



**Resolution of the California Ocean Protection Council regarding the Advancement of Fisheries Management and Support of Fishing Communities**

November 21, 2013

WHEREAS, California's diverse and abundant marine life has helped to sustain a colorful history of commercial and recreational fishing, from market squid to king salmon, fisheries help define our coastal communities and our State; and,

WHEREAS, most coastal communities have a rich fishing history reliant upon on a portfolio of fish stocks caught in local offshore waters to sustain fishing related jobs, their local economy, and the infrastructure of their ports and harbors; and,

WHEREAS, commercial and recreational fisheries are important to the economy of California and the United States, contributing billions<sup>1</sup> of dollars in economic activity while providing jobs, food production, recreation and attracting tourism; and,

WHEREAS, the Ocean Protection Council's Strategic Plan identifies sustainable fisheries as a priority and acknowledges the value of collaboration with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Fish and Game Commission, the Pacific Fishery Management Council, and Tribes and Tribal Communities in their missions to advance fisheries management; and,

WHEREAS, implementing the MLMA's visionary benchmark for sustainable management of our marine resources requires broad and deep scientific and organizational capacity; and,

WHEREAS, the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Fish and Game Commission have strong mandates consistent with the Council's strategic plan for ensuring the success of the MLMA, but resources and capacity to broadly implement these mandates are limited throughout these organizations; and,

WHEREAS, the Council is committed to leveraging available resources and employing the best available science to support and inform fisheries management consistent with the principals stated in this resolution; and,

WHEREAS, in order to make our coastal communities and fisheries more resilient, strategic and innovative approaches must be developed in collaboration with a diverse set of partners including: members of the commercial and recreational fisheries sectors, community members, as well as Tribes, State and Federal governmental entities s, non-governmental organizations, and the philanthropic community; and,

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<sup>1</sup> See, Fisheries Review CalCOFI Rep., Vol. 52, 2011, Review of Selected California Fisheries for 2010: Coastal Pelagic Finfish, Market Squid, Ocean Saomon, Groundfish, Highly Migratory Species, Dungeness Crab, Spiny Lobster, Spot Prawn, Kellet's Whelk, and White Seabass, by the Department of Fish and Wildlife  
[http://calcofi.org/publications/calcofireports/v52/Vol\\_52\\_13-35.Fisheries.pdf](http://calcofi.org/publications/calcofireports/v52/Vol_52_13-35.Fisheries.pdf)

NOW, THEREFORE, the California Ocean Protection Council hereby:

RESOLVES to promote practical and innovative approaches based on the best available science to address shared priorities amongst our tribal, state and federal partners regarding sustainable fisheries management in California, and, which could include;

RESOLVES to promote policies aimed at improving the long-term health of fish stocks, marine resources, and economic opportunities in our coastal communities, and;

FURTHER RESOLVES to dedicate up to \$4 million to augment the State's capacity to support effective fisheries management and that continue the spirit of supporting California's important commercial and recreational fisheries. Potential fishery projects should align with priorities of DFW and the FGC and may include, but are not limited to, programs such as certification of fisheries, fishery research, development or amendment of Fishery Management Plans, Fishery Improvement Projects, sustainable economic development in coastal communities, the creation of adaptive or co-management protocols, and support of community fishing associations.