



**Proposed Resolution of the California Ocean Protection Council regarding the California Collaborative Approach: Marine Protected Areas Partnership Plan**

**December 2, 2014**

WHEREAS, California's Marine Protected Area (MPA) network was designed, designated and implemented using an inclusive approach that partnered with a broad constituency to shape and define the statewide network; and

WHEREAS, California is continuing to embrace partnerships as a key element to the effective long-term management of the MPA network; and

WHEREAS, California has identified an effectively managed statewide network of MPAs as a key management tool for supporting the natural diversity and abundance of marine life and increasing the resilience of ecosystems against impacts such as climate change; and

WHEREAS, California has played a long-standing leadership role in innovative approaches to coastal and ocean conservation and management which is exemplified by the continued development of partnerships with Californians to manage the MPA network; and

WHEREAS, the Ocean Protection Council's Strategic Plan 2012 – 2017 identifies as a priority working with a broad range of public and private entities that are engaged in marine resource protection and restoration activities to effectively advance MPA management including enforcement, research and monitoring, and education and outreach; and

WHEREAS, the Ocean Protection Council (OPC), together with Ocean Science Trust, the California Natural Resources Agency, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the California Fish and Game Commission have developed a novel collaborative approach to managing California's marine protected areas described in the California Collaborative Approach: Marine Protected Areas Partnership Plan (Partnership Plan); and

WHEREAS, the Partnership Plan establishes a network of MPA Collaboratives that span the coastline and connect the core state agencies to the various local groups and stakeholders interested and engaged in supporting and informing MPA management decisions; and

WHEREAS, the Partnership Plan offers California tribes a suite of options and contacts for engaging in communication and collaboration with the state on MPA management and more broadly on issues related to ocean health; and

WHEREAS, the Partnership Plan connects local and federal efforts with state management and includes a dispute resolution mechanism to encourage the resolution of issues quickly and efficiently among partners; and

WHEREAS, the Partnership Plan emphasizes using science to inform decision making and improving the integration of tribal traditional ecological knowledge and expertise of fishermen into the MPA management process; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the California Ocean Protection Council hereby:

Resolution of the California Ocean Protection Council regarding the California Collaborative Approach:  
Marine Protected Areas Partnership Plan

RESOLVES to adopt “The California Collaborative Approach: Marine Protected Area Partnership Plan” which provides a framework for a partnership based approach to MPA management that leverages resources, focuses on transparency and communication among partners and seeks to engage a broad constituency; and

FURTHER RESOLVES that through the implementation of the Partnership Plan, California’s resource agencies and supporting partners are committed to effective coordination guided by mutual benefit, trust, transparency and accountability to support the effective management of the MPA network; and

FURTHER RESOLVES that OPC staff will continue to manage and update an internal work plan with core partner state agencies to explicitly assign roles and responsibilities including identifying specific actions to ensure implementation of the Partnership Plan.