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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0517

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October 15, 2010

Mr. Lester Snow
Chairman
Ocean Protection Council
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, California 94612-2530
ATTN: Sheila Semans

Dear Council Members:

I write to express strong support for funds in aid of the Collaborative Fisheries Research (CFR) organization. This grant will enable a rising program to establish collaborative relationships among the fishing, management and scientific communities, support the management of sustainable West Coast fisheries, and foster stewardship of marine natural resources.

The funding requested will build critical capacity within the CFR organization, support an outreach campaign to identify research needs and capabilities, establish a communications network linking fishermen, management & scientists, and implement collaborative fisheries research that directly supports management needs.

As you know, collaborative fisheries research programs increase timeliness and affordability of data collection, reporting and analysis while providing supplemental information to fill critical data gaps. CFRs help build a mutual understanding and respect among participants by restoring and building trust between stakeholder communities, resource agencies and academic scientists. For these reasons and more, I have advocated for funding of the CFR program on the federal level.

I wholly support the mission and objectives of the OPC-funded Collaborative Fisheries Research program. The program and its efforts to facilitate the conservation and management of our coastal resources and to further develop sustainable fisheries along our coast are compelling and necessary.

Sincerely,



SAM FARR
Member of Congress

SF/bv

COMMITTEES

NATURAL RESOURCES, CHAIR
SELECT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITIES, CHAIR
JOINT COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES AND
AQUACULTURE, CHAIR

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BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE #2
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HIGHER EDUCATION

**Assembly
California Legislature**



WESLEY CHESBRO
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FIRST DISTRICT

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October 12, 2010

Lester Snow, Chair
Ocean Protection Council
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612-2530
ATTN: Sheila Semans

Dear Secretary Snow and Council Members:

I write to express strong support for the funding application made by Collaborative Fisheries Research (CFR), West. This grant will enable a nascent program establish collaborative relationships among the fishing, management and scientific communities, support the management of sustainable West Coast fisheries, and foster stewardship of marine natural resources.

Specifically, this funding will be used to build critical capacity within the CFR organization and support an outreach campaign to identify research needs and capabilities. In addition, it will allow the organization to establish a communications network linking fishermen, management and scientists as well as implement collaborative fisheries research that directly supports management needs.

I support the work of Collaborative Fisheries Research and urge you to approve their application for funding.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wesley Chesbro", written over a horizontal line.

WESLEY CHESBRO
Assemblyman, 1st Assembly District

cc: Sheila Semans, Project Specialist California Ocean Protection Council
Peter Nelson, Executive Director, Collaborative Fisheries Research West



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southwest Fisheries Science Center
3333 North Torrey Pines Court
La Jolla, CA 92037

October 13, 2010

Lester Snow, Chair
Ocean Protection Council
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612-2530
ATTN: Sheila Semans

Dear Council Members:

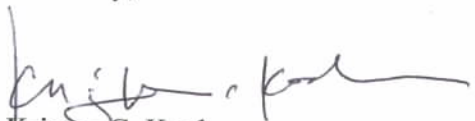
I write to strongly urge your support for funds in aid of the Collaborative Fisheries Research (CFR) organization (file no. 08-095-02). This grant will enable a nascent program establish collaborative relationships among the fishing, management and scientific communities, support the management of sustainable West Coast fisheries, link to federal cooperative research goals, and foster stewardship of marine natural resources.

The funding requested will:

- build critical capacity within the CFR organization
- support an outreach campaign to identify research needs and capabilities
- establish a communications network linking fishermen, management & scientists
- implement collaborative fisheries research that directly supports management needs

The objectives of the OPC-funded Collaborative Fisheries Research program are compatible with the mission of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Southwest Fishery Science Center (SWFSC). NMFS/SWFSC has a long history of working cooperatively with the California Department of Fish and Game and California Sea Grant on the scientific basis of management of a variety of west coast fishery resources, including salmon, squid, coastal pelagic species and groundfish. I anticipate working closely with the CFR program to support the conservation and management of our coastal resources and to further develop sustainable fisheries along our coast.

Sincerely,


Kristen C. Koch
Deputy Science and Research Director





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southwest Region
501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200
Long Beach, California 90802-4213

Lester Snow
Chairman
Ocean Protection Council
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, California 94612-2530

ATTN: Sheila Semans

Dear Mr. Snow:

On behalf of the NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, Southwest Region, I am taking this opportunity to express strong support for funding the Collaborative Fisheries Research (CFR) organization. These funds will permit the CFR to further develop its role in marine resource management as well as allow it to conduct collaborative research projects.

