

SAN DIEGO FISHERMEN'S WORKING GROUP

8021 LEMON AVE. LA MESA, CA 91941

John Laird, Secretary for Natural Resources

Chair, California Ocean Protection Council

California Natural Resources Agency

1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311, Sacramento, CA 95814

Comments on Ocean Protection Council Draft Strategic Action Plan

We have reviewed the Draft Strategic Action Plan and believe that it is generally a well thought out and realistic document that encompasses many actions that would benefit from involvement by fishermen. These include:

- 1) Continue to implement the California Sustainable Seafood Initiative (CSSI; Assembly Bill 1217, Monning 2009).
- 2) Support innovative projects that promote sustainable fisheries.
- 3) Support the FGC and the DFG in developing data poor assessment methods and tools, and promote their integration into fisheries management.
- 4) Support the FGC and DFG in updating data collection and reporting systems to better inform management decisions.
- 5) Advance ecosystem-based fisheries management and consider how to incorporate climate change.
- 6) Optimize use of funding and management resources by assisting the DFG and the FGC with evaluation of opportunities to increase capacity, such as through collaborations and co-management.
- 7) Support effective implementation and management of MPAs consistent with MLPA through strategic partnerships.
- 8) Facilitate communication and collaboration among partners and determine a long-term funding strategy for MLPA implementation.
- 9) Identify opportunities for integrated management of ocean resources through regional MPA implementation agreements, fisheries management plans, and the SWRCB's Ocean Plan update.

These actions necessitate fishermen working cooperatively with a disciplined approach. However absent the thoughtful development of the broad social capital needed to implement change, coupled with a disciplined business planning process that addresses the rational economic self-interest of fishermen – the change we all desire of sustainable and economically viable fisheries will not take place.

Ensuring success in this effort will require a combination of expert facilitation, advising/coaching and disciplined business planning and analysis. In order for this to succeed it shall be necessary to secure the services of a primary consultant that both understands these elements and has the necessary skill set and experience to deliver.

A key element of the process would be to instill ownership by fishermen in the effort. Embedded in the process will be building trust amongst all parties, understanding the value proposition of the various options, identifying mutual benefit, and understanding associated risk points.

Although these ideas seem very natural for most people this is not the case in the fishing industry. There has been a lack of previous business reasons for fishermen to collaborate and added to this fact is the independent nature of fishermen. Initial emphasis must be placed on building trust, understanding the benefits of collaboration (win/wins), and building skill sets for fishermen to effectively collaborate.

The actions that would benefit from involvement by fishermen should be undertaken after the development of social capital so that they are affordable and the results sustainable.

We would be pleased to discuss these ideas further at your convenience.

Best regards,

Peter Halmay president SDFWG