



OCEAN PROTECTION COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

June 16, 2021 – September 14, 2021

*Providing an update on outcomes
and accomplishments since the
previous OPC Meeting.*

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UPDATES BY STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL

Goal 1: Safeguard Coastal and Marine Ecosystems and Communities in the Face of Climate Change • Goal 2: Advance Equity Across Ocean and Coastal Policies and Actions • Goal 3: Enhance Coastal and Marine Biodiversity • Goal 4: Support Ocean Health through a Sustainable Blue Economy

GOAL 1: SAFEGUARD COASTAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS AND COMMUNITIES IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Sea-Level Rise Coordination

OPC convened a Sea-Level Rise (SLR) Leadership Team Executive Committee meeting on August 2, 2021. The meeting was used to discuss high-level SLR needs and priorities with directors from coastal management and policy agencies. The Committee also reviewed the SLR Work Plan, a 5-

year plan with statewide goals and agency-specific actions to achieve coastal resilience, drafted by the multi-agency SLR Leadership Team Working Group. The Work Plan is intended to be a next-step implementation guide for the [SLR Principles](#). General feedback was positive and the group offered suggestions for refining goals, including implementation and funding. The Work Plan is currently being reviewed by the program staff in the SLR Working Group and will be finalized in late fall.

Sea-Level Rise Communications Campaign

In September 2020, OPC [authorized](#) funding to deploy a statewide communications plan on sea-level rise. Plan strategies include traditional public relations, earned and social media, a campaign website and in-person events. The campaign website is currently in beta testing to refine messaging and design; a new creative design was recently chosen around the concept “The Ocean is Moving In” to creatively and playfully increase awareness of sea-level rise. Also, a comprehensive sea level rise website, hosted by CNRA, will launch around the same time. The website will highlight all the great work that state agencies, NGOs, cities, and other groups are doing to building coastal resilience along California’s coast. Also, it will include links to places to get involved on sea-level rise issues. Campaign launch is planned for August 2021 and OPC intends to partner closely with state agency and external partners on the launch and further implementation. An overview of the campaign will be shared during Item 7 at the September 14 Council meeting.

Research and Monitoring to Address Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia (OAH)

After receiving [Council approval](#) at the June 2021 OPC meeting, OPC executed the grant agreement with California Sea Grant (CASG) to administer the [Proposition 68 OAH Solicitation for Monitoring, Research, and Synthesis Projects that Support Improved Understanding of Chemical and Ecological Sensitivity and Adaptation to Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia](#). Considering funds by both OPC (\$1.8 million) and CASG (\$400,000), there is a total of \$2.2 million available. A single proposed project can request no more than \$1 million. The Proposition 68 OAH solicitation was released on July 21 and the [Informational Webinar](#) was held on August 5. Letters of Intent (LOIs) were due August 30 and OPC and CASG Staff are currently reviewing the 28 LOIs that were submitted. OPC and CASG are also in the process of assembling a Technical Review Panel to review full proposals. Final Proposals are due October 7 and the recommended projects will be brought to the December 2021 OPC meeting for consideration of funding.

New publication out showing that abundant crabs degrade marsh resilience to erosion and sea-level rise

Dr. Kathryn Beheshti (OPC’s Current 2021 California Sea Grant State Fellow with the Climate Change Program) published a recent paper in the Open Access journal, [Ecosphere](#) titled “Long-term study reveals top-down effect of crabs on a California salt marsh”. This five-year field experiment showed that native shore crabs depress marsh plant biomass and soil density, thus degrading marsh resilience to sea level rise and erosion along tidal creek banks. This study was part of a larger collaboration with Drs. Kerstin Wasson (UC Santa Cruz, Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve), Brent Hughes (Sonoma State University), Christine Angelini (University of Florida), and Brian Silliman (Duke University).

GOAL 2: ADVANCE EQUITY ACROSS OCEAN AND COASTAL POLICIES AND ACTIONS

Tribal Engagement Strategy and Listening Sessions

OPC is seeking to collaborate with California Native American Tribes on the development of a Tribal Engagement Strategy that will provide a framework for enhanced partnership between OPC and Tribes (Strategic Plan Target 2.1.1). OPC will be holding listening sessions in November 2021 to hear and discuss Tribes' perspectives on two key issues: 1) best practices for conducting outreach and engaging with Tribes in a respectful and effective manner, and 2) Tribes' priorities for ocean and coastal conservation and management. OPC has also requested early consultation with Tribes on both of these issues. Consultations and listening sessions will inform the development of a draft Tribal Engagement Strategy, which will be made available for additional consultation with Tribes early next year. Staff anticipates bringing this Strategy to the Council for approval at its June 2022 meeting.

