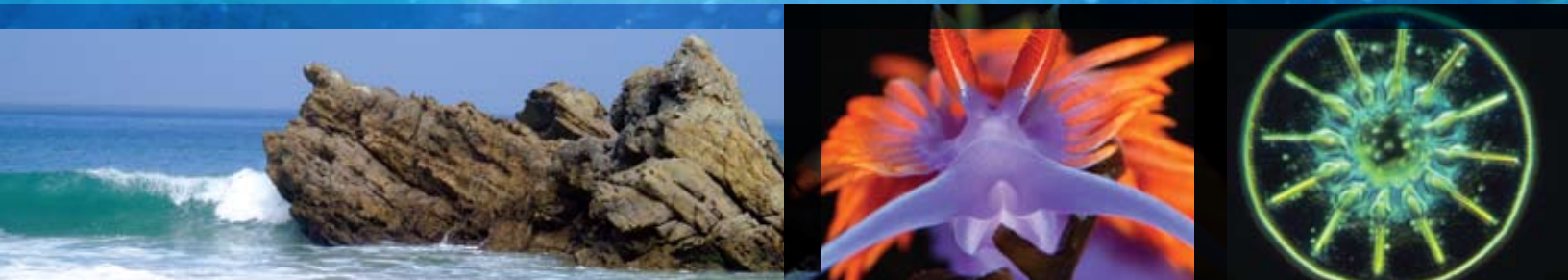


The California Ocean Science Trust

The California Ocean Science Trust (OST) is charged with promoting the use of sound, objective science to inform California's resource management decisions. To achieve this mission, the OST has two overarching goals:

- 1. Facilitate and enhance connections between science and management**
- 2. Institutionalize the integration of the best science into California coastal and ocean policy**

To achieve these goals, the OST fosters two programs, Science Integration and Piloting, Developing, and Incubating New Ventures. Visit the OST at www.calost.org.



PROGRAM 1:

SCIENCE INTEGRATION

Initiated in February 2007, the OST has provided science services to the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) and the agencies it coordinates, facilitating the integration of objective science into OPC projects and decision-making. The OST ensures that scientific proposals brought before the OPC have undergone objective, scientific scrutiny.

OPC-Science Advisory Team (OPC-SAT): Strengthening the Scientific Quality of Projects and Proposals for the State

One of the most critical roles of the OST is coordinating the OPC-SAT. Established in February 2008, the OPC-SAT is comprised of 24 esteemed scientists from across relevant disciplines and organizations, including both state university systems. They are charged with providing objective guidance and advice to the OPC and related agencies, including high level peer review of products and proposals coordinated by the OST. The OPC-SAT ensures that the OPC remains at the forefront of innovative ocean and coastal research and identifies emergent issues facing California.

OPC Science Advisor: Translating Science to Decision-makers and State Needs to Scientists

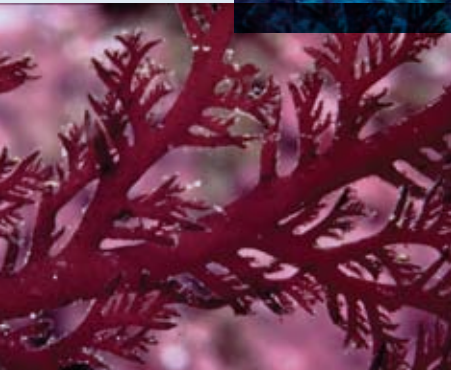
The OPC formally designated the Executive Director of the OST as its Science Advisor. In this role, the OST Executive Director works alongside decision-makers and scientists to promote the needs of the state to scientists while interpreting ongoing relevant research to the OPC. By actively participating in a wide variety of meetings, workshops, steering committees and advisory groups, the Science Advisor is uniquely positioned to inform the scientific community of OPC activities and support the policy actions of the OPC with the latest and most robust scientific research.

Providing Science-based Advice and Solutions for the State

Since 2007, the OST has provided in-house technical advice on numerous OPC agenda items, and convened technical workshops around topical issues directly related to policy. Further, the OST has coordinated complex peer reviewed studies to inform policy-makers, including the synthesis of all latest and relevant

information—biological, economic and legal—surrounding the highly politically charged issue of oil and gas platform decommissioning off California. Ideally positioned to undertake this task, the OST leveraged state funding with industry and private donations offered in support of this effort, and as an independent organization, applied its rigorous process to ensure the integrity and robustness of the final product. Presently, the OST is undertaking the coordination and implementation of other complex research projects, including the “Management Research and Information Prioritization Process” which will assess cross-agency research needs and target research to support multiple agencies. Also underway is “Aquatic Invasive Species Vector Risk Assessments” involving university scientists to identify the relative risks of six identified vectors; this work will provide a basis for policy decisions to better manage those vectors, thereby safeguarding natural resources.

To delve into the accomplishments of the OST on Science Integration, including links to many of the specific activities mentioned, visit www.calost.org/science_integration.html.



PROGRAM 2:

PILOTING, DEVELOPING, AND INCUBATING NEW VENTURES

The OST develops and institutionalizes new and innovative approaches for better linking science with policy and management. Supported by the OPC and working closely with the Department of Fish and Game, the OST is incubating the Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Monitoring Enterprise, created in 2007 to lead development of cost-effective monitoring of the statewide MPA network being established under the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA).

Our Process: Building Public Trust while Maintaining the Best Available Science

MPA Monitoring is the key to understanding whether or not the MPAs networks put in place are working toward their stated goals. In order to be effective, Monitoring Plans must be scientifically sound, and equally important, their results trusted by the public. The Monitoring Enterprise leads an extensive workshop process that brings together scientists, local stakeholders, and managers to design and implement MPA Monitoring Plans in each region of the California coast where MPAs are being established.

Working Region by Region: Incorporating the Unique Nature of California’s coast

Under the MLPA Initiative, the state is establishing networks of MPAs in each of five regions along the coast. The regions include the central coast, north central coast, the south coast, the north coast, and the San Francisco Bay estuary. Therefore, the Monitoring Enterprise works with its many partners to develop separate Monitoring Plans for each of the five regions. This allows the Monitoring Enterprise to take into account the diversity of both the ecology of California’s marine environment as well as the coastal communities that live there.

To delve into the accomplishments of the Monitoring Enterprise, including links to public events, visit www.calost.org/monitoring_ent.html.

