

Exhibit 4: Letters of Support

BARBARA BOXER  
CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEES:  
COMMERCE, SCIENCE,  
AND TRANSPORTATION  
ENVIRONMENT  
AND PUBLIC WORKS  
FOREIGN RELATIONS

United States Senate

HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
SUITE 112  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0505  
(202) 224-3553  
<http://boxer.senate.gov/contact>

June 3, 2005

Sheila

The Honorable Douglas Bosco  
Chair, State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100  
Oakland, California 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to express my strong support for the grant proposal from the University of California, Davis Wildlife Health Center SeaDoc Society to fund the California Derelict Fishing Gear Removal Pilot Project. If awarded, this grant will allow experienced and certified divers to remove tons of derelict fishing gear from coastal regions in the counties of Humboldt, Monterey, San Luis Obispo and Los Angeles in a safe and environmentally-sensitive manner.

Derelict fishing gear, such as lost or abandoned commercial fishing nets, lines, pots, traps, and other recreational equipment, sits on the seafloor, gets caught on rocky reefs, or floats in the water column. This equipment has a negative impact the environment and can be dangerous to humans, as well as sea creatures. Such gear can "catch" marine animals, which become entangled or trapped; it can pose an underwater hazard for boaters, entangling propellers and anchors, and endangering divers; and it can also diminish the natural aesthetic quality of the seafloor and reef habitat.

The California Derelict Fishing Gear Removal Pilot Project is an important step in an effort to help restore ocean health. While this project benefits the citizens and economy of California, ultimately it is the living marine resources and unique underwater habitats of the Pacific Ocean that will benefit from the removal of derelict gear that injures and kills animals or enshrouds and damages habitat.

In advance, I thank you for your consideration of this request. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact my Deputy State Director, Stacey Lybeck, at (916) 448-2787.

Sincerely,

Barbara Boxer  
United States Senator

RECEIVED

JUN 06 2005

COASTAL CONSERVANCY  
OAKLAND, CALIF.

BB:srl

1700 MONTGOMERY STREET  
SUITE 240  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111  
(415) 403-0100

312 NORTH SPRING STREET  
SUITE 1748  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012  
(213) 894-5000

501 T STREET  
SUITE 7-600  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
(916) 448-2787

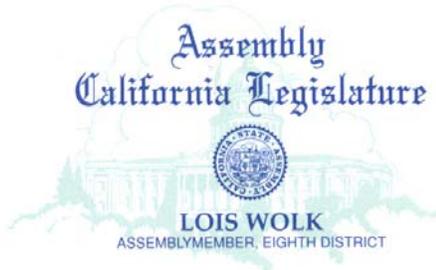
1130 O STREET  
SUITE 2450  
FRESNO, CA 93721  
(559) 497-5109

600 B STREET  
SUITE 2240  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92101  
(619) 239-3884

201 NORTH E STREET  
SUITE 210  
SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92401  
(909) 888-8525

## Exhibit 4: Letters of Support

State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0008  
(916) 319-2008  
Fax (916) 319-2108  
District Office  
555 Mason Street, Suite 275  
Vacaville, CA 95688  
(707) 455-8025  
Fax (707) 455-0490  
Email  
assemblymember.wolk@assembly.ca.gov  
Website  
http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a08



Chair  
Water, Parks and Wildlife  
Committees  
Budget  
Natural Resources  
Local Government  
Subcommittee  
Budget Subcommittee on  
Information Technology and Transportation  
Select Committee  
Water, Infrastructure and the Economy  
Boards  
California Public Library Construction  
and Renovation Board  
Wildlife Conservation Board

June 2, 2005

SHEILA

The Honorable Douglas Bosco  
Chair, State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100  
Oakland, CA 94612

### RE: Support for California Derelict Fishing Gear Removal Pilot Project

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to express my strong support for the grant proposal from the UC Davis Wildlife Health Center SeaDoc Society to fund the *California Derelict Fishing Gear Removal Pilot Project*. This will employ experienced and certified divers to remove tons of gear from near-shore waters in a safe and environmentally sensitive manner.