Environmental Justice (EJ), Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Efforts

Starting in May, OPC staff, in collaboration with grantee, Better World Group (BWG), have embarked on a process to develop the OPC's Equity Plan (Plan) (Strategic Plan Target 2.2.1). When complete, OPC staff and leadership will leverage the Plan to advance more equitable and comprehensive ocean and coastal science research, policies, programs and projects that reflect the connection between people, communities, and natural systems. OPC and BWG recruited an EJ Advisory Group, comprised of expert community leaders and advocates representative of California's diverse regions, to participate in the process and inform the Plan's development. The EJ Advisory Group has been formally convened and strategy sessions are currently underway. Group members will engage on the Plan's development by providing feedback on coastal and ocean equity issues through focused discussions, leading to several iterations of the Plan. The EJ Advisory Group members are listed below; more information about them will be posted on OPC's website in the coming weeks. The project team and EJ Advisory Group members will solicit feedback and public comment on the draft Plan when it is released this Fall. Staff anticipates bringing the final proposed Plan for adoption consideration at the February 2022 Council meeting.

Statewide

- Jose G. Gonzalez, Latino Outdoors
- Marce Gutiérrez-Graudiņš and Karla Garibay Garcia, Azul

North Coast

- Rhiannon Lewis-Stephenson, Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC)

San Francisco Bay and Delta

- J. Michelle Pierce, Bayview Hunters Point Community Advocates
- Paige Tengeluk, Public Health Advocates

Monterey Bay/ Central Coast

- ileana Brunetti, Santa Cruz Community Ventures

Santa Barbara/ Central Coast

- Teresa Romero

Los Angeles/ South Coast

- Carlos Moran, Council for Watershed Health
- Patricia Flores Yrarrázaval, Orange County Environmental Justice

San Diego/ South Coast

- Lesford Duncan and Sonia Diaz, Outdoor Outreach
- Angela Kemsley, WILDCOAST

Proposition 1: Coastal Environmental Justice Solicitation

In March, OPC staff released a solicitation for projects directly benefitting Communities Entitled to Environmental Justice (Communities). The solicitation called for projects located in or near Communities that improve water quality through restoration, habitat enhancement and resilience to climate change. Letters of Intent were received in April, and the requested funding was approximately 7.5 times the amount of funding available. OPC has since invited back selected applications to submit full proposals, which are currently being reviewed and scored. The requested funding for full proposals is approximately 2.3 times the amount of funding available. Awarded applicants will be notified mid-Fall, and OPC intends to bring recommended projects to the Council for consideration of approval in December 2021.

GOAL 3: ENHANCE COASTAL AND MARINE BIODIVERSITY

Governor Newsom's Executive Order on Biodiversity

OPC leadership and staff continue to work closely with Dr. Jennifer Norris, CNRA's Deputy Secretary for Biodiversity, on the coastal and ocean components of the California's 30 x 30 initiative. On August 10, 2021, a panel of specialists representing a broad range of conservation expertise in coastal habitats and communities (the Conservation of Coastal Waters Advisory Panel) released a [report](#) that explores strategies that California could pursue to conserve 30% of California's coastal waters by 2030 in a way that is meaningful, equitable, and measurable. Recommended strategies include: 1) prioritizing marine and coastal areas with high biodiversity potential; 2) improving management and restoration within and outside of marine and coastal protected areas; 3) protecting biodiversity as a critical element of sustainable management; 4) building protection across the land-sea interface; 5) developing, implementing, and monitoring effectiveness of sustainable management policies; and 6) partnering with California Tribes and Tribal Communities to develop inclusive conservation policies. These recommendations will inform the development of a "Pathways to 30 x 30" document, which will detail opportunities and strategies to achieve 30 x 30 in California and provide a high-level framework for implementation of conservation action across the state. A draft of the Pathways document will be released in Fall 2021, with the final released in 2022.