From our perspective, we see these collaborative projects as facilitating data collection efforts by fishermen, management, and scientific partnerships for supporting the information needs of the California Department of Fish and Game, the California Fish and Game Commission, the Ocean Protection Council, the Pacific Fishery Management Council, and NOAA. A clear consequence of these collaborative relationships will mean improved management of sustainable West Coast fisheries and continued stewardship of living marine resources.

The objectives of the OPC-funded CFR program compliment the mission of our organization. We anticipate working closely with the CFR program to support the conservation and management of our coastal resources and to further develop sustainable fisheries along our coast.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and for your support.

Sincerely,

for Heidi Taylor
Mark Helvey
Assistant Regional Administrator
for Sustainable Fisheries





California Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
1416 Ninth Street, 12th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
www.dfg.ca.gov

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor
JOHN McCAMMAN, Director



October 22, 2010

Lester Snow, Chair
California Ocean Protection Council
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530
Attn: Sheila Semans

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OCT 28 2010

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Dear Council Members:

The Department of Fish and Game (Department) supports the Collaborative Fisheries Research (CFR) organization that has recently been created with funding from the Ocean Protection Council (OPC). We recognize that additional funds would provide the opportunity for this enterprise to demonstrate its full potential to support the Department's fishery research and management mandates. Therefore, we encourage the OPC to consider the request for additional funding that has been submitted to you.

The Department values the concept of collaborative fishery research, as is evident by our current partnerships with over 60 entities where we already are actively engaged in mutually beneficial activities. These partnerships encompass a wide range of projects and varying levels of commitment, including cooperative and collaborative relationships, and formal agreements, all of which are consistent with Marine Life Management Act (MLMA) policy guidelines for constituent involvement.

One of the Department's key partners is the OPC, based upon the strong linkages between our missions and mandates. OPC staff sought the Department's input at an early stage as they worked to form the new CFR organization for California. The Department's research goals and priorities have been considered in the formation of the CFR organization, and the Department has been invited to play a significant role in guiding the further development of the program. Consequently, we view the CFR organization as a strong partner to assist the Department in further implementing the constituent involvement objectives of the MLMA, and we support the designation of additional OPC funding over and above the current allocation. Additional funding during the start-up phase may allow CFR projects of greater scope, and ability to more fully demonstrate the potential of CFR to inform management.

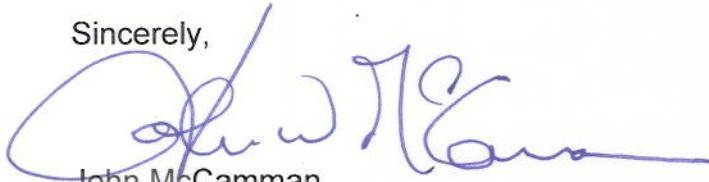
If additional funding is provided by OPC, the Department fully encourages the CFR organization to aggressively seek outside funding sources to match or supplement the State-based monies. This would help to create a self-sustaining organization that has a

Conserving California's Wildlife Since 1870

Lester Snow
Page 2 of 2
October 22, 2010

degree of independence from public funding sources and could insulate the organization somewhat from the volatility of the State budget.

Sincerely,



John McCamman
Director

cc: Mr. Sonke Mastrup, Deputy Director
Department of Fish and Game
1416 Ninth Street, 12th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dr. Amber Mace
Ocean Protection Council
California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Ms. Marija Vojkovich, Regional Manager
Department of Fish and Game
1933 Cliff Drive, Suite 9
Santa Barbara, CA 93109

Mr. Tom Barnes
Department of Fish and Game
4949 Viewridge Drive
San Diego, CA 92123

David Birts
President
Larry Collins
Vice-President
Duncan MacLean
Secretary
Mike Stiller
Treasurer

PACIFIC COAST FEDERATION of FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS



W.F. "Zeke" Grader, Jr.
Executive Director
Glen H. Spain
Northwest Regional Director
Vivian Helliwell
Watershed Conservation Director
In Memoriam:
Nathaniel S. Bingham
Harold C. Christensen

Please Respond to:

☒ **California Office**

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☐ **Northwest Office**

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

20 October 2010

Mr. Lester Snow, Chair
California Ocean Protection Council
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612-2530
ATTN: Sheila Semans

RE: Collaborative Fisheries Research

Dear Chairman Snow and Members:

The Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations (PCFFA), representing working men and women in the West Coast commercial fishing fleet, strongly supports the request for funds in aid of the Collaborative Fisheries Research (CFR) organization (File #08-095-02). This grant will enable the newly-created program to establish relationships among the fishing fleet, management and scientific communities, support the management of sustainable fisheries, and foster stewardship of marine natural resources.

The funding requested will:

- build critical capacity within the CFR organization,
- support an outreach campaign to identify research needs and capabilities,
- establish a communications network linking fishermen, management and scientists,
- and implement collaborative fisheries research that directly supports management needs.