Derelict fishing gear, such as lost or abandoned commercial fishing nets, lines, pots, traps, and other recreational gear, sits on the seafloor, gets caught on rocky reefs, or floats in the water column. This equipment has a negative impact to the environment and can be dangerous to humans and sea creatures alike. Such gear can continue to "catch" marine animals, which become entangled or trapped; it can pose an underwater hazard for boaters, entangling propellers and anchors, and endangering divers. Derelict fishing gear can also diminish the natural aesthetic quality of the seafloor and rocky reef habitat.

The pilot project will position the program for long-term operation within the State of California by developing, implementing, testing and refining all facets of the program. The work will initially be focused in the following four areas of the coast:

- Humboldt County: from Humboldt Bay north to Trinidad Head
- Monterey County: from Elkhorn Slough to Point Lobos
- San Luis Obispo County: from Point Estero to Point Buchon
- Los Angeles County: around Santa Catalina Island

These field sites were selected because of known presence of derelict gear, historical and current fishing activities (which confer a high likelihood of gear presence), and/or because of the potential for entanglement of wildlife species of concern, divers, and/or vessels.

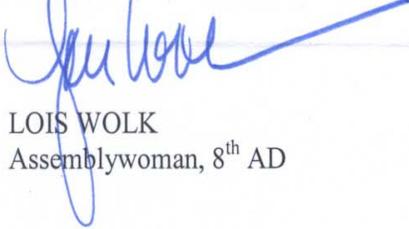
The citizens of California will benefit from this project through the increased safety provided by removal of underwater hazards. Individual fishermen will benefit from any gear that is returned

Exhibit 4: Letters of Support

to them and through safer navigation and decreased potential for entanglement. As well, non-fishing industries will benefit from the removal of gear that entangles equipment and structures or prevents its placement underwater. The state resources agencies will benefit by having a permanent program in place that reduces the loss of commercially and recreationally valuable marine organisms from state waters, and provides a higher level of protection for threatened and endangered species. Ultimately, it is the living marine resources and unique underwater habitats of California that will benefit from the removal of derelict gear that injures and kills animals or enshrouds and damages habitat.

I urge you to give this program your utmost consideration for support.

Sincerely,



LOIS WOLK  
Assemblywoman, 8<sup>th</sup> AD

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JUN 06 2005

COASTAL CONSERVANCY  
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Exhibit 4: Letters of Support

06/03/2005 09:09 9163415543

STORMWATER

PAGE 02



Alan C. Lloyd, Ph.D.  
Agency Secretary

## State Water Resources Control Board

### Division of Water Quality

1001 J Street • Sacramento, California 95814 • (916) 341-5455  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 100 • Sacramento, California • 95812-0100  
FAX (916) 341-5463 • Internet Address: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov>



Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor

**JUN 3 2005**

Douglas Bosco  
Chairman  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to express my support for the SeaDoc Society's proposal to the State Coastal Conservancy for funding to conduct a pilot derelict fishing gear removal program in California. I am not speaking officially on behalf of the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board), but rather as an individual working as a Senior Environmental Scientist with the Ocean Standards Unit, Division of Water Quality, at the State Board.

At the State Board my mission is to protect the quality of our state's coastal marine waters. I have had discussions with the Executive Director of SeaDoc, Kirsten Gilardi, to ensure that the proposed project activities will not degrade marine water quality. I have given Ms. Gilardi information regarding the California Ocean Plan and the State Board's relevant regulatory programs, so that the subject project may be performed in compliance with the State's water quality laws and regulations. I have further recommended that Ms. Gilardi contact the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Boards to ensure that water quality will be protected during the extraction of derelict gear.

Derelict fishing gear degrades marine habitats and is a known hazard to marine life. The removal of derelict gear will be highly beneficial, thereby restoring natural conditions to marine habitat and protecting marine life, navigation, and recreational uses. I urge you to give this program your utmost consideration for support.