National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS) Working Group: MPA Data Synthesis and Analysis for Management Review

At the February 2021 OPC meeting, the Council [approved](#) NCEAS to perform analyses that address critical MPA performance evaluation questions, guided by the Action Plan, input from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Fish and Game Commission, and the recommendations of two OPC Science Advisory Team Working Groups, and working in close coordination with long-term MPA monitoring PIs. The NCEAS working group conducted their first virtual workshop in late June 2021, bringing together marine scientists from California and internationally to dive into the California's rich long-term monitoring datasets and develop an analysis plan. The group is working

to integrate datasets and analyses to address broader-scale MPA performance evaluation questions in preparation for the upcoming decadal management review in December 2022.

Microplastic Science Guidance and Precautionary Risk Assessment Framework

In May, an OPC-funded [microplastics report](#) was released from a group of leading interdisciplinary scientists, in partnership with Ocean Science Trust. The report provides guidance for addressing microplastic pollution in California's marine environments and assessing the risk these tiny plastics pose to marine ecosystems, marine life, and humans. The report recommends that California officials work proactively to manage microplastic waste and reduce microplastic materials at their source, with a focus on the top sources of micro and macroplastic emissions into California's environment. This report will be incorporated into OPC's Microplastics Strategy (mandated by SB 1263), which is expected to be released as a public draft in October. [Item 6](#) on the September 14 Council meeting agenda will provide an update on the development of the Microplastics Strategy to date and next steps.

Restoring and Protecting California's Kelp Ecosystems

In February 2020, OPC [authorized](#) funding for removal of purple urchins by commercial fishermen, as well as associated ecological monitoring, in support of kelp forest recovery on California's north coast. To date, fishermen have removed nearly 40,000 pounds of purple urchin (approximately 850,000 individuals) from Noyo Bay and Albion Cove in Mendocino County. Kelp regrowth has been observed at the Noyo Bay restoration site, but additional monitoring is required to determine the effectiveness of this potentially promising restoration method.

Marine Protected Area Management Program

Throughout August and September, OPC staff worked with Kearns & West, Coastal Quest and Polytechnic to develop a short-term strategic plan to better communicate information regarding MPA science and regulations and the upcoming Decadal Management Review. The development of a new website for the State's MPA Management Program is underway, with an October launch expected. OPC staff is also coordinating with CDFW and Strategic Earth Consulting to ensure that Tribes, stakeholders and the general public have the opportunity to inform the MPA Decadal Management Review process. The next step in this effort is a series of community meetings taking place in October and November. Meeting dates and agendas will be posted to OPC's website and [CDFW's Decadal Management Review page](#). [Item 5a](#) on the September 14 Council meeting agenda includes an update on the state's MPA Management Program and planning for the 2022 Adaptive Management Review.

GOAL 4: SUPPORT OCEAN HEALTH THROUGH A SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY

Promoting Sustainable Aquaculture

The development of the statewide Aquaculture Action Plan is underway and proceeding on schedule with planned completion by 2023. The National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS) and California Sea Grant, in close partnership with OPC staff, finalized membership of both the community and scientific listening groups and held initial meetings of both (on July 19 and August 23 respectively). This was a major milestone in the process to develop a working draft of the Action Plan, with completion of the full draft expected by December 2021.

In addition to moving forward on the Aquaculture Action Plan, OPC staff and leadership will be reconvening the Aquaculture Leadership Team on September 29, 2021. The Leadership Team is led by Secretary Crowfoot and comprised of executive-level and programmatic staff of all state agencies involved in the regulation, permitting and development of aquaculture in California (the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Fish and Game Commission, California Coastal Commission, State Lands Commission, OPC, California Department of Food and Agriculture, California Department of Public Health and the State Water Resources Control Board). This will be the first full Leadership Team meeting since the public release of the [Guiding Principles for Sustainable Marine Aquaculture in California](#) in June 2021. The meeting will focus on understanding how each member agency is already implementing the Guiding Principles into their aquaculture-related work and identifying priority near-term actions to collaboratively advance Principle implementation while the Action Plan is being developed.

Offshore Wind (OSW)

The Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management released two announcements for a [Morro Bay Call for Information and Nominations](#) and [Humboldt Wind Energy Area Environmental Assessment](#). Public comments for these two announcements will inform the process and evaluation of offshore wind development moving forward. The California Coastal Commission (CCC) held an informational hearing on offshore wind and the federal consistency determination (CD) process at their [Thursday, September 9 meeting](#). CCC is preparing for potential CD hearings for the North Coast in March 2022 and the Central Coast in June 2022. OPC is supporting the CD process through funding a series of projects (listed in Delegated Authority below) that have been identified as key information gaps. Also, we are seeking to fund a fishing industry led effort to identify productive fishing areas in and adjacent to the proposed Central Coast call area. California State Lands Commission also released its draft [Preliminary Environmental Assessment](#) for Vandenberg Offshore Wind Energy projects located in state waters.

