California Ocean Protection Council (OPC)
Executive Director's Report
September 2010

The Executive Director's Report provides an update on outcomes and accomplishments related to OPC activities and projects since the previous OPC meeting. This report covers the period from June 25 to September 7, 2010. This report is divided into three sections: Coordination, Science Integration, and Designing and Implementing Innovative Projects.

Coordination for Coastal and Ocean Management

Ocean and coastal management in California is implemented across many different government agencies. A multi-agency approach is needed to address many complex management issues in the state such as climate change, coastal water qualtiy, and aquatic invasive species to name a few. The OPC is coordinating actions across all agencies with coastal and ocean jurisdictional management. This will improve the development of management solutions.

OPC Steering Committee:

Secretary Snow convened the Ocean Protection Council Steering Committee (Committee) on July 30, 2010. The Committee is comprised of senior representatives of state departments, boards, and commissions with ocean and coastal protection responsibilities (see Table 1 below). Its charge is to identify and implement collaborative approaches to address California's most pressing ocean challenges that will benefit from a coordinated multi-agency approach. The Committee plays an essential role in helping the OPC advance key ocean and coastal resource management issues that span California state agencies such as climate change adaptation, marine spatial planning, implementing marine protected areas, and improving coastal water quality. The Committee informs OPC priorities and actions through:

1. Joint fact-finding and identifying cross cutting agency management needs and challenges;
2. Developing improved solutions to complex management issues; and,
3. Advancing policy recommendations and collaborative approaches to implementing these solutions.

Table 1. OPC Steering Committee Members

Brian Baird—Assistant Secretary for Ocean and Coastal Policy, Natural Resources Agency
Lucia Becerra—Acting Director, Department of Boating and Waterways
Derek Chernow —Acting Director, Department of Conservation
Ruth Coleman—Director, California State Parks

Mark Cowin—Director, Department of Water Resources
Peter Douglas—Executive Director, Coastal Commission
John Fisher—Acting Executive Director, Fish and Game Commission
Melissa Jones—Executive Director, California Energy Commission
Amber Mace (Chair)—Executive Director, Ocean Protection Council
John McCamman —Director, Department of Fish and Game
Maziar Movassaghi—Director, Department of Toxic Substance Control
Margo Reid Brown—Director, Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)
Sam Schuchat—Executive Officer, State Coastal Conservancy
Fran Spivy-Weber —Vice Chair, State Water Resources Control Board
Paul Thayer—Executive Officer, State Lands Commission
Will Travis—Executive Director, SF Bay Conservation and Development Commission

Meeting Outcomes:

Below are key outcomes of the July 30 Committee meeting:

- **Subcommittees:** Created issue-specific subcommittees to address issue areas that may be included in the OPC's next 5-year strategic plan.
- **Committee Purpose:** Reviewed and revised the Committee purpose.
- **OPC Communications:** OPC staff will send updates to the Committee on OPC activities and upcoming meeting themes prior to quarterly meetings.
- **Management Research and Information Prioritization Process (MRIPP):** The Ocean Science Trust (OST) outlined the process to determine priority science information needs that will benefit multiple agencies. As the next step, the OST will follow up with each member agency to learn more about priorities and information needs.
- **Meetings:** The OPC will convene the Committee as a whole only as needed. The Committee will conduct the majority of its work via issue-specific subcommittees.

Marine Debris Steering Committee:

The Marine Debris Steering Committee (Committee) was established to enhance the state's approach to reducing marine debris by supporting collaboration among state agencies and the implementation of marine debris reduction programs. The Committee met on July 17 in Sacramento. The Committee is working to define the goals and to identify actions that can be taken by agencies at the state level.

Objectives

At the first meeting the group outlined four key objectives:

- Identify opportunities to collaborate across agencies.
- Identify mechanisms and support to implement marine debris reduction programs.
- Establish this committee as resource about state activities regarding marine debris reduction.
- Identify the costs of addressing marine debris in California.

