

**California Ocean Protection Council
MEETING SUMMARY**

May 12, 2011
Cal/EPA Building, Byron Sher Auditorium
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Members in Attendance

John Laird, Secretary for Natural Resources, Council Chair
Linda Adams, Secretary for Environmental Protection and Patty Zwarts, Deputy Secretary
Kevin Schmidt for Gavin Newsom, Lieutenant Governor, Chair of the State Lands Commission
Geraldine Knatz, Public Member
Bill Craven for Fran Pavley, State Senator
Cody Naylor for Toni Atkins, State Assemblymember

Absent:

Susan Golding, Public Member

Secretary Laird called the meeting to order at 1:15 pm.

1. Welcome and Council Member Announcements

Secretary Laird, Council Chair, called the meeting to order and highlighted that there have been many actions in response to the [Sea Level Rise Resolution](#) approved at the OPC's March 11, 2011 meeting. Secretary Laird stated that this resolution has had a real impact, and provided examples of actions taken, including OPC staff outreach to multiple agencies to inform them of the [Sea Level Rise Interim Guidance Document](#), and the incorporation of guidance on sea level rise into the Strategic Growth Council's funding proposal guidelines.

Linda Adams, Secretary for Environmental Protection, announced that she had to leave the meeting early and that Patty Zwarts would be present at the meeting on her behalf.

2. Public comment on non-agenda items

- Richard Rogers – Vice President of the CA Fish and Game Commission – Thanked the OPC for their continued support on fisheries issues and management, and commended the Marine Life Management Act (MLMA) Lessons Learned Report. Rogers looks forward to continuing to strengthen the working relationship between OPC, the Fish and Game Commission, and the Department of Fish and Game.

- Marla Jo Bruton – Citizen from Morro Bay – Stated that her community is looking forward to having the OPC back for a public meeting.
- Richard Sadowski – Citizen from Morro Bay – Submitted comment packets to the OPC on policy and actions in Morro Bay.
- Ashley Blacow – Oceana – Highlighted the importance of forage fish species (i.e. sardine, anchovies, herring) given that focus on these species can pave the path for implementation of the MLMA.
- Larry Collins – San Francisco Community Fishing Association (CFA), and Fisherman – Thanked the OPC for providing fishermen a grant to start the first CFA on the west coast, and for helping with the Dungeness Crab Task Force, which led to the crab pot-trap limit plan, despite the fact that it was not adopted.

3. Report from the Executive Director

Dr. Amber Mace, Executive Director, provided an update on OPC's actions since the last meeting and highlighted two of the biggest accomplishments: Action toward implementation of the Sea Level Rise (SLR) Resolution, and development of OPC's next strategic plan. Dr. Mace thanked the Council for their leadership on the SLR resolution. Since its approval, the OPC has reached out to over 45 state entities to identify opportunities for informing policy, and the resolution has been key in updating grant programs and guiding state SLR planning efforts.

Dr. Mace also stated that OPC's forthcoming strategic plan is intended to set the direction and vision for ocean and coastal protection for the state, as well as have an impact at a national level. The focus for the plan will be on issues that are cross cutting, and will identify how the OPC can best utilize its core strengths as well as its cabinet-level leadership.

A draft of the strategic plan will be made available at the August OPC meeting at which point it will be open for public comment. The OPC plans to hold workshops in northern, central, and southern California to receive public input. A final plan will be made available for consideration and possible adoption at the December 2011 meeting. Dr. Mace commended OPC and California Ocean Science Trust staff for their continued and dedicated work toward completing the strategic planning document.

4. Report from the Council Secretary

Sam Schuchat, Council Secretary, presented a status report on OPC's budget, noting that \$14.6M would remain if the Lobster Fishery Management Plan (FMP) was approved.

In addition, he reported that the San Clemente Dam project is moving along and that the State Coastal Conservancy has raised all but \$15M of the \$85M needed to re-route the river and take down the dam. He mentioned that there may be a role for future OPC involvement.

5. Report from the Science Advisor

Skyli McAfee, Executive Director of the California Ocean Science Trust (OST) and Science Advisor to the OPC, provided an update on an OPC-funded report about sources and pathways for plastic debris and subsequent toxic releases, expected to be available in June, and on OST's role in supporting the OPC's strategic planning effort.

McAfee also presented an update on the Marine Protected Area (MPA) Monitoring Enterprise: 1) Dr. Liz Whiteman, a lead scientist for the MPA Monitoring Enterprise for over two years, recently accepted the Program Director position with the Monitoring Enterprise, and 2) a draft of the South Coast Monitoring Plan is available for public comment; and OST is in close collaboration with the California Sea Grant program, the Department of Fish and Game, and the OPC to move forward the baseline program in the South Coast.

6. SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE: Marine Fisheries

Skyli McAfee introduced Dr. Steve Gaines, Professor and Dean of the Donald Bren School of Environmental Sciences at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and OPC-Science Advisory Team member. Dr. Gaines gave a presentation entitled: "Integrating Marine Protected Areas into Fisheries Management in California."

Public Comment:

- Dr. Rick Star – California Sea Grant – Stated that a team of modelers, scientists, and fishermen was being assembled to test the models using MPA data, and that the project will provide a unique opportunity to improve fisheries management.

7. PANEL: Sustainable Fisheries: A Look Ahead

Sam Schuchat, Council Secretary, introduced and moderated a panel discussion on Sustainable Fisheries. The panel consisted of the following members:

- *Sonke Mastrup, Deputy Director, California Department of Fish and Game*

- *Rod McInnis, Regional Administrator, Southwest Region, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service*
- *Roberta Reyes Cordero, JD, Member, Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation*
- *Zeke Grader, Executive Director, Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations*
- *Mike Sutton, Vice President, Monterey Bay Aquarium*
- *Pietro Parravano, Commercial Fisherman, President of the Institute for Fisheries Resources*
- *Dan Wolford, Coastside Fishing Club*
- *Linda Sheehan, Executive Director, California Coastkeeper Alliance*

The panelists provided comments for a productive discussion that covered a wide range of topics.

Public Comment:

- Leila Monroe – Natural Resources Defense Council – Commended the staff for bringing this panel together and expressed support for a comprehensive approach to managing marine fisheries.
- Richard Sadowski – Citizen from Morro Bay – Stated support for OPC's close collaboration with enforcement agencies and for science-based informed decisions.

Following the discussion and public comment, there was a question and answer session with the panelists and council members.

8. ACTION: Authorize disbursement of up to \$990,000 to California Wildlife Foundation to assist the California Department of Fish and Game in developing a Spiny Lobster Fishery Management Plan.

Valerie Termini-McCormick, Project Manager, recommended disbursement of up to \$990,000 to the California Wildlife Foundation for the development of a CA Spiny Lobster Fishery Management Plan (FMP). She stated that approval of funding for this FMP would address many of the goals and priorities for the MLMA and the MLPA, and would support OPC's Sustainable Sea Food initiative.

Sonke Mastrup, Deputy Director, California Department of Fish and Game, was also present to answer questions.

Public Comment:

- Ashley Blacow – Oceana – Stated support for the action.

- Leila Monroe – Natural Resources Defense Council – Stated support for the action, particularly for achieving better fisheries management resulting from increased collaboration.
- Josh Fisher – California Lobster and Trap Fishermen’s Association – Stated support for the action.
- Paul Hobi – Ocean Conservancy – Stated support for the action.

The item was moved for approval by Knatz, seconded by Zwartz, and unanimously approved.

9. DISCUSSION: California Sustainable Seafood Protocol

Valerie Termini-McCormick, Project Manager, gave a brief overview on the work being done to develop a sustainable seafood certification program in California, including the process for developing the protocol, the marketing program, the criteria for fishery evaluation and selection, and the selection of a logo.

Jim Humphreys, Fisheries Director for the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), followed with a presentation on the background and history of the MSC. He explained the logistics of the program, the standards for providing sustainability certification for a fishery, and the traceability of fishes landed.

Public Comment:

- Kirsten James – Heal the Bay – Thanked staff for previous consideration of Heal The Bay’s comments and provided additional comments for proceeding with the protocol: ensuring zero bycatch for endangered, threatened and protected species, addressing the issue of toxicity in the sustainability certification, considering additional review of the protocol beyond the OPC-SAT, and making the proposed “carbon fin-print” information available to consumers.
- Jonathan Hardy – San Diego Commercial Fishermen – Stated support for CFA participation.
- Marcela Gutierrez – Sustainable Fisheries Panel Member – Provided comments on public health awareness.

10. PRESENTATION: Toxicity Issues in California Fisheries

Sam Schuchat, Council Secretary, introduced the two speakers for the discussion on toxicity issues in California fisheries.

Buffy Martin Tarbox, GotMercury Campaign Coordinator, presented on the potential health hazards resulting from the consumption of mercury-contaminated fish and called for better labeling.

Robert K. Brodberg, Ph.D., Chief of the Fish and Water Quality Evaluation Section, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), presented on agency roles, monitoring activities, and chemicals of concern.

Public Comment:

- Sonke Mastrup – California Department of Fish and Game – Stated that the DFG is concerned about safety of fish caught, and explained that one major issues is that many agencies do not have the capacity to support intense monitoring activities.
- Marla Jo Bruton – Citizen from Morro Bay – Finds presentations very helpful and informative, and supports dedicated monitoring efforts.

Sam Schuchat stated that further steps for the consideration of toxicity issues and the eco-label program will be presented at the next OPC meeting.

11. Adjourn

Secretary Laird adjourned the meeting at 5:17pm.