PROJECTS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DELEGATED AUTHORITY

Grantee	Project	Amount	Description
Conservation Biology Institute	Data Enrichment and Least-Conflict Modeling Enhancements for California Offshore Wind Energy Planning	\$199,100	This project will provide maximum detail for offshore wind least-conflict modeling efforts and support the State's multi-agency decision-making processes. Additional time to identify, acquire, and incorporate new, highly relevant datasets into this framework as they are released and capacity to work closely with a variety of State agency staff during modeling will produce superior OSW decision-support products. Rescaling least-conflict models to deploy detailed aliquot reporting units will create maximum alignment with the State's regional OSW planning efforts and Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM) OSW leasing process.

Point Blue Conservation Science	Catalogue of environmental data for offshore wind siting	\$178,705	This project will develop a data catalogue and synthesis of the most relevant environmental datasets that can provide information appropriate to guide offshore wind energy siting along the California Coast, particularly in the Humboldt and Morro Bay regions, where favorable meteorological conditions for wind energy production mean that installation siting in these potential lease areas is most imminent.
Integral Consulting Inc.	An Assessment of the Cumulative Impacts of Floating Offshore Wind Farms	\$170,760	This project will provide the physical basis for quantifying the effects of trophic level stressors on ecosystem function, including fisheries. The proposed study will provide valuable insight on potential environmental impacts from floating offshore wind.

LEGISLATION

The following is an update on coastal and ocean-related legislative proposals tracked by OPC staff during the recent legislative session:

[SB 1 \(Atkins\)](#): This bill would amend part of the Coastal Act and require the Coastal Commission to include recommendations and guidelines for assessing and mitigating sea-level rise impacts in each coastal program. It would create the California Sea Level Rise State and Regional Support Collaborative and would require the collaborative to provide state and regional information to the public and support to local, regional, and other state agencies to mitigate sea-level rise. The bill would also authorize the Secretary for Environmental Protection to expend up to \$2,000,000 per year for the Environmental Justice Small Grant Program and would require up to \$500,000 of those funds to support grants working to address sea-level rise impacts. This bill was amended 3/24/21 to establish the Collaborative within OPC, who would be responsible to coordinate with other agencies to administer grants. Passed out of both houses, sent to enrolling 9/7.

[SB 27 \(Skinner\)](#): This bill would require the California Natural Resources Agency, in coordination with the California Environmental Protection Agency, the State Air Resources Board, and the Department of Food and Agriculture, to establish carbon sequestration goals for natural and working lands. This bill would also require the Governor's Office of Planning and Research to maintain a registry to identify carbon removal or sequestration projects in the state that are seeking funding. This bill was amended 3/27/21 to direct CalEPA to create carbon sequestration goals to meet long term climate goals to reduce atmospheric carbon and build resilience to climate impacts. Passed out of both houses, sent to enrolling 9/3

[SB 54 \(Allen\)](#): This bill would enact the Plastic Pollution Producer Responsibility Act, which will reduce the amount of disposable packaging and food waste entering the waste stream. This bill was amended 2/25/21 to restrict the sale and distribution of single use items (except those that are recyclable or compostable) after 2032. Ordered to inactive file 5/20.

[SB 80 \(McGuire\)](#): This bill would require a commercial fishing permit holder to relinquish a fish or parts of fish caught in California to the Department of Fish and Wildlife for the purpose of collecting a biological sample. It would authorize crab traps to be set and baited 64 hours before the opening date of the Dungeness crab season regardless of Fish and Game District. The bill would also authorize the State Department of Public Health to adopt regulations to authorize the sale of Dungeness crab that is caught in waters where the state Department of Public Health determined that the viscera of Dungeness crab exceed allowable levels of domoic acid, but where the meat does not exceed the allowable levels. It would also require the State Department of Public Health to consult with the Dungeness Crab Task Force to establish the criteria for sale of Dungeness crab caught in areas subject to an evisceration order. This bill was amended 4/20/21 to remove the Department of Public Health's need to adopt regulations around sale of Dungeness crab, among other things. At the time of report completion, SB 80 was on the floor.