Sincerely,

Dominic Gregorio, Chief  
Ocean Unit

*California Environmental Protection Agency*

Recycled Paper

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May-26-05 12:00P

P.02

Chuck Wise  
President  
David Birrs  
Vice-President  
Larry Miyamura  
Secretary  
Marlyse Baristella  
Treasurer  
**In Memoriam:**  
Nathaniel S. Bingham  
Harold C. Christensen

PACIFIC COAST FEDERATION  
of FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS

W.F. "Zeke" Grader, Jr.  
Executive Director  
Glen H. Spurr  
Northwest Regional Director  
Mitch Farrer  
Fishery Enhancement Director  
Vivian Bolin  
Watershed Conservation Director  
Duncan MacLean  
Salmon Advisor

~~Please~~ Respond to:  
California Office  
P.O. Box 29370  
San Francisco, CA 94129-0370  
Tel: (415) 561-5080  
Fax: (415) 561-5464

<http://www.pcffa.org>

Northwest Office  
P.O. Box 11170  
Eugene, OR 97440-3370  
Tel: (541) 689-2000  
Fax: (541) 689-2500

26 May 2005

The Honorable Douglas H. Bosco, Chairman  
California Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100  
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: California Derelict Fishing Gear Removal Program - Support

Dear ~~Chairman~~ <sup>Doug</sup> Bosco:

The Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations (PCFFA), representing working men and women in the West Coast commercial fishing fleet, requests your support for the SeaDoc Society's proposal to the Conservancy to develop the California Derelict Fishing Gear Removal program. The prevention of fishing gear loss and the retrieval of lost gear has long been a concern of PCFFA. We have supported legislation/regulations to encourage removal of lost gear and sponsored measures to prevent gear loss, such as Mr. Leno's AB 749 aimed at reducing the number of Dungeness crab traps lost each year in that fishery.

Derelict fishing gear is problematic for our members, because it can obstruct deployment of gear. Moreover, our members are always pleased to receive back any gear they have lost unintentionally – all too often lines attaching gear to buoys get cut by boat propellers, or gear is dragged away by large vessels or by strong currents and waves. Fishing gear is costly and getting it back helps, but it also helps to get rid of old gear off the seafloor which sometimes will keep fishing or, in some instances, entangle other fishing gear or wildlife.

The proposed derelict fishing gear removal program, which initially will deploy divers to remove gear, should be a huge benefit to California's fishing men and women, both commercial and recreational, as well as the marine environment. We look forward to working with your Commission and the SeaDoc Society in implementing the pilot year of this program in California.

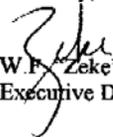
Sincerely,  
  
W.F. "Zeke" Grader, Jr.  
Executive Director

Exhibit 4: Letters of Support

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

45 FREMONT, SUITE 2000  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105-2219  
VOICE AND TDD (415) 904-5200  
FAX (415) 904-5400



May 16, 2005

Douglas Bosco  
Chairman  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100  
Oakland, California 94612

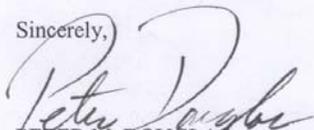
RE: **SeaDoc Society's Pilot Derelict Fishing Gear Removal Program**

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to express our support for the University of California at Davis's SeaDoc Society proposal to the State Coastal Conservancy to fund a pilot derelict fishing gear removal program. The Coastal Commission is concerned with the presence of derelict fishing gear (e.g., "ghost" nets) in California marine waters, and we have encouraged and now are pleased that the SeaDoc Society has developed a program for its removal.

The executive director of the SeaDoc Society, Kirsten Gilardi, is consulting with my staff to ensure that the fishing gear removal program itself is designed in a manner that avoids or minimizes potential adverse impacts to coastal resources and uses. On a case-by-case basis, Coastal Commission staff will determine if a coastal development permit is needed for a specific derelict fishing gear removal activity. We are confident that the program will be highly beneficial to the health and integrity of California's marine waters, making it a safer environment for boaters, divers, swimmers, and marine life. I strongly urge you to support this program.

