

Advocates for Wild, Healthy Oceans

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December 20, 2006
The Honorable Douglas Bosco
Chair, State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco:

The Ocean Conservancy, and our 25,000 members and activists in California, supports the staff recommendation for the disbursement by the Coastal Conservancy of up to \$4,215,000 for data collection, analysis, monitoring, and other actions to support the Marine Life Protection Act and Marine Life Management Act as specified in the Ocean Protection Council–Department of Fish and Game joint work plan. The projects are part of the \$10 million joint work plan approved by the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) on November 28, 2006.

The project and joint work plan are positive steps toward providing critically needed funds to implement the Marine Life Protection Act and Marine Life Management Act mandates to establish and implement networks of marine protected areas and manage fisheries sustainably.

We urge the Conservancy, OPC and the Department to continue to provide funding for the activities required to see the MLPA process through to completion in 2011. As part of this process, we urge that you also support funding for other essential elements that proved so successful in the south central region including a regional stakeholder group, Blue Ribbon Task Force with independent staff, and science advisory team.

Thank you for your valuable contributions to protecting California's marine resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim Eichenberg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Tim Eichenberg
The Ocean Conservancy

cc: Gary Stacey



December 29, 2006
The Honorable Douglas Bosco
Chair, State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: NRDC support for staff recommended OPC-DFG Joint Work Plan

Dear Chairman Bosco:

We're writing to express the support of the Natural Resources Defense Council and our 250,000 members and activists in California for the staff-recommended Ocean Protection Council-Department of Fish and Game Joint Work Plan (File No. 06-109). This proposed action would authorize disbursement by the Coastal Conservancy of up to \$4,215,000 for data collection, analysis, monitoring, and other actions to support the Marine Life Protection Act and Marine Life Management Act. These projects are part of the \$10 million joint work plan approved by the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) on November 28, 2006.

The funds in this proposal would be used for a variety of high priority information-gathering efforts, including collection of fishery-independent data that will help fill existing gaps and evaluate protected areas around the Channel Island and along the central coast. It will also be used to improve collection of fishery-dependent data, including development of electronic logbook systems that speed the collection and dissemination of fishery data and lay the groundwork for measures that reduce bycatch. This kind of information plays a key role in carrying out the MLMA and MLPA, and is valuable to NRDC and a broad range of other constituencies.

We commend the OPC and DFG for working cooperatively to produce this proposal. We urge you to approve it, and to continue your support for implementing our landmark ocean laws and their comprehensive approach to achieving a healthy coast and ocean.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Karen Garrison
Co-Director, NRDC Ocean Program