

THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI
GOVERNOR



August 22, 2008

Secretary Mike Chrisman
Chair, California Ocean Protection Council
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Secretary Chrisman:

I am writing to express support for the creation of the Collaborative Fisheries Research Organization (CFR). The recently released Action Plan for the West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health recognizes that cooperative research between fishermen and scientists can advance the knowledge of the health of West Coast ecosystems. Development of the CFR will clearly help meet the Action Plan's goal of expanding ocean and coastal science and monitoring.

While the CFR would initially be focused upon California priorities, there is value in the project's coordinating with Oregon initiatives. For instance, the populations of many fish species are shared among the West Coast states either through migration of adults or larval transport. Research on these populations requires collaboration and consistent data gathering among the three states. Data generated through such partnerships can lead to improved management of California Current fisheries.

Oregon is a recognized national leader in pioneering collaborative research among the fishing industry, agencies, and universities. For example, over the past several years, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has worked with the commercial pink shrimp industry to develop methods to reduce bycatch of groundfish species in their trawl fishery, a successful effort which contributed to the shrimp fisheries' recent certification by the Marine Stewardship Council as a sustainable fishery. Another example involves the recent creation of a unique industry-university research effort to identify salmon stocks in the ocean, called Collaborative Research on Oregon Ocean Salmon (ProjectCROOS). Representatives of ProjectCROOS have a history of working with colleagues in California and Washington to improve understanding of Chinook salmon migration patterns. The CFR, through its association with the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, may be able to facilitate similar regional projects in the future.

Based on our history of success, Oregon coastal leaders will surely be pursuing collaborative research efforts in the future. Should the CFR consider expanding its scope to serve the entire West Coast, the new forum must reflect the interests of all states, industries and

Secretary Mike Chrisman
August 22, 2008
Page Two

coastal communities, with these entities playing an integral role in developing the governance and funding structures of the regional institute. I am confident that this would be the intent of the organization. At the appropriate time, please let me know if I can assist in facilitating discussions in Oregon regarding CFR's future.

Thank you for the opportunity to share with you my support for the Collaborative Fisheries Research Organization. I encourage the California Ocean Protection Council to endorse this exciting new project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Carrier". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael Carrier
Natural Resources Policy Director

MC;jh:ab
c: Cina Lorie, Ocean Protection Council



Exhibit 3

CALIFORNIA SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM

UNIVERSITY of CALIFORNIA
9500 Gilman Drive Dept. 0232
La Jolla, California 92093-0232

Phone: (858) 534-4440
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August 26, 2008

Secretary Mike Chrisman
Chair, Ocean Protection Council
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Secretary Chrisman:

On behalf of California Sea Grant I am writing to you to express support of the proposed Collaborative Fisheries Research (CFR) Organization. Because California Sea Grant has been engaged with the fishing community in California for almost forty years, we fully recognize the value of working collaboratively with this remarkable group of people. Through the many hours spent on the ocean, fishers have a wealth of knowledge that is greatly under-tapped to help us solve problems in our coastal environment.

To date the majority of collaborative fisheries research efforts have been temporary and short-term on a project-by-project basis. Many of these projects have been via the collaboration of California Sea Grant extension agent(s), university faculty and members of the fishing community. The results from such collaborations have been outstanding; bringing together the skills and knowledge of these groups has proved a recipe for success. Often the knowledge of the member of the fishing community nicely complements those of the researchers. Clearly we view the effort to establish the CFR as a move in the right direction to lend permanency and stability to the idea of collaborative research. Furthermore, expanding that concept to include the states of California, Oregon and Washington is an excellent step.

I noted in the draft document to establish the CFR that section on Community Outreach invokes the concept of "to potentially build upon the existing Sea Grant extension agents program." As Director of California Sea Grant I welcome the opportunity for some of our staff to play a critical role in the proposed CFR through the engagement of our Sea Grant agents.

Overall the draft document to establish the CFR is excellent. That said, I do have two suggestions regarding the creation and operation of the CFR. First, given the key role that Sea Grant extension agents may play in the community outreach of the CFR, I would suggest that someone(s) from Sea Grant serve on the committee that selects the first Executive Director. Second, given the reputation of Sea Grant as a neutral voice in many of the challenging issues surrounding fishing, I would encourage that you expand the proposed Executive Board by one member to include representation from the west coast Sea Grant programs.