[SB 83 \(Allen\)](#): This bill would create the Sea-Level Rise Revolving Loan Program within the California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank (I-Bank) to provide low-interest loans to local jurisdictions for the purchase of coastal properties in their jurisdiction identified as vulnerable coastal property. It would also establish the Sea-Level Rise Revolving Loan Fund and would authorize the I-Bank to issue bonds and require the bond revenues be used for purposes of the Sea-Level Rise Revolving Loan Program. Passed out of both houses, sent to enrolling 9/9.

[SB 418 \(Laird\)](#): This bill would extend the sunset date for AB 2516 to January 1, 2028, thus requiring CNRA and OPC to continue to update biannually data based on surveys released to public and private entities within the coastal zone. Amended 3/17/21 to indicate 2028 as the sunset year. Ordered to inactive file 9/3.

[SB 433 \(Allen\)](#): This bill would allow the Commission to also impose penalties for damage to archeological and wetlands resources, and to damage done to environmentally sensitive habitat areas (ESHA) in addition to the current ability to levy fines for public access violations. The bill would provide property owners 60 days to correct violations in order to avoid being fined. The bill also clarifies local governments are responsible for addressing building code violations, requires the Commission report annually to the Legislature on enforcement implementation and prohibits the Commission from assessing an administrative penalty against another State agency, local governments or special districts. Passed out of both houses, sent to enrolling 9/9.

[SB 580 \(Hueso\)](#): This bill would authorize a study to assess feasibility of using recycled plastics in asphalt used as paving material, and if the Department of Transportation (DOT) determines it is feasible, DOT will be authorized to establish specifications. This bill was amended 5/20/21 to indicate OPC's role to review study design and findings. Ordered to inactive file 5/26.

[AB 63 \(Petrie-Norris\)](#): This bill would include restoration as an allowable use in the definition of a State Marine Conservation Area in the Marine Management Areas Improvement Act. Passed out of both houses, sent to enrolling 9/7.

[AB 66 \(Boerner Horvath\)](#): This bill would appropriate \$2,500,000 from the General Fund to the Scripps Institute of Oceanography at the University of California, San Diego to conduct research on

coastal cliff landslides and erosion in the County of San Diego. It would require research to be completed by January 1, 2024 and a report provided to the Legislature with recommendations for developing a coastal cliff landslide and erosion early warning system based on that research no later than March 15, 2024. This bill was amended on 5/24/21 to restructure allocation and funding requirements, among other things. Passed out of both houses, sent to enrolling 9/2.

[AB 72 \(Petrie-Norris\)](#): This bill would enact the Coastal Adaptation Permitting Act of 2021 to establish a more coordinated and efficient regulatory review and permitting process for coastal adaptation projects. The bill was amended 6/28/21 to specify coastal adaptation projects use natural infrastructure. Passed out of both houses, sent to enrolling 9/7.

[AB 284 \(Rivas\)](#): This bill would require the State Air Resources Board, when updating the scoping plan in collaboration with CNRA and others, take specified actions by January 1, 2023 including identifying a 2045 climate goal and practices, needs, and incentives to reduce barriers towards that goal and by January 1, 2024 develop standard methods for tracking GHG reductions, Carbon sequestration, and other benefits from working lands over time. This bill was amended 4/14/21 to include co-benefits, financial incentives, and other changes. Ordered to inactive file 9/2.

[AB 525 \(Chiu\)](#): This bill would require the California Energy Commission (CEC) to establish megawatt offshore wind (OSW) planning goals for 2030 and 2045 by March 1, 2022. The bill further requires the CEC, in coordination with specified agencies, to develop a strategic plan, as specified, for OSW developments and to submit the plan to the Natural Resources Agency (NRA) and the Legislature by December 31, 2022. Passed out of both houses, sent to enrolling 9/9.

[AB 818 \(Bloom\)](#): This bill would require that certain premoistened nonwoven disposable wipes manufactured on or after July 1, 2022 to be labeled clearly and conspicuously with "Do Not Flush" and a related symbol. This bill would also prohibit companies selling these wipes from making claims indicating that these products should be flushed. These wipes are made with plastic fibers and frequently clog sewage pipes. They also are a source of plastic microfibers to wastewater treatment plants. Presented to Governor 9/8.

[AB 826 \(Bennett\)](#): This bill would establish the Beach Erosion Authority for Clean Oceans and Nourishment Program to be administered by the State Coastal Conservancy and would authorize the conservancy to acquire and manage property for the purposes of the program. This bill was amended 4/19/21 to include a reference to the Climate Ready Program. Ordered to Inactive 9/8.

