



State of California -The Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
1933 Cliff Drive, Suite 9
Santa Barbara, CA 93109
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EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



October 6, 2016

John Laird
Secretary for Natural Resources
Chair, California Ocean Protection Council
California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for Funding of Project to Develop Guidance for Building and Using Socioeconomic Essential Fishery Information

Dear Secretary Laird:

The Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) supports the authorization of funding by the Ocean Protection Council (Council) for a project that will develop guidance for the Department for collecting and using socioeconomic essential fishery information.

The Department's Marine Region is presently working with various partners to fill information gaps and to create products to help guide and support the development of the Department's amendment to its Master Plan for Fisheries. These collaborative projects focus on topics identified by Marine Region staff, and currently address such topics as climate change, ecological risk assessment, data-limited assessment tools, and constituent outreach.

A need for guidance on socioeconomic considerations also was identified by Marine Region staff. While the Marine Life Management Act calls for the incorporation of socioeconomic considerations into the management of California's fisheries, it does not indicate how these considerations should be integrated, particularly in regard to the development of fishery management plans. OPC's financial support of the proposed project will allow this guidance to be developed, which will improve the amended Master Plan for Fisheries and increase the Department's ability to more effectively manage the socioeconomic component of California fisheries.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at (805) 568-1246, or Craig.Shuman@wildlife.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Craig Shuman, D. Env
Regional Manager
Marine Region