Once again, let me offer the support of California Sea Grant to the concept of the CFR. I welcome the support of the California Ocean Protection Council to make the CFR a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Russell A. Moll". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Russell Moll
Director



ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND

finding the ways that work

Secretary Mike Chrisman
Chair, California Ocean Protection Council
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Collaborative Fisheries Research Organization – Letter of Support

Dear Secretary Chrisman:

I am writing to express Environmental Defense Fund's support for the California Ocean Protection Council's Staff Recommendation to establish a collaborative fisheries research (CFR) organization in California. The establishment of such an organization via the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission will fill crucial data gaps that limit fisheries management by more closely tying research projects to key management goals and questions. According to our research, it is also likely to result in higher levels of constructive engagement by fishermen in fisheries management and may ultimately reduce costs associated with data collection.

The data needs of the California Department of Fish and Game, the Fish and Game Commission, and the Ocean Protection Council to adequately manage fishery and ecosystem resources continue to increase. With the establishment of the Marine Life Management Act (MLMA) and the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA), the State of California set new precedents for marine fisheries and marine protected area (MPA) monitoring data expectations. It has become evident that a more comprehensive approach to fisheries management is needed to accomplish both the biological and social management goals of California. The reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act also calls for regional collaborative research programs to address these data and management needs on a National Level. Collaborative fisheries research has the capacity to contribute significantly to these data needs, while decreasing costs and increasing stakeholder involvement and overall cooperation. This type of collaboration not only has the ability to maintain a balance between top-down management decisions and bottom-up approaches, but also finds real power in its ability to integrate the two approaches so that simultaneous goals are accomplished.

The ad hoc nature and small regional scale of previous collaborative research efforts has hindered the transference of the collected data into management decisions. The CFR organization will provide a constructive venue for all collaborators to prioritize research efforts and add cohesion to the collaborative fisheries community. We hope that future goals of the CFR organization will include developing alternative stock assessment methods to incorporate local collaborative research efforts into management decisions. Locally collected data, even with a broader organizational framework such as is suggested here by the Ocean Protection Council, currently have no mechanism to be integrated into conventional stock assessment methods and thus fisheries management decisions. While this organization will encourage collaborative research via increases in funding and organizational support, a major hindrance to the integration

of local collaborative data into management has been the very thing that makes this data so valuable; its tie to a specific location and community. This data is collected on small, spatially significant scales, making it invaluable to the local community, however due to its fine-scale nature, it cannot currently be integrated into the broader regional assessments, and thus is limited in its ability to inform management. This is a detail that must be addressed by this organization if the goal of informing management on a fisheries level is to be achieved.

Collaborative research efforts not only bring the scientific and fishing communities together under a common goal, but also have the capacity to help align the scales of human and ecosystem dynamics. The establishment of short, mid and long-term goals along with performance standards to monitor success will be imperative as these research projects move forward. Because the conceptualization of this CFR organization is highly innovative and a true experiment in collaboration, the organization will also be heavily dependent on the vision and drive of the selected Executive Director (ED) to carve out a place for collaborative research in California and create a vision for the future. The establishment of a CFR organization has the capability to establish collaborative research as a priority in California and create an institutional framework through which to build robust, organized, well-funded and scientifically sound research collaborations.

We at the Environmental Defense Fund strongly support efforts to strengthen collaborations that develop equal partnerships between academic scientist and fishermen to foster creative and effective management solutions. The power of this organization will be in its ability to provide research direction and cohesion to collaborative efforts throughout the state. Efforts to bring stakeholders together in a systematic and truly cooperative way will undoubtedly strengthen the knowledge base, cohesion, and effectiveness of fisheries management in California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rod Fujita". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent "R" and "F".

Rod Fujita, Ph.D
Senior Scientist and Director, Ocean Innovations
Environmental Defense Fund

**HUMBOLDT BAY
HARBOR, RECREATION, AND CONSERVATION
DISTRICT**

(707) 443-0801

P.O. Box 1030

Eureka, California 95502-1030



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D.G. Hunter
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P.T. Higgins

August 13, 2008

Secretary Mike Chrisman
Chair, California Ocean Protection Council
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Formation of a Collaborative Fisheries Research Organization

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District (District) I am writing to express support of the Ocean Protection Council staff recommendation for a Collaborative Fisheries Research Organization. There is a definite need for collaborative fisheries research that will collect data which can be used to inform fishery management decisions. The success of the Marine Life Protection Act Initiative will depend upon on such efforts. The Collaborative Fisheries Research Organization being proposed by Ocean Protection Council staff will be necessary to ensure the success and coordination of collaborative fisheries research efforts throughout California, and possibly into Oregon and Washington. The Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission has established a high level of credibility in the scientific community and is an appropriate agency to create the Collaborative Fisheries Research Organization.