The benefits of collaborative fisheries research are many, including:

- increasing timeliness and affordability of data collection, reporting and analysis,
- providing supplemental information to fisheries dependent data and filling critical data gaps left by current monitoring programs,
- improving access to vessels and other research platforms,
- improving fishermen's understanding of how fisheries information is collected and used in management,


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OCT 23 2010
COASTAL COORDINANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

- using the knowledge gained from fishermen to help design and implement research and inform management,
- building mutual understanding and respect among participants,
- increasing the accuracy and expanding the scope of fisheries resource surveys,
- encouraging stewardship of natural resources,
- providing resource agencies with the means to explore co-management strategies,
- and restoring or building trust between stakeholder communities, resource agencies and academic scientists.

The objectives of the OPC-funded Collaborative Fisheries Research program compliments the existing collaborative research PCFFA and its sister organization, the Institute for Fisheries Resources, has supported. Moreover, it compliments data collection from offshore observation systems (which OPC has supported) and research from dedicated vessels to lend to our overall knowledge of our fisheries and oceans. PCFFA was an early proponent of OPC involvement in support of collaborative fisheries research and looks forward to working closely with the CFR program.

We respectfully request your support and approval of this program.

Sincerely,



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



California Wetfish Producers Association

PO Box 1951 • Buellton, CA 93427 • Office: (805) 963-5430 • Mobile: (805) 350-3231 • Fax: (805) 686-9312 • www.californiawetfish.org

October 9, 2010

Secretary for Resources Lester Snow, Chair
Ocean Protection Council
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612-2530
ATTN: Sheila Semans

Dear Secretary Snow and Council Members:

On behalf of the California Wetfish Producers Association, I express our strong support for the Collaborative Fisheries Research (CFR) organization (file no. 08-095-02). We encourage you to grant the CFR funding request. This grant will facilitate collaborative relationships among the fishing, management and scientific communities, support the management of sustainable West Coast fisheries, and foster stewardship of marine natural resources.

As described in the CFR proposal, the funding requested will

- build critical capacity within the CFR organization,
- support an outreach campaign to identify research needs and capabilities,
- establish a communications network linking fishermen, management & scientists,
- and implement collaborative fisheries research that directly supports management needs.

The objectives of the OPC-funded Collaborative Fisheries Research program compliment the research mission of CWPA. CWPA has established a research program for market squid in partnership with the Department of Fish and Game and Southwest Fisheries Science Center, details of which we highlighted recently in the collaborative research session at the California World Oceans conference. We anticipate working closely with the CFR program to support the conservation and management of our coastal resources and to further ensure sustainable fisheries along our coast.

Thank you very much for your consideration and support.

Best regards,

Diane Pleschner-Steele, Executive Director

Representing California's Historic Fishery



CALIFORNIA SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM

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La Jolla, California 92093-0232

Phone: (858) 534-4440
Fax: (858) 534-2231
Web: <http://www.csgc.ucsd.edu>

October 13, 2010

Secretary Lester Snow
Chair, Ocean Protection Council
State Coastal Conservancy
13th floor, 1330 Broadway
Oakland, California 94612

Dear Secretary Snow:

On behalf of California Sea Grant, I wish to take this opportunity to urge the California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) to provide funding for the Collaborative Fisheries Research West Program (CFR). Funding from OPC would help to further develop the nascent organization and allow the Program to fund collaborative fisheries research (CFR) projects in coordination with the fishing community, the California Department of Fish and Game and the National Marine Fisheries Service. As you may be aware, with dwindling funds, fisheries management agencies are finding it difficult to collect fisheries data needed to protect fish populations and sustain coastal communities. A solution to this dilemma is to involve stakeholders in the collection and interpretation of data. CFR is the partnership between all stakeholders (including commercial and recreational fishermen, academic scientists, coastal managers, tribes, non-governmental organizations, and funders) who participate in all key elements of development (including setting goals and priorities, formulation of research questions, research design and implementation) to gather data for better management of the fisheries resource. Community engagement in science and resource management has been demonstrated to result in a more effective and socially acceptable process, one that can lead to better management and increased ocean stewardship with more broadly accepted management actions.

Several of us at California Sea Grant participated in the West Coast Collaborative Fisheries Research workshop hosted by OPC and the Resource Legacy Fund Foundation in early 2008. Participants at the workshop concluded that a dedicated program for west coast collaborative fisheries research be established to provide clarity of purpose and sustained mission. In particular, it was noted that the lack of long-term, consistent funding for past CFR projects could be addressed by a dedicated program.

