



State of California –The Natural Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
1419 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 653-4673  
[www.dfg.ca.gov](http://www.dfg.ca.gov)

*JERRY BROWN, Governor*  
*JOHN McCAMMAN, Director*



April 28, 2011

Sam Schuchat, Council Secretary  
California Ocean Protection Council  
1330 Broadway, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Re: Ocean Protection Council Funding Approval of DFG's Spiny Lobster Fishery  
Management Plan Proposal Through the California Wildlife Foundation

Dear Mr. Schuchat:

The spiny lobster fishery in southern California has been identified by the Department of Fish and Game (Department) and the Fish and Game Commission as our number one priority among invertebrate species for development of a Fishery Management Plan (FMP). Lobsters are taken by recreational and commercial fishermen from Point Arguello to the Mexican border and at all the Channel Islands. In the marine ecosystem, lobsters are considered a keystone species, and the sustainability of the lobster resource is critical to the health of the south California kelp bed ecosystem. In addition, the impending implementation of a network of marine protected areas in southern California has also elevated the Department's and stakeholder's interest in producing a lobster FMP.

Due to the state's budget crisis, the Department is unable to undertake a lobster FMP without outside fiscal assistance. Undertaking a lobster FMP with the financial support of the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) through the California Wildlife Foundation (CWF), along with the Department's sizeable in-kind contribution, represents a new, collaborative way of producing an FMP. In the absence of outside assistance, it could be several years before the Department could make significant progress on this important FMP. The Department is urging the OPC to approve funding of the CWF's collaborative proposal for a Fishery Management Plan for spiny lobster.

Sincerely,

John McCamman  
Director

cc: Janet Cobb, Executive Officer  
California Wildlife Foundation  
428 13<sup>th</sup> Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Suite A  
Oakland, CA 94612

Sam Schuchat  
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cc: Tom Barnes, Environmental Program Manager  
Department of Fish and Game  
4949 Viewridge Avenue  
San Diego, CA 92123

Kristine Barsky, Senior Marine Specialist  
Department of Fish and Game  
2419 E. Harbor Blvd., # 149  
Ventura, CA 93001

# California Lobster & Trap Fishermen's Association

3535 Linda Vista Dr. #65  
San Marcos, Ca. 92069  
(760) 727-4138

3/29/11

John Laird  
Resources Secretary  
Chair - OPC  
Natural Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Secretary Laird,

I am writing to support the grant proposal from the California Wildlife Foundation, entitled "*Integrating MPAs with Fisheries Management: A Cooperative Management Plan for California Spiny Lobster*". We are interested in the long term sustainability of our fishery and we believe that its management needs to be adapted to the new network of MPAs that will be going into place in Southern California. We want to ensure that our fishery stays healthy, efficient and profitable through informed and strategic management.

We have been working collaboratively with the Department of Fish and Game and Environmental Defense Fund to create this new approach to FMPs that not only helps sidestep the state's budget crisis by creating a cost effective FMP model, but also addresses some of the problems we've seen with previous FMPs. This includes ensuring that a stock assessment will be in place in order to avoid our fishery being characterized as "data poor", making sure MPA integration is a cornerstone of the FMP, addressing recreational take, and being involved in the scoping of the process as opposed to just being told where to fit in.

We encourage you to support this proposal and support fishermen as we seek to adjust to the new MPAs and remain profitable and sustainable over the long term. Please feel free to contact me at 949-494-9449 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Rodger Healy  
President  
CLTFA



April 5, 2011

John Laird  
Resources Secretary Chair – Oceans Protection Council  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Secretary Laird,

EDF respectfully submits its support for the California Wildlife Foundation proposal entitled, “*Integrating MPAs with Fisheries Management: A Cooperative FMP for California Spiny Lobster*”. This proposal is the result of a multi-year collaboration between DFG, the California Lobster and Trap Fishermen’s Association, and Environmental Defense Fund.

Although the MPA network creates a strong foundation for conservation, strategic management of California’s fisheries remains critical. We believe that some of the effort and funding that have gone towards closing areas to fishing should now be directed towards helping fishermen adjust through the development of revised management regimes. This proposal is an opportunity to maximize the benefit of the new MPA network by reducing fishing capacity in open areas. It also makes fishing more economically efficient for fishermen and updates management to reflect current ecosystem based management principals. Perhaps most importantly, it’s a chance to create a new model for FMP development that is based on fishery support and engagement.

The proposal incorporates many of the recommendations from the Marine Life Management Act Lessons Learned study and advances a number of OPC’s key strategic goals. It’s also a vehicle to tie together many of OPC’s ongoing efforts including MPA implementation, cooperative fisheries research, MLMA implementation, and the California Sustainable Seafood Initiative.

If this fishery supported approach is proven successful with lobster, other sources of funding will likely come available to help apply it to other fisheries and advance sustainable fisheries statewide. On behalf of the future of California’s oceans and fisheries, we happily stand behind this proposal.

Should you have any questions about our support for this bill, please contact Wade Crowfoot at [wcrowfoot@edf.org](mailto:wcrowfoot@edf.org) or 415-293-6080.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Wade Crowfoot'. The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Wade Crowfoot  
West Coast Regional Director

55 C Municipal Wharf  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060



831.425.1363 Telephone  
831.425.5604 Facsimile  
www.oceanconservancy.org

Delivered via electronic mail to: [COPCpublic@resources.ca.gov](mailto:COPCpublic@resources.ca.gov)

April 14, 2011

The Honorable John Laird, Chair  
California Ocean Protection Council  
California Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Support for “Integrating Marine Protected Areas and Fishery Management, a Cooperative Management Plan for California Spiny Lobster” project.**

Dear Chairman Laird and members of the Ocean Protection Council,

Please accept the following letter of support from Ocean Conservancy for the “Integrating Marine Protected Areas and Fishery Management, a Cooperative Management Plan for California Spiny Lobster” project. We understand this project will be before the Council at your May meeting in Morro Bay. We believe this project would provide significant benefits to marine resource management in the State of California.

The spiny lobster fishery is identified as a priority fishery for development of a fisheries management plan (FMP) in the Marine Life Management Act Master Plan and has been identified by the Department of Fish and Game as their top priority for FMP development among invertebrate fisheries. Not only do spiny lobster support important commercial and recreational fisheries, they are also a keystone species in Southern California’s nearshore environment. The continued sustainability of this species is therefore closely linked to the restoration and health of the southern California kelp forest ecosystem as a whole.

We believe the cooperative FMP model outlined in this proposal could serve as a useful template for development of future FMPs and are particularly interested in its focus on integration of fisheries management with recently adopted marine protected areas. We understand that shared management and self funding options will be considered as part of the FMP process. Given the fiscal challenges facing California, development of a model for more effectively sharing the costs and responsibilities associated with fisheries management could have important implications statewide.

For the reasons cited above we urge your support for this project.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karil Gaffney". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Pacific Program Director

cc: Jim Kellogg, President, California Fish and Game Commission  
John McCamman, Director, California Department of Fish and Game