Here, in the North Coast Region, the District is developing a partnership of fishermen; academics; state and federal agencies that will work to identify critical gaps in fishery information and subsequently conduct needed research. We strongly believe that the design of Marine Protected Areas (an aspect of the Marine Life Protection Act Initiative) needs to be based upon sound data. It is apparent that data for the North Coast Region is severely lacking in this respect. If Marine Protected Area design proceeds with the current lack of information, poor decisions are likely to be made. Poor decisions may negatively affect both the fisheries we are attempting to conserve and the fishing community. While we fully support the development of a Collaborative Fisheries Research Organization, we want to ensure that the Ocean Protection Council is aware of the relative urgency for collecting fisheries data in the North Coast Region. It is our recommendation that the Collaborative Fisheries Research Organization focus not only on the important long-term monitoring that will occur during Marine Protected Area implementation, but also on the current need for research that will inform the design of Marine Protected Areas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Hull", is written over a circular stamp. Below the signature, the name "David Hull, Chief Executive Officer" is printed in a standard font.

David Hull, Chief Executive Officer

CC: Humboldt Bay Harbor Recreation and Conservation District Commissioners

RECEIVED

AUG 18 2008

COASTAL CONSERVATION
OAKLAND, CALIF.



Exhibit 3

Port Orford Ocean Resource Team

P.O. Box 679
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Port Orford, OR 97465
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poort@carrollweb.com
<http://oceanresourceteam.org>

August 15, 2008

Secretary Mike Chrisman
Chair, California Ocean Protection Council
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Secretary Chrisman:

Our organization is highly supportive of a California Collaborative Fisheries Research organization. We believe it is valuable to engage scientists and stakeholders to work together to answer important research and monitoring questions.

The proposal for the organization that includes creating an advisory body and establishing outreach mechanisms through local partnerships and stakeholder meetings is an excellent structure for collaboration. A great deal of work has been done with scientists and stakeholders in advance of this proposal that will ensure the success of the organization.

We believe that an organization launched in California will provide an excellent model for other states to join in this important work. California will be taking the lead on an exciting new science program.

Thank you for supporting this important work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leesa Cobb".

Leesa Cobb
Executive Director



Board of Harbor
Commissioners

Ken Lundie, President
Leo Padreddii, Vice President
Sally Campbell, Treasurer
Pietro Parravano, Secretary
James Tucker, Commissioner

Peter Grenell, General Manager

1933 – 2008

Celebrating 75 Years

August 21, 2008

Mike Chrisman
Secretary of Resources and
Chair, Ocean Protection Council
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Ref: Support for formation of a Collaborative Fisheries Research (CFR) organization

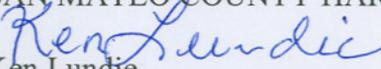
Dear Secretary Chrisman:

At its August 20, 2008 meeting, the Board of Harbor Commissioners considered the proposed formation of a Collaborative Fisheries Research organization, to be created by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission with support from the Ocean Protection Council. On behalf of the Board, I am pleased to forward the Board's support for this important proposal.

As you know, the San Mateo County Harbor District operates a major fishing harbor at Pillar Point, has participated in the State's Marine Life Protection Act implementation process, and has worked extensively with federal agencies on harbor and fishing-related issues. The need for improved fisheries research that involves the fishing community is clear. The District is encouraged by the Council's decision to hold its September meeting in the Pillar Point area, and to consider establishing a collaborative fisheries research mechanism.

The Board of Harbor Commissioners urges that the Council approve the staff recommendation.

Sincerely,
SAN MATEO COUNTY HARBOR DISTRICT


Ken Lundie
President

Cc: Board of Harbor Commissioners
Peter Grenell, General Manager

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AUG 25 2008

**COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.**

Secretary Mike Chrisman
Chair, Ocean Protection Council
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

August 22, 2008

Dear Secretary Chrisman:

We are writing to express our strong support for the resolution before the Ocean Protection Council to establish a Collaborative Fisheries Research (CFR) Organization to help support cooperative research needs in California and to help coordinate with similar efforts in the region. Through our unusual role as both fishing participant and science-based conservation partner, The Nature Conservancy has learned much from its field-based collaboration with Central Coast fishermen, scientists, and managers. We can attest to the need for a supportive entity to help fund and facilitate sampling, research, technology and gear changes to help with transitional and long-term management of our coastal and marine resources. We would be pleased to offer our assistance in this effort.

Engaging diverse stakeholders as well as top scientific and management experts is likely to encourage a well-rounded approach to collaborative fisheries research. The proposal directly engages these representatives in setting priorities and identifying resource requirements through the establishment of an Executive Board and Advisory Committee. Both organizational bodies provide representation to a wide range of interested parties, including fishermen, state and federal fisheries managers, scientists, and members of the conservation community. Many of these same stakeholders, including The Nature Conservancy, attended the Ocean Protection Council's CFR workshop earlier this year, and the ideas and perspectives presented at the meeting are well-represented by the organizational structure put forth in this proposal.