Members of the Marine Debris Steering Committee

Below in table 2 is a list of the Marine Debris Steering Committee

Table 2. Marine Debris Steering Committee

Bob Boughton – Department of Toxic Substances Control
Neal Fishman – Ocean Protection Council
Laura Engeman – Ocean Protection Council
Dominic Gregorio - State Water Resources Control Board
Keith Jones – Department of Transportation
Bruce LaBelle – Department of Toxic Substances Control
Parviz Lashai – Department of Transportation
Amber Mace (Chair) – Executive Director, Ocean Protection Council
Eben Schwartz – Coastal Commission
Melissa Vargas – Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)
TBD – State Parks
TBD– Department of Boating and Waterways

Marine Renewable Energy Working Group:

The Marine Renewable Energy Working Group was established by the OPC in March 2010 to provide a venue for state agencies to discuss offshore renewable energy developments, collaborate on how to address issues with permitting, planning, and managing these types of projects, implement the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) /California Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and any other future agreements between state and federal agencies.

July 22, 2010 Meeting Outcomes

Below are key outcomes of the July 22 meeting:

- **Membership:** State agency representatives will make up working group membership. Meetings will be open to the public and federal agencies, industry, and stakeholders will be invited to present and discuss topics.
- **Working Group Purpose:** Reviewed and revised the Working Group purpose and discussed state agency roles in implementing the MOU with FERC.
- **Wave Energy Project Updates:** Pacific Gas and Electric provided an update on the *WaveConnect* project. Updates and/or presentations from other California wave and tidal project developers were determined to be a high priority for future meetings.
- **Meetings:** The OPC will convene the working group quarterly (approx).

Members of the Marine Renewable Energy Working Group:

Table 3. Marine Renewable Energy Working Group Members

Laura Engeman (Co-chair) – Ocean Protection Council
Eugenia Laychak (Co-chair) – California Energy Commission
Cy Oggins, Susan Young, Madhu Ahuja, Ninette Lee, Jennifer DeLeon –State Lands Commission
Tom Luster, Alison Dettmer – Coastal Commission
Vicki Frey, Steve Ingram –Department of Fish and Game
Anne Gillette – California Public Utilities Commission
TBD –State Waters Resources Control Board

West Coast Governor's Agreement (WCGA) – Action Coordination Team (ACT) Updates

The West Coast Governors Agreement on Ocean Health was signed on September 18, 2006 and a subsequent Action Plan was released in mid 2008. The Action Plan included 26 actions, agreed upon by all three governors working in collaboration with federal counterparts in NOAA, DOI, and the USEPA. The WCGA Executive Committee established multiple workgroups, known as Action Coordination Teams (ACTs), to coordinate coast-wide implementation of the Action Plan. These teams were created to address or perform activities in the Action Plan and include multiple representatives with subject level expertise from each of the three states. The teams are developing work plans for accomplishing the actions assigned to them.

At the present time, there are ten functioning ACTs, with additional teams in the planning stages. Below is an update on the progress made from some of the West Coast Governors Agreements teams:

Seafloor Mapping: Regardless of the status of each state's mapping program, a substantial data gap common to all three states is the very nearshore (10m water depth to shore). Our coasts are turbid, rocky, full of kelp, and in harsh climates, and no single technology has been determined appropriate for this region. Therefore, the ACT submitted a proposal to evaluate the cost effectiveness of various nearshore data techniques, and will create example onshore-offshore data products for WA and CA.

Renewable Energy: The West Coast offers several potential areas for wave and tidal energy development. Understanding what is needed to plan for, and manage, these types of emerging industries is a common issue for all three West Coast states. The Renewable Energy ACT is working to develop a "Guidebook for Marine Renewable Energy Planning" which will evaluate baseline data that is needed for planning, will identify regional and state data gaps, and will begin to establish principles for planning that can be applied across the region. The ACT recently submitted a proposal to fund the initial development of this guidebook.