Sincerely,

  
PETER M. DOUGLAS  
Executive Director

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MAY 17 2005

COASTAL COMMISSION  
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Exhibit 4: Letters of Support

May-25-2005 01:44pm From-

T-454 P.002/002 F-916



State of California - The Resources Agency

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor

**DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

Office of Spill Prevention and Response  
Marine Wildlife Veterinary Care and Research Center  
1451 Shaffer Road  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
(831) 469-1744  
(831) 469-1723 fax



Douglas Bosco, Chairman  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to express my strong support for the UC Davis Wildlife Health Center's SeaDoc Society's proposal to the State Coastal Conservancy to develop a California Derelict Fishing Gear Removal program. I am Supervisor of the California Department of Fish and Game's Marine Wildlife Veterinary Care and Research Center (In Santa Cruz), and oversee several southern sea otter research and management activities in state marine waters. As you probably know, the southern sea otter population has failed to recover at an expected rate. A significant factor in the failure of the population to grow is infectious disease, but we are also concerned about fisheries interactions. Sea otters are vulnerable to entanglement and entrapment in fishing gear, including commercial and recreational crab pots. As you may know experiments at the Monterey Bay Aquarium suggest that sea otters can enter live fish traps and crab pots and are unlikely to get out easily. We have provided the Fish and Game Commission with measurements for excluder devices that may reduce sea otter by catch in live fish traps. Currently we are working with crab fishers to develop excluder devices that might greatly limit potential for sea otter entry into commercial crab pots but which will not significantly reduce catch. We also conduct post-mortem examinations on all dead sea otters that wash up on California beaches. Several of them have died from entanglement in derelict fishing gear.

For these reasons, I am very supportive of a program that will work with the fishing industry and systematically remove derelict fishing gear from the state's marine waters, especially from parts of the coast where we are trying to help recover threatened and endangered species like the southern sea otter. Please feel free to call me at 831-469-1726 if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David A. Jessup".

David A. Jessup  
Senior Wildlife Veterinarian/Supervisor

*Conserving California's Wildlife Since 1870*

Exhibit 4: Letters of Support



NORTHWEST STRAITS  
marine conservation initiative

May 13, 2005

Douglas Bosco  
Chairman  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to express my strong support for the SeaDoc Society's proposal to the State Coastal Conservancy for funding to conduct a pilot derelict fishing gear removal program in California. While I am a member of the SeaDoc Society's Advisory Board, the hat I wear in writing this letter to you is as Director of the Northwest Straits Commission (Mt. Vernon, Washington).

In 2002, the Northwest Straits Commission developed and implemented a derelict fishing gear removal program here in Washington, which we conduct in close partnership with NOAA, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and other partners. Our program has successfully removed nearly 1000 nets, pots and traps since 2002. In this recovered derelict fishing gear, we have counted nearly 500 entangled fish—including endangered salmon and rockfish species—and over 1000 live and dead crabs, 90 dead birds, and 4 drowned marine mammals.

Over the last several months, I have provided assistance and guidance to the SeaDoc's Executive Director, Dr. Kirsten Gilardi, in her development of a program plan for California. The Northwest Straits Commission looks forward to continuing to work with Gilardi and SeaDoc on the pilot year of this program, and we remain eager and willing to share information, policies and procedures, and expertise.

As well, we are receiving a new grant from NOAA in July to replicate our program in other areas around the United States. In our application, we specifically identified California as one of those areas, and are looking forward to spending a portion of the new federal funding to support SeaDoc Society's efforts in California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Cowan'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Tom Cowan

Northwest Straits Commission  
10441 Bayview-Edison Road  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273-9668  
phone: 360.428.1084  
fax: 360.428.1491  
e-mail: [commission@nwstraits.org](mailto:commission@nwstraits.org)  
web: [www.nwstraits.org](http://www.nwstraits.org)

County Marine  
Resource Committees:

Clallam

Island

Jefferson

San Juan

Skagit

Snohomish

Whatcom

In Cooperation with  
Participating Tribal  
Co-Managers

Exhibit 4: Letters of Support

STATE OF CALIFORNIA -- THE RESOURCES AGENCY

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

MARINE REGION

619 Second Street

EUREKA, CA 95501



May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2005

Douglas Bosco  
Chairman  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to express my support for the SeaDoc Society's proposal to the State Coastal Conservancy to develop the California Derelict Fishing Gear Removal program. I am a fisheries enforcement officer with the California Department of Fish and Game. I am assigned to a patrol vessel at our Eureka regional office. Every year I receive several complaints from licensed commercial fishermen, recreational fishermen, and the boating community about the presence of derelict crab pots in the waters off the North Coast.