California Sea Grant sponsors marine research, extension services, and education activities to support the management, conservation, and enhancement of those resources for the benefit of current and future generations. Within the Extension Program of the California Seas Grant, there are five advisors with areas of expertise in fisheries working as a statewide team to conduct applied research and share findings with relevant stakeholders. These fisheries extension advisors promote research, education and outreach projects aimed at understanding socio-economic factors affecting fishing communities, developing ecosystem-based management involving a diverse group of stakeholders and creating partnerships to address critical needs in coastal community development and fisheries management. Through the work of the fisheries extension advisors, California Sea Grant has been

conducting marine ecological research collaboratively with fishermen for more than 15 years and the for past six years, California Sea Grant has been involved with collaborative fisheries project to utilize the expertise of both scientists and fishermen to better understand the health of the fish stocks and marine ecosystems in California. The successful development of the Collaborative Fisheries Research West Program will be invaluable in supporting and coordinating the collaborative fisheries research efforts of not only our organization but also of California Department of Fish and Game, National Marine Fisheries Service, and NGOs.

I respectfully encourage the OPC to approve the necessary funding for the Collaborative Fisheries Research West Program. California Sea Grant would be delighted to see this Program successfully develop and would be most pleased to assist in its future endeavors to fund CFR projects that can better inform fisheries management decisions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shauna Oh", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Shauna Oh
Assistant Director
California Sea Grant College Program

Marine Interests Group San Luis Obispo County

Working Committee

Harvey Cohon
Sierra Club
Mel de la Motte
Central Coast Fisheries Cons. Coalition
Ray Fields
Aquaculture
Matt Fleming
SLO Surfrider Foundation
Annie Gillespie
Morro Bay National Estuary Program
Bruce Gibson
San Luis Obispo County Supervisor
Monica Hunter
Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo
Ermina Karim
SLO Chamber of Commerce
Carolyn Moffatt
Commissioner, Port San Luis Harbor Dist.
Jeremiah O'Brien
MB. Commercial Fishermen's Organization
Janice Peters
Mayor, City of Morro Bay
Henry Pontarelli
Morro Coast Audubon Society
John Rowley
Virg's Fishing & Whale Watching
Dave Sears
at large, ret'd California State Parks
Debra Stakes
Cuesta College
Bill Ward
Port San Luis Comm. Fishermen's Assn.
Margaret Webb
MBNMS Advisory Council
Dean Wendt, Ph.D.
Assoc. Prof., Cal Poly State University
Patricia Wilmore
PG&E Company

Web site:
www.mbnep.org/mig

Don Maruska
independent facilitator
895 Napa Ave. #A-5, Morro Bay, CA 93442
Phone: 805-772-4667
Fax: 805-772-4697
Email: marine@donmaruska.com

October 27, 2010

RE : Support for \$1.5 million to fund Collaborative Fisheries Research Organization [item #10, OPC Agenda, November 9, 2010] and request to sustain valuable data collection with proven protocols.

At its October 27, 2010, meeting, the Marine Interests Group of San Luis Obispo County (MIG) unanimously supported the proposed \$1.5 million funding proposal before the Ocean Protection Council for a Collaborative Fisheries Research Organization. With the critical need for improved data to resolve data poor conditions and the commitment of scientists and fishermen to work together, the MIG launched a collaborative fisheries research effort in 2003. The San Luis Obispo Science and Ecosystem Alliance (SLOSEA) with Professor Dean Wendt at Cal Poly carried this program forward in 2006. In 2007, the collaboration expanded with Rick Starr from the Moss Landing Marine Laboratory to form the California Collaborative Fisheries Research Program (CCFRP) covering Ano Nuevo to Pt. Conception with four ports and 15 fishing vessels sampling 35 species with rigorous scientific protocols.

Proven Value of Collaborative Fisheries Research

Some of CCFRP's key accomplishments include:

- Effective protocols developed with the active engagement of NOAA and CDFG scientists, academic scientists, and commercial and recreational fishermen.
- Over 400 fishermen have volunteered in excess of 19,000 hours to implement the protocols and catch, tag, and release more than 30,000 fish.
- Peer-reviewed publications and data series used in both MLPA baseline monitoring and stock assessment research.
- National recognition by the Blue Ribbon Panel for the Collaborative Fish Project.

Need for Continued Support

Many opportunities exist to build upon the foundation established:

- Continue time series data (long time series of 10+ years are critical to interpret trends and fisheries management).
- Use collaborative fisheries data in new analytical models to reduce data poor conditions and improve fisheries management.
- Implement key Marine Life Management Act Lessons Learned.

The collaborative efforts of scientists, resource managers, and fishermen working together create shared knowledge and build trust to pursue improved stewardship and economically vibrant fishing communities.

We urge support for the Collaborative Fisheries Research Organization.

Marine Interests Group of San Luis Obispo County