Sustainable Communities: The Sustainable Coastal Communities ACT is responsible for implementing the Governors' Charge regarding two actions:

- *Action 7.1:* "Support local planning efforts for working waterfronts to promote sustainable fisheries and prioritize coastal-dependent businesses and infrastructure through grant processes and federal assistance programs."
- *Action 7.2:* "Promote and expand environmentally responsible operations and infrastructure at ports and harbors, such as through Green Ports and Clean Marinas programs. Support

revitalization efforts for struggling ports." Currently the ACT is in progress of drafting the report for public comment.

Sediment: The Sediment ACT is responsible for implementing the Governors Charge regarding Action 7.4: "Develop regional sediment management plans that increase beneficial use of sediment in an environmentally responsible manner to protect and maintain critical community economic and environmental infrastructure." The final report is available on the WCGA website at http://westcoastoceans.gov/teams/.

Climate: The Climate ACT has been meeting monthly, with recent work focused on finalizing the ACT work plan, preparing for the launch of the National Academies of Science (NAS) sea-level rise project, and applying for internal WCGA funding to allow the Climate ACT to hire an intern to coordinate several sea-level rise adaptation tasks over the coming year. Should the grant be approved, the OPC and the State Coastal Conservancy will host the intern, who will coordinate work with the ACT members.

Geospatial Data and Information Sharing:

The California Coastal and Marine Geospatial Working Group was formed in 2009, partially in response to a 2009 OPC resolution. Participants of this working group are the technical users of geospatial data,[1] and the group is co-chaired by staff from the OPC and the NOAA Coastal Services Center. The working group seeks to facilitate the exchange and analysis of statewide geographic information to assist with the protection of coastal and marine resources, support environmental assessment efforts, and improve comprehensive planning in coastal and marine areas by:

- Cataloging priority geospatial data needs for use by state agencies with coastal and marine jurisdiction.
- Analyzing the existing tools for data sharing, viewing, and analysis.

The group is currently drafting a consensus statement on the need for an easy way to access spatial environmental data such as a Web portal.

Climate Change:

The Coastal and Ocean Climate Action Team Working Group (CO-CAT Working Group) is comprised of senior level staff from California state agencies with ocean and coastal resource management responsibilities. The CO-CAT Working Group's task is to ensure the state's ability to adapt to climate

[1] To date: California Coastal Commission, California Department of Fish and Game, California Department of Parks and Recreation, California Environmental Resources Evaluation System, California Ocean Protection Council, California State Lands Commission, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, and State Coastal Conservancy, State Water Resources Control Board, NOAA Coastal Services Center, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA National Marine Sanctuaries, California Ocean Science Trust, Center for Ocean Solutions (COS).

change impacts on ocean and coastal resources while supporting implementation of global warming emission reduction programs.

Approximately 85% of California residents live and work in coastal counties. By the year 2025 the coastal population is expected to grow to more than 32 million people. Climate change models have predicted sea level rise, severe atmospheric events, changes in ocean and estuarine chemistry and changes in ecosystem services that would not only threaten the state's $46 billion per year ocean dependent economy, but place close to a half a million people and nearly $100 billion in property at risk.

The State of California's 2009 California Climate Adaptation Strategy summarizes the best known science on climate change impacts in the state, assesses vulnerability, and outlines possible solutions that can be implemented by state agencies across seven sectors. The ocean and coastal resources sector section of the report identified six strategies for California state agencies charged with adapting to and managing impacts from climate change. The strategies are:

1) To establish state policy to avoid future hazards and protect critical habitat,

2) To provide statewide guidance for protecting existing critical ecosystems, existing coastal development and future investments,

3) Have state agencies prepare sea-level rise and climate adaptation plans,

4) Support regional and local planning for addressing sea-level rise impacts,

5) Complete a statewide sea-level rise vulnerability assessment every five years and

6) Support essential data collection and information sharing.