[AB 881 \(Gonzalez\)](#): This bill would require that mixed plastic waste exports out of the country be counted as "disposal" rather than "recycling." This bill was amended 4/12/21 to update trade agreement timelines with Canada and Mexico. Passed out of both houses, sent to enrolling 9/3.

[AB 897 \(Mullin\)](#): This bill would: 1) authorize eligible entities to participate in a regional climate network, 2) encourage the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) to include agencies with land use planning authority, 3) authorize the network to develop a regional climate adaptation action plan using guidelines developed by OPR, and 4) require OPR to provide technical assistance to network when developing plans and make recommendations to the Legislature on how to support and implement plans. This bill was amended 4/19/21 to with requirements for publishing guidelines, among other changes. Held in suspense 8/26.

[AB 1276 \(Carrillo\)](#): This bill would prohibit a food facility or third-party food delivery platform from providing single-use food serviceware accessories to a consumer, unless requested by the consumer. This bill was amended 5/27/21 to include provisions for drive-thrus, to define single use food serviceware, and other things. Passed out of both houses, sent to enrolling 9/9.

[AB 1279 \(Muratsuchi\)](#): This bill requires OPC to work with private and nonprofit entities to bring sustainable help to the coastal waters of the state and review and assess data from existing research and ongoing pilot projects to identify critical knowledge gaps related to kelp forest ecosystems, kelp and sea urchin biological processes, kelp forest stressors, kelp-urchin population dynamics, incorporating carbon dioxide removal, and long-term carbon sequestration considerations. Held in committee 7/5.

PERSONNEL NOTES

Jennifer Savage, Policy and Communications Manager

Jennifer Savage joined OPC in July 2021 and leads OPC's policy, communications and community engagement efforts. After a decade of working as a Humboldt County reporter and radio show host, Jennifer accepted a job with Ocean Conservancy to coordinate Marine Life Protection Act implementation on the North Coast and helping craft the only unified MPA proposal in the entire process. Most recently, she spent several years working in California coast and ocean policy for the Surfrider Foundation with a particular focus on access equity and sea level rise. During this time, Jennifer's commute included the entire California coast, an experience she continues to cherish, although her heart belongs to cold, foggy Humboldt, where she's lived for 23 years.



Administration and Finance Analyst. OPC is hiring a limited term Staff Services Analyst to provide critical support for grant and contract administration, accounting, and other administrative duties, as needed. Applicants should have strong attention to detail, high-level proficiency with Microsoft Office Suite (including Word, Excel and Outlook), and experience related to bookkeeping, invoice processing, budgets, or other related work. Applications are due on September 21, 2021. To apply, please visit this link at [CalCareers](#).

COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Kat Beheshti, 2021 California Sea Grant State Fellow with the Ocean Protection Council's Climate Change Program, created a [video miniseries](#) to inform the public about the project funded under Chapter 10 of Prop 68 – Climate Preparedness, Habitat Resiliency, Resource Enhancement, and Innovation. [Item 7](#) at the September 14 Council meeting will provide an update on this effort.

Media Highlights:

SF Chronicle: [North California Kelp Forest Shows Signs of Recovery After Sea Urchin Removal](#)

Hakai Magazine: [Predicting When the Next Bluff Will Fall](#)

Hakai Magazine: [Noise Pollution Affects Practically Everything, Even Seagrass](#)

LA Times: [A California fisherman sails the choppy waters of climate change and drought](#)

YubaNet: NASA: [New online visualization tool will enable anyone to see what sea levels will look like anywhere in the world in the decades to come](#)

Santa Barbara Log: [California Coastal Commission Releases Sea Level Rise Plan for Public Comment](#)

Guardian: [Floating wind turbines could open up vast ocean tracts for renewable power](#)

Santa Barbara News Press: [Lawmakers back Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary designation](#)

PPIC: [Advancing Ecosystem Restoration with Smarter Permitting: Case Studies from California](#)

Mercury News: [Photos: Drone images show impact when high tides and big waves combine](#)

LA Times: [As a child, he sneaked onto a secret Malibu beach. 50 years later, the fence finally came down](#)

UCSC: [When humans disturb marine mammals, it's hard to know the long-term impact](#)

NatGeo: [After mystery sea star die-off, could captive breeding rebalance California's underwater forests](#)

The Guardian: ['A combination of failures:' why 3.6m pounds of nuclear waste is buried on a popular California beach](#)

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