

We, the undersigned members of the OPC Advisory Panel, along with other community stakeholders, declare the following:

We do not support the current protocol for the California Voluntary Sustainable Seafood Program. The Program will not further the protection of California's marine resources, nor will the label recognize current examples of effective conservation. The protocol fails to support important communities that depend on ocean resources and fails to promote the responsible consumption of locally sourced seafood.

As individuals and organizations dedicated to the responsible use of marine resources, we are dismayed that the OPC has consistently misrepresented the recommendations of the Advisory Panel, and we hereby petition the OPC to reject the current protocol for the Voluntary Sustainable Seafood Program.

1. **Name:** Diane Pleschner-Steele on Dec 15, 2011
  - **Comments:** I participated in good faith in CSSI meetings, and spent significant time outside the meetings researching and drafting a matrix to illustrate the extent of knowledge about CA seafood seafood. This program could have significantly benefitted CA local fisheries, but in its current state the proposed protocol could actually do damage to both fishermen and fishing communities.
2. **Name:** Commercial Fishermen Of Santa Barbara on Dec 15, 2011
  - **Comments:**
3. **Name:** Wayne Heikkila on Dec 15, 2011
  - **Comments:** In the past California was a leader in fishing, processing, and distributing seafood to the consumer. It is now a shell of it's former self but has an opportunity to be great again by promoting it's products and easing regulations and costs that go far beyond what is practical and needed.
4. **Name:** Dave Anderson on Dec 15, 2011
  - **Comments:** Compared with programs that Maine and Louisiana have created, this program seems to do more to funnel money to the MSC rather than anything else that would actually promote sustainable seafood. A wasted opportunity.
5. **Name:** Sam King - King's Seafood Company on Dec 15, 2011
  - **Comments:**
6. **Name:** Jonathan M. Hardy on Dec 15, 2011
  - **Comments:** I would like to express my extreme apprehension about the proposed protocol and am dismayed by the "outcomes" represented by the staff recommendation. I believe the staff recommendation would be economically infeasible for small fisheries and could actually do damage to both fishermen and fishing communities.
7. **Name:** Jonathan Gonzalez on Dec 15, 2011
  - **Comments:** Our local fisheries need more support now than ever. Please help!
8. **Name:** Logan Kock on Dec 15, 2011
  - **Comments:**
9. **Name:** Melissa Carrasquillo on Dec 15, 2011
  - **Comments:** I am fully in favor of having a California Sustainable Seafood Label but there are many less expensive ways than MSC certification that will still ensure the sustainability of California's fisheries.
10. **Name:** Cynthia Walter on Dec 15, 2011
  - **Comments:** I'm very disappointed, after the input of so many individuals, that the staff recommendation is to force the fishermen through the very expensive MSC process. So many of us thought the OPC and State of California could do such a better job at a much less expensive price to the fishermen. As so many

of our fisheries are being depleted, so is the stock of our fishermen. Please help them by doing the right thing.

11. **Name:** PETER H. FLOURNOY on Dec 15, 2011

- **Comments:** One of my clients is already MSC. To get help from California it would now have to spend even more money to get MSC Plus certified and for the OPC's "science panel" to review the MSC's certifier's work. This client's fish is also ranked "super green" by the Monterey Bay Aquarium. How many hoops does a law abiding environmentally sensitive fisherman have to go through these days to brag about his product?

12. **Name:** Patricia Unterman on Dec 15, 2011

- **Comments:** I agree with Diane Pleschner-Steele: an added layer of regulations that few California fisheries could voluntarily meet, does not help small, local, fishermen.

13. **Name:** Kim Thompson on Dec 15, 2011

- **Comments:** Imposing MSC Certification on these fishermen is not the answer to responsible fishing. They are already paying a hefty price to abide by stringent, yet necessary, regulations that are in place to do just that. There are other alternatives that are capable of accomplishing the same goals at little or no cost to these men and women who are fighting to keep their jobs, such as letting the rules and regulations put in place over the last few years do their job and marketing programs like CSFs and Trace and Trust that make quality, responsibly harvested seafood a commodity for these fishermen. Please do not pass this protocol.

14. **Name:** David Goldenberg on Dec 16, 2011

- **Comments:** The California Sea Urchin Commission respectfully requests that the OPC "not" adopt the current protocol for the California Voluntary Sustainable Seafood Program.

15. **Name:** Chris Nelson on Dec 16, 2011

- **Comments:**

16. **Name:** Paul Johnson on Dec 16, 2011

- **Comments:**

17. **Name:** Timothy O'Shea on Dec 16, 2011

- **Comments:** My experience in this panel was that a wide angle of interests were represented. Time was spent and much discussion during and between meetings; and that the staff held on to preordained agendas that ultimately made a farce of the good faith efforts of those involved.