The CO-CAT Working Group was convened in order to develop plans to implement the adaptation strategies and mitigation measures. OPC staff worked with approximately a dozen state agencies to develop a consolidated list of current and proposed agency actions that advance the goals outlined in various state documents regarding climate adaptation and mitigation. This consolidated list includes both near term actions, that can be initiated or completed by 2010, and long-term actions that will require state support and collaboration among multiple agencies or require significant legal or regulatory changes. The CO-CAT Working Group identified the top three priorities, which are to:

1. Support essential data collection and information sharing,
2. Complete a statewide vulnerability assessment every five years, and
3. Establish state policy to avoid future hazards and protect critical habitat.

OPC staff developed a near-term implementation plan for these three priority actions, which was reviewed and approved by the CO-CAT Working Group. This includes assessing resources needed by agencies to undertake actions, identifying opportunities to collaborate across agencies, identifying mechanisms and support to implement mitigation measures and adaptation strategies.

OPC convened the first meeting of the CO-CAT Sea-Level Rise Task Force on July 21, 2010, in order to develop interim guidance for sea-level rise adaptation strategies. Approximately 27 people participated in this meeting, including staff from the Ocean Protection Council, Coastal Commission, Bay Conservation and Development Commission, Coastal Conservancy, Department of Water Resources, Department of Public Health, Department of Toxic Substances Control, Department of Transportation,

Water Resources Control Board, Natural Resources Agency, Office of Planning and Research, Department of Parks and Recreation, Business, Transportation and Housing, Ocean Science Trust OPC staff developed several documents as background materials, including a summary of recent state actions or reports related to managing the impacts of sea-level rise and a contact list of state agency staff who are assigned to work on technical or policy issues related to adaptation strategies and mitigation measures for sea-level rise. OPC staff is also working in conjunction with the task force members to develop a checklist of technical and coordination considerations, to be used by state agency staff when considering the management of sea-level rise issues.

Members of CO-CAT:

Below in table 4 is a list of the CO-CAT members.

Table 4. Coastal and Ocean Climate Action Team Working Group Members

Gregg Albright, —Deputy Secretary, Environmental Policy and Integration , Business, Transportation and Housing Agency
John Andrew—Executive Director, Climate Change Department of Water Resources
Ruth Coleman—Director, California State Parks
Susan Hansch—Chief Deputy Director, California Coastal Commission
Garth Hopkins—Chief, Office of Regional and Interagency Planning Department of Transportation
Amber Mace (Chair)—Executive Director, California Ocean Protection Council
Sonke Mastrup—Deputy Director, Department of Fish and Game
Maziar Movassaghi—Director, Department of Toxic Substance Control
Sam Schuchat—Executive Officer, State Coastal Conservancy
Frances Spivy-Weber—Vice-Chair, State Water Resources Control Board
Paul Thayer—Executive Officer, State Lands Commission
Will Travis—Executive Director , San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission

Science Informing Policy:

The OPC is committed to integrating science into decision-making. Many of the committees and collaboration activities include sharing and coordinating data and information for management. The OPC key partner for science integration is the California Ocean Science Trust (OST). The OST helps facilitate science-based decision-making by connecting science and policy and management. The OST participates in multiple functions that benefit California's ocean and coastal resource management. Primarily, it serves as an objective translator, identifying the best science available to inform ocean policy decisions; it leverages state support with extramural funding; and it provides an institutional home to incubate specific programs that respond to state science, data, and information needs. While maintaining its independence as an organization, the OST works alongside the OPC directly or with the OPC in its role as coordinator of California's agencies with coastal and ocean resource management mandates. Below are key projects the OPC is working on with the OST toward the goal of institutionalizing science-based decision-making.

