



**MEMORANDUM**

Item 5c

**TO:** Ocean Protection Council  
**FROM:** Laura Engeman and Pete Nelson, Ph.D.  
**DATE:** November 21, 2013  
**REGARDING:** Collaborative Fisheries West

The California Ocean Protection Council’s Collaborative Fisheries Research (CFR) program was created to increase California fisheries science while building partnerships between the fishing community, fisheries scientists and fishery managers. The benefits of collaborative fisheries research include: the collection of necessary data to improve fisheries management and active participation by fishermen in the collection of data. Through these collaborative research projects, fishermen are able to provide an “on-the-water service” by making available their fishing vessels and equipment to CFR projects. Depending on the project, they may also collaborate with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, National Marine Fisheries Service or academic scientists on the fisheries research design or provide fishing data themselves.

Background on OPC involvement

On April 29-30, 2008, OPC staff and the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation convened a workshop on Collaborative Fisheries Research in Oakland, CA. Nearly 70 invited stakeholders participated in the workshop including representatives from West Coast commercial and recreational fishing groups, California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), NOAA Fisheries, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC), Sea Grant, several California universities, the Nature Conservancy, and Environmental Defense Fund. At the workshop, participants expressed strong support for establishing a formal CFR organization in California and an interest in coordinating with complementary state or federal programs or research initiatives along the West Coast.

In September 2008, OPC authorized \$300,000 to establish the Collaborative Fisheries Research West (CFR-West) organization and advisory board. In November 2010, the OPC authorized an additional disbursement of up to \$1,500,000 to CFR-West. \$441,000 of this was granted to Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) to cover the CFR-West Executive Director Salary and CFR-West program development and over \$1.3 million was granted to the University of California Sea Grant Program to fund collaborative fisheries research projects selected by the CFR-West Advisory Board.

Current Status

CFR West was established in 2010 and has now funded and supported 15 collaborative fisheries research projects. There are \$1,157,863 total funds committed; with an additional \$795,926 in matching funds, the dollar value of the combined effort is \$1,953,789.