Although required by law to be removed (F&G Code 9004), these traps are left in the waters of the state beyond the legal season. Efforts by commercial fishermen and our agency are ineffective at removing all the gear that is out there. These derelict traps present numerous hazards to fishermen and boaters. In addition to the safety hazards, the traps may also be having a negative effect on the fishery. The traps are required to be outfitted with a destruct device (F&G Code 9003). This device causes portions of the trap to degrade and prevent further capture of marine life. Unfortunately, many traps have been outfitted improperly, illegally, or the device does not function. These lost traps continue to catch crabs and invertebrates for many years.

The proposed derelict fishing gear removal program will benefit area fishermen and aid their compliance with state regulations. We look forward to working with the SeaDoc Society in implementing the pilot year of this program off our North Coast.

Please feel free to contact me for any additional information concerning state fishery regulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R. Farrell".

Warden Robert Farrell  
Patrol Boat ALBACORE  
619 2<sup>nd</sup> St.  
Eureka, CA 95501  
(707) 268-8824

Exhibit 4: Letters of Support

STATE OF CALIFORNIA-THE RESOURCES AGENCY

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, *Governor*

**DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

Marine Region  
213 Beach Street  
Morro Bay, CA 93442  
(805) 772-0114

May 12, 2005

Douglas Bosco  
Chairman  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to encourage you to consider supporting the SeaDoc Society's proposal to the State Coastal Conservancy to develop the California Derelict Fishing Gear Removal program. I am an Associate Biologist (Marine/Fisheries) in the Marine Region of the California Department of Fish and Game, in Morro Bay. Throughout my 24 year career I have participated in many underwater surveys (remotely operated vehicle and scuba diving) along the California coast and the Channel Islands. Unfortunately, I have observed an increase in the amount of derelict fishing gear in our state marine waters over the years. Not only is this a concern because of the potential hazard the derelict gear pose to boaters and divers, but also the potential impact this gear has on the marine habitat and resources. In addition, the derelict gear is a form of trash and does not belong in our ocean.

The proposed derelict fishing gear removal program will benefit our coastal marine environment. I look forward to working with the SeaDoc Society in implementing the pilot year of this program in the Morro Bay Area.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Ms. Christine Pattison, Associate Biologist in the Department's Marine Region, at (805) 772-0114.

Sincerely,



Christine Pattison

Exhibit 4: Letters of Support



The Marine Mammal Center  
Marin Headlands  
1065 Fort Cronkhite  
Sausalito, California 94965-2697  
Fax: 415.289.7333

Tel: 415.289.SEAL  
[www.tmmc.org](http://www.tmmc.org)

May 12, 2005

Douglas Bosco  
Chairman  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100  
Oakland, CA 94612

Monterey Bay Operations  
P.O. Box 778  
Moss Landing, California 95039

San Luis Obispo Operations  
P.O. Box 696  
Morro Bay, California 93443

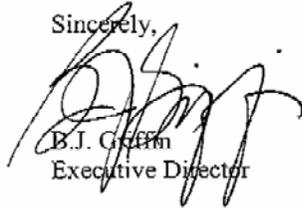
Anchor Bay Operations  
P.O. Box 381  
Gualala, California 95445

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to express my strong support for the SeaDoc Society's plan to develop a derelict fishing gear removal program in California. I am Executive Director of The Marine Mammal Center, the largest marine mammal rehabilitation organization on the North American west coast. Every year, we care for hundreds of seals and sea lions that strand up and down the California coast; and every year, we care for several animals that come in to our center with severe injuries due to entanglement in fishing gear. Some of them have pieces of net or line wrapped around their necks, while others have swallowed hooks and monofilament which have perforated their gastrointestinal tracts.

The proposed derelict fishing gear removal program would significantly improve the quality of the coastal marine environment we share with our native wildlife, making it a safer place for them to forage and migrate. We are very pleased that the SeaDoc Society is implementing a program for derelict fishing gear removal off our coast, and look forward to documenting fewer and fewer cases of gear-related injuries in our wildlife patients as a result.

Sincerely,



B.J. Griffin  
Executive Director