Providing Technical Advice and Coordinating Peer Reviewed Studies

Below are five key example projects that the OST is leading in partnership with the OPC:

Evaluating Alternatives for Decommissioning California's Offshore Oil and Gas Platforms – A Technical Analysis to Inform State Policy: As the 27 platforms off California's coast reach the end of their productive lives, the perennial question remains how best to decommission them. Stakeholders across the spectrum hold disparate opinions about which decommissioning option is most suitable. To inform this controversial policy decision, the OST coordinated a study to synthesize the most current biological, economic, and legal data surrounding the issue of West Coast platform decommissioning, and identify gaps where additional data are needed. The OST designed an exhaustive process to promote an objective, balanced product that now serves as an unbiased reference for all interested parties. This report was presented to the Council at the June 24-25 OPC meeting in Santa Barbara, and made available for public comment for 30 days in response to stakeholder input.

Management Research and Information Prioritization Process (MRIPP): To advance the scope of science in management, the OST is working with the OPC to formulate a process to assess cross-cutting science needs of state agencies with ocean and coastal jurisdictions. Entitled the Management Research and Information Prioritization Process, or MRIPP, the OST will survey state agencies to identify ocean and coastal management priorities where a research project will help to advance thoughtful management decisions, as well as serve several agencies. Priority projects will then be targeted for funding. In partnership with the OPC, the OST has presented MRIPP to key partners, including the OPC Science Advisory Team (SAT) on July 20, and more recently to the OPC Steering Committee. The OST is now in compiling agency contacts to serve as participants in the prioritization process.

Aquatic Invasive Species Vector Risk Assessments Project: Aquatic invasive species have serious impacts on ecosystems and local economies. In 2008, the Governor signed the *California Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan* (AIS Plan), which identified commercial fishing, recreational boating, aquaculture, live bait, live imported seafood, and aquariums and aquascaping as risk vectors that required further study. As a result, the OPC provided funding for the OST to coordinate a scientific

assessment of the relative risks of each of these vectors to help the state determine the appropriate policy actions that will support early detection and rapid response, as well as prevent introduction of invasives. The OST is in the preliminary stages of assembling project teams from academic and other institutions to undertake this valuable research.

Sources and Pathways for Plastic Debris and Subsequent Toxic Releases into the Pacific Ocean: Final Report: As plastic debris accumulates in the Pacific Ocean, one increasingly urgent concern is the potential impacts of toxic releases on marine species from plastics as they degrade in seawater. To begin to understand this complex problem, the OPC coordinated with the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to initiate an assessment of the sources and pathways for chemicals related to plastic packaging and products that ultimately reside in the marine environment. While the final draft of the report underwent rigorous peer review, the OPC requested that the OST provide additional guidance to ensure that peer review comments were adequately addressed. The OST is currently coordinating with an expert scientist in this field to guarantee the scientific integrity of the final product.

Wetland Carbon Sequestration in California: The OPC enlisted the advice and support of the OST to compile all relevant science surrounding the question of wetland carbon sequestration in California. This synthesis is the first step toward developing a carbon offset protocol for wetland restoration and management. The results of this undertaking can be found at the OST website where researchers can access it: http://calost.org/Wetland_Carbon_Sequestration.html

Coordination of the OPC Science Advisory Team (OPC-SAT)

The OST coordinates the OPC-SAT to provide technical advice on OPC reports, evaluate the technical merits of scientific projects proposed to the OPC, and recommend outside experts to serve as peer reviewers for OPC proposals and projects. The OST also coordinates biannual meetings between the OPC-SAT and the OPC management team.

Update

Joint OPC-SAT/OPC Management Team Meeting: The OST hosted the Joint OPC-SAT/OPC management team meeting on July 20, 2010 in Oakland, CA. The meeting provided an important opportunity for productive dialogue between the OPC-SAT and the OPC management team on how best to work together to improve the scientific quality of OPC projects and products.

The July 20 meeting broke new ground as both scientists and managers worked together to forge pathways of science integration. There was mutual resolve between both the OPC-SAT and the OPC management team to increase the depth and breadth of OPC-SAT involvement in the OPC's mission. Specifically, it was decided to:

1) Standardize communication with the OPC-SAT through monthly updates from the Science Advisor on all OPC science-related activities.
2) Institutionalize processes that will ultimately result in all science proposals and products undergoing OPC-SAT review or comment.