The proposal also recognizes the importance of identifying top priority needs tailored to different regions and fisheries, as well as establishing clear communications among local interests, scientific or research institutions, and the broader CFR Organization. This proposal maps out an approach to meeting these needs, creating a mechanism to identify core science and technical capacity that can be harnessed and shared for the benefit of participants. Another important component of the proposal is its support for local outreach through port liaisons. The Nature Conservancy's experiences in developing innovative science partnerships and testing alternative fishing techniques in the Central Coast has shown us the importance of sharing monitoring or research assets (such as remotely operated vehicles and vessels) as well as providing field-based outreach in local

ports. The port liaison role will also be essential in coordinating the needs of state and federal management agencies with ^{Exhibit 3} research carried out at fishery-specific or local scales.

We are pleased that the proposal also introduces a future goal of coordinating CFR efforts regionally. The Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission has extensive experience in administering both state-based and regional research initiatives, making it an ideal entity to launch this effort. In the long term, regional coordination of expertise and resources among California, Washington, and Oregon will also serve to support the research needs of federally managed fisheries that are tremendously important to California's local and statewide economy. In addition, a coordinated initiative would help serve the goals and objectives of the West Coast Governor's Agreement by supporting a regional research agenda. Moreover, the proposal should align well with federal efforts to develop research and technology capacity (including conservation engineering and improved reporting) to support improved management under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

This proposal is unique in that it would support pragmatic needs for CFR projects. As our experience in the Morro Bay area has shown, these concerns, including availability of resources, technologies and tools, can present substantial roadblocks to individual fishermen and local stakeholders who lack funding or are unfamiliar with these issues. While our current experiments in Morro Bay are testing the cost-effectiveness of monitoring and other technologies for improved management, even cost-effective measures (e.g. observers, electronic logbooks) are beyond most fishing participants' reach. By assisting participants with these practical problems, including access to partnership tools and funding, the CFR organization will be able to launch projects efficiently and provide an incentive for local fishermen to become involved.

Please consider our firm support for this proposal in your deliberations. We stand ready to assist you. Please contact me at (831) 333-2045 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Margaret Spring
Director
California Coastal and Marine Program

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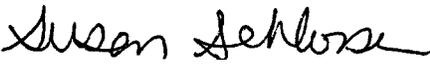
AUG 27 2008

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Cc: Donald Koch, Director, California Department of Fish and Game
Sonke Mastrup, Deputy Director, California Department of Fish and Game
Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer, State Coastal Conservancy, and Secretary,
Ocean Protection Council
Drew Bohan, Executive Policy Officer, Ocean Protection Council
Brian Baird, Assistant Secretary for Ocean and Coastal Policy, California
Resources Agency
Amber Mace, Executive Director, California Ocean Science Trust



TO: Secretary Mike Chrisman
Chair, California Ocean Protection Council
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 9581

FROM: 
Susan Schlosser

DATE: Aug. 22, 2009

SUBJECT: Letter of Support for “*Collaborative Fisheries Research Organization*”
File No. 08-095

The proposed “*Collaborative Fisheries Research Organization*” is welcome and essential for strong partnerships between California’s fishing industry, stakeholders, and scientists. Collaborative fisheries research will strengthen marine resources management by producing methods to gather better data for management. There are many benefits of collaborative fisheries management. From my perspective as a Sea Grant Marine Advisor some of the most important include improved communication, mutual education opportunities, and increased research with management applications.

The proposal includes key design elements discussed at an Ocean Protection Council workshop held in April 2008 that were developed by a large group of representatives from the fishing industry, stakeholders, and scientists. It is critical for the “*Collaborative Fisheries Research Organization*” to quickly establish clear goals for the program, how it will operate, and to effectively disseminate program results. Substantive input from all stakeholders in program development needs to be significant and thoroughly as well.

An ideal situation would include funding for the “*Collaborative Fisheries Research Organization*” and an appropriation of funds for projects administered by the new organization. There are so many critical and timely needs for fishery and marine resource management, that it would be very useful to have this new organization rapidly established and working.

I also support the concept of expanding the “*Collaborative Fisheries Research Organization*” to include Oregon and Washington, if the work of the West Coast Governors Agreement process agree to work together on this issue.

Thank you for supporting the conceptual work on collaborative fisheries research. It has been a pleasure working with OPC staff. The workshop was very well organized and worthwhile.

CC: P. Olin, R. Moll, R. Starr, A. Bower