

**Proposed Resolution of the California Ocean Protection Council
Supporting Innovative Approaches to Sustainable Fisheries Management**

WHEREAS, commercial and recreational fisheries and working harbors are a part of California's rich coastal heritage; and

WHEREAS, the commercial and recreational fishing industries generate hundred of millions of dollars per year and provide numerous jobs for people in California's coastal communities and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the public values the ability to eat fresh local seafood, enjoy a day of fishing, and experience the culture and heritage of fishing communities, activities that contribute to California's tourism economy; and

WHEREAS, California's share of U.S. total commercial landings fell from approximately 19 percent in 1970 to less than 4 percent in 2004; and

WHEREAS, fisheries depend on a healthy marine ecosystem, and all components need to be maintained to preserve extractive and non-extractive uses; and

WHEREAS, the Ocean Protection Council Strategic Plan calls for actions that support sustainable fishing practices, improve fisheries management in cooperation with the Department of Fish and Game and the Pacific Fisheries Management Council, and preserve working harbors through investments in infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the state is committed to using the best available science and the development of adaptive strategies to manage for ecosystem health.

NOW, THEREFORE, the California Ocean Protection Council hereby:

RESOLVES to promote innovative approaches to sustainable fisheries in California that create economic opportunities for fishermen and local and tribal communities, ensure the long-term health of fish stocks and marine resources, and sustain local fishing harbors; and

FURTHER RESOLVES to dedicate up to \$3 million for projects that support sustainable fishing practices. Potential projects that could be funded include expansion of direct-to-consumer seafood markets, local fishing harbor revitalization, cooperative research, funding mechanisms such as the California Fisheries Fund, quota systems and limited entry programs, vessel and permit buybacks, the creation of resource models and adaptive management protocols, and other projects.