3) Integrally involve the OPC-SAT in informing the science issue areas that will comprise the OPC's 5-year strategic plan.

Coordination of Peer Reviews: To strengthen the scientific integrity of OPC projects and proposals, the OST draws upon the expertise of the OPC-SAT to coordinate scientific peer reviews of *all* projects or proposals with a technical and/or scientific component. Further, for projects that do not warrant formal peer review, the OST has begun working with the OPC-SAT to provide informal scientific comment so that expert judgment is still incorporated. Recent and upcoming peer reviews or solicitations for comments include:

1) Project proposal to support the Department of Fish and Game in developing a Fishery Management Plan for CA spiny lobster
2) Project proposal to support years two and three of a 5-year collaborative research study on the impacts of bottom trawling gear on soft-bottom seafloor habitats on the central coast
3) Project proposal to examine new and existing fishery catch data to better understand the status of thresher and mako sharks on the West Coast

Providing Guidance and Input on the Coast and Ocean Climate Action Team (CO-CAT): Several California agencies are facing difficult planning and policy decisions regarding sea-level elevations that are projected to increase in the coming century. To further complicate management issues, different models result in different projections. Therefore, the CO-CAT Sea Level Rise Task Force, coordinated by the OPC, is working with the OST to solicit the guidance of the OPC-SAT to ensure that the best scientific judgment is used in planning decisions that will have to be made in the face of uncertainty.

Seafloor and Shoreline Mapping:

Accurate mapping of the coast and seafloor is one of the most vital pieces of information needed for the sustainable management of California's highly productive coastal and marine resources. The OPC is developing these maps in partnership with state and federal agencies and academic institutions.

- Ground truthing and seismic reflection work is the current focus for the seafloor mapping field season. Partners lead by the USGS are mapping the marine extension of the San Andreas fault, leveraging NOAA money for mapping in federal waters.
- Experiments with different technologies in the nearshore continue in coordination with OR and WA.
- Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) funding will start a more active product development phase in coming months.
- Discussions are under way for data collection in San Francisco Bay in 2011.
- Logical extension of mapping is a pilot project focusing on ecological habitat mapping, drawing in the biologists and oceanographers.
- Coastal LiDAR/imagery is currently being collected and will be completed by the end of the year, in collaboration with ACOE, NOAA and others.

- A team of state and federal agencies are looking at product development from these data sets and will hold a workshop in early 2011.
- Creative partnerships with other agencies collecting data will allow for an interesting time series of data to be compiled in Southern California looking at beaches before and after this El Nino year.

Ocean Observing:

The Coastal Ocean Currents Monitoring Program (COCMP) is a collaborative statewide program to monitor and map the surface currents off the coast of California. This unprecedented program is a partnership of academic and government institutions working with industry and non-governmental organizations to design a real time monitoring system along the state's 1,100 miles of coastline.

- Implementation phase of COCMP is ending in 2010, with a network of more than 50 shore-based HF Radar (high frequency radar) operating along the coast. During the past five years, COCMP data has been used in oil spill response, wastewater discharge monitoring, beach water quality monitoring, plume tracking at urban rivers during storm events, search and rescue efforts, climate change analysis, harmful algal bloom (HAB) tracking and forecasting, and coastal inundation modeling, to name a few. Partners at the regional associations have led the field for surface current mapping and application in the country.
- COCMP partners helped provide HF Radar data and plume trajectories during the Gulf spill (Scripps Institute of Oceanography serves all HFR data for the country) helping to get instrumentation that had been removed operational again.
- Working to develop funding for COCMP at both the state and federal level.
- Expect the Synthesis of Coastal Ocean Observing Products (SCOOP) report at the end of the year, to evaluate the effective and efficient use of ocean observing data for management.

Designing and Implementing Innovative Solutions

The OPC is a national and international leader in the design and implementation of innovative solutions for ocean and coastal management issues. Below are highlights of a few key projects OPC is working on with its partners.

