Forward the Work of the West Coast Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Science Panel

On April 4, the Panel released its Major Findings, Recommendations, and Actions following three years of scientific synthesis and discussion. At this workshop, the SAT established itself as the successor of the Panel, ready to work with the State and West Coast region to take comprehensive action in the face of changing ocean chemistry.

Next Steps: Taking Action on Multiple Fronts

The Panel urged action on multiple fronts. A strategic approach should balance political opportunity, leverage existing projects, and support new collaborations and research to address knowledge needs. The SAT is already engaged on issues related to changing ocean conditions through the climate change and fisheries working group and the harmful algal blooms working group. At this workshop, the SAT and decision-makers examined the Panel's Recommendations for follow-up work and identified three additional priority areas around which to focus work in the coming year:

- Establish a working group to explore the ability of aquatic vegetated habitats to remove carbon from seawater and ameliorate ocean acidification (Panel Recommendation 2: Advance approaches to remove CO_2 from seawater)
- Address science needs to revise water quality criteria (Panel Recommendation 3: Revise water quality criteria)
- Establish a working group to build OAH considerations into statewide marine protected area (MPA) monitoring and research (Panel Recommendation 5: Advance adaptive capacity of marine species and ecosystems).