

**Proposed Resolution of the California Ocean Protection Council  
Supporting Innovative Approaches to Sustainable Fisheries Management**

*WHEREAS*, commercial and recreational fisheries and working harbors are a part of California's rich coastal heritage; and

*WHEREAS*, the commercial and recreational fishing industries generate hundred of millions of dollars per year and provide numerous jobs for people in California's coastal communities and beyond; and

*WHEREAS*, the public values the ability to eat fresh local seafood, enjoy a day of fishing, and experience the culture and heritage of fishing communities, activities that contribute to California's tourism economy; and

*WHEREAS*, California's share of U.S. total commercial landings fell from approximately 19 percent in 1970 to less than 4 percent in 2004; and

*WHEREAS*, fisheries depend on a healthy marine ecosystem, and all components need to be maintained to preserve extractive and non-extractive uses; and

*WHEREAS*, the Ocean Protection Council Strategic Plan calls for actions that support sustainable fishing practices, improve fisheries management in cooperation with the Department of Fish and Game and the Pacific Fisheries Management Council, and preserve working harbors through investments in infrastructure; and

*WHEREAS*, the state is committed to using the best available science and the development of adaptive strategies to manage for ecosystem health.

*NOW, THEREFORE*, the California Ocean Protection Council hereby:

*RESOLVES* to promote innovative approaches to sustainable fisheries in California that create economic opportunities for fishermen and local and tribal communities, ensure the long-term health of fish stocks and marine resources, and sustain local fishing harbors; and

*FURTHER RESOLVES* to dedicate up to \$3 million for projects that support sustainable fishing practices. Potential projects that could be funded include expansion of direct-to-consumer seafood markets, local fishing harbor revitalization, cooperative research, funding mechanisms such as the California Fisheries Fund, quota systems and limited entry programs, vessel and permit buybacks, the creation of resource models and adaptive management protocols, and other projects.



**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.