OPC Five-Year Program Review:

In its first five years, the OPC made significant contributions to improved ocean and coastal management. These efforts were guided by its authorizing legislation, the California Ocean Protection Act (COPA) and OPC's first strategic plan (2006). As the organization prepares to develop its next five-year strategic plan, OPC took the opportunity to undergo a Five-Year Program Evaluation of its performance and impact, anticipating the results of the review will inform future strategies, operations, and approaches to ensure the OPC is delivering on its mission at the highest level of effectiveness.

The OPC Expert Advisory Panel (Panel), appointed by the OPC in March 2010, and tasked to bring vision, strategic thinking, and pragmatic knowledge to the evaluation process met on July 27 in Oakland to review draft materials from the NewPoint Group and provide input and feedback on: (1) the evaluation approach (2) the evaluation report objectives, framework and context, and (3) the draft evaluation findings and recommendations.

The Draft OPC Program Evaluation report is now available on the OPC website for public comment until 5:00 p.m. on October 5, 2010. NewPoint Group will synthesize and incorporate relevant public comment into the final report. A final evaluation report is expected to be presented to the Council at its November 2010 meeting.

Sustainable Fisheries:

The OPC has been supporting and assisting with the implementation of three innovative sustainable fisheries projects.

California Sustainable Seafood Initiative (CSSI): Assembly Bill 1217 (Monning, 2009) requires the OPC to develop and implement a voluntary seafood promotion program for California fisheries. The intent of AB 1217 is to encourage California fisheries to seek certification in accordance with internationally accepted standards for sustainability and to promote the purchase and consumption of certified sustainable California seafood. The CSSI panel has met twice this year to discuss the important elements of creating a sustainable seafood program for California fisheries. The next meeting is scheduled for October 13-14 in Monterey, CA.

Collaborative Fisheries Research (CFR) Organization: The OPC assisted the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) in establishing an organization to support collaborative research throughout the state. The CFR organization will develop, solicit, and fund projects with the goal of

creating partnerships between fishermen and scientists to develop fisheries data necessary to the Department of Fish and Game, the Fish and Game Commission, and the OPC.

- Hired an Executive Officer, Pete Nelson, who will be relocating to Santa Cruz from Humboldt County.
- Working on initial projects with PSMFC and DFG.

California Fisheries Fund (CFF): The CFF concept was developed by the Environmental Defense Fund in response to the lack of traditional capital available for financing improvements in fishery management, processing, and marketing that could enhance conservation, profitability, and viability of fishing communities. The CFF will be a model for investment in California's fisheries, generating information to develop more robust analyses of cash-flow under various kinds of management regimes, producing data to assess risk and potential returns, and rationalizing fishery management to stabilize the supply of seafood and improve conservation and economic performance.

- Continuing to loan out money in CA but also expanding program to OR and WA.

Incubation of the MPA Monitoring Enterprise

Currently, OST is incubating the Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Monitoring Enterprise, created in 2007 to lead development of cost-effective monitoring of the statewide MPA network established under the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA).

Update

Developing the South Coast MPA Monitoring Plan: The Fish and Game Commission is expected to adopt marine protected areas for the MLPA South Coast Region (Point Conception to the California/Mexico border) by the end of 2010. Accordingly, the MPA Monitoring Enterprise, in partnership with the Department of Fish and Game, has begun its consultative process to develop a MPA monitoring plan for the region. As a first step, a series of three public workshops was conducted in July to solicit stakeholder views on monitoring priorities. More than 120 stakeholders attended the workshops that were held in Santa Barbara, Santa Monica, and Carlsbad.

Next steps are:

1) Consultation with scientists and technical experts to develop draft monitoring approaches and metrics
2) Presentation and discussion of draft monitoring approaches and metrics at a second round of public workshops, likely in October or November
3) Release of a draft monitoring plan for public comment, likely in early 2011
4) Submission of the final monitoring plan to the Fish and Game Commission.