

Call for Nominations

Ocean Protection Council Science Advisory Team

March 21, 2013

The Ocean Protection Council now welcomes nominations for three vacancies on the OPC Science Advisory Team (OPC-SAT) through **30 April 2013**.

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 membership is intended to reflect the diversity of expertise needed to support the OPC in its mission of science supported policy decisions. ***In this solicitation, we are specifically seeking:***

1. a scientist with experience and understanding of tribal perspectives and interests in ocean resource management and stewardship, expertise in the cultural, sustenance and ecological perspectives of tribes and tribal communities or expertise in the emerging field of traditional ecological knowledge;
2. a marine biologist with specialization in the physiology of marine organisms, including response to ocean acidification; and
3. a social scientist or interdisciplinary expert in marine studies, including challenges facing ocean management, capacity within governments to address those challenges, and the connections between science and policy and management decisions.

WE ARE SOLICITING NOMINATIONS FOR THESE 3 POSITIONS. Please submit nominations to Skyli McAfee (skyli.mcafee@calost.org), Executive Director of California Ocean Science Trust (OST) and Science Advisor to the OPC. Nominations should include a brief explanation/justification based on the above considerations and specific areas of expertise being solicited. Please feel free to nominate yourself. Again, nominations will be accepted until 30 April 2013.

Overview

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) consisting of 24 respected scientists from across a range of ocean and coastal disciplines and research institutions. Members represent a wide range of disciplines, including both the natural and social sciences. The mission of the OPC-SAT is *to ensure that the best available science supports OPC policy and funding decisions*.

OST coordinates all activities of the OPC-SAT. OST is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) public benefit corporation dedicated to helping scientists and decision-makers work together more effectively. OST's executive director 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 Selection Process

When seats on the OPC-SAT become available, OST conducts a public nomination process:

1. A notice of vacancy, including instructions for making nominations, is posted on OST's and OPC's websites, distributed over the OPC listserv, and spread through other public platforms.
2. OST also proactively solicits nominations from current and outgoing members of the OPC-SAT, the wider scientific community, other non-governmental organizations, community and stakeholder groups, and other colleagues in the ocean and coastal management and policy realm.
3. Nominations include a brief explanation/justification of the selection based on the series of considerations listed above, and the areas of expertise being solicited. All nominations are submitted to the OST executive director, who is also the OPC science advisor.
4. The nomination period lasts approximately one month.
5. OST compiles all nominations, which are considered by the Executive Committee of the OPC-SAT. Recommendations will be advanced to the Ocean Protection Council for final decisions.