



MEMORANDUM

TO: California Ocean Protection Council

FROM: Drew Bohan, Executive Policy Officer

DATE: November 28, 2006

RE: Innovative Fisheries Resolution

ATTACHMENTS: Innovative Fisheries Resolution

REQUESTED ACTION:

Staff recommends the council approve the following resolution:

“The Ocean Protection Council hereby adopts the Resolution Supporting Innovative Approaches to Sustainable Fisheries Management.”

BACKGROUND:

The attached Resolution Supporting Innovative Approaches to Sustainable Fisheries Management is designed to acknowledge the council's support for innovative approaches to fisheries management in California. Fishing is an important part of California's rich coastal heritage. The commercial fishing industry generates millions of dollars of revenue per year and provides numerous jobs for people in California's coastal communities and beyond. In recent years, the commercial industry has faced a wide array of challenges. This resolution is designed to support the funding of projects to promote sustainable fishing practices.

The California Ocean Protection Act acknowledges the importance ensuring the long-term health of fish stocks and marine resources. The Act specifically states that the Ocean Protection Trust Fund may be used for projects and activities that:

Foster sustainable fisheries, including development of more selective fishing gear, collaborative research and demonstration projects between persons who fish commercially and scientists, promotion of value-added wild fisheries to offset economic losses attributable to reduced fishing opportunities, and the creation of revolving loan programs for the purpose of implementing sustainable fishery projects.(Pub. Res. Code § 35650(b)(2)(B)).

The recently passed Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control and River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84) also identifies as a priority for the council projects that foster sustainable fisheries. (Chapter 7).

The attached resolution directs staff 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, development of resource modeling and adaptive management protocols, and other projects.