



## CALIFORNIA OCEAN PROTECTION COUNCIL

John Laird, Secretary for Natural Resources, Council  
Matt Rodriguez, Secretary for Environmental Protection  
Gavin Newsom, Lieutenant Governor, State Lands  
Fran Pavley, State Senator  
Bill Quirk, State Assemblymember  
Geraldine Knatz, Public Member  
Michael Brown, Public Member

To: California Ocean and Coastal Community

From: John Laird, Secretary for Natural Resources and Chair, California Ocean Protection Council

Date: July 29, 2015

Subject: Highlights from the July 29, 2015 Ocean Protection Council meeting

The Ocean Protection Council (OPC) held a meeting today, July 29, 2015 in Sacramento. Topics of discussion included fisheries management and the Refugio Beach oil spill. Below are highlights from the meeting. I look forward to seeing you at the next OPC meeting.

**Agenda item 4 Update on the Refugio Beach Oil Spill**

The Council received an update from California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Director Bonham on response efforts to the May 19, 2015 eruption of a pipeline and resulting oil spill near Refugio State Beach in Santa Barbara County. OPC's MPA Policy Advisor Cyndi Dawson informed the Council on how OPC's investment in MPA monitoring and in seafloor and coastal mapping has directly benefited response and assessment efforts.

**Agenda item 5 Fisheries Management**

The Council unanimously approved the disbursement of up to \$985,000 to CDFW and the California Ocean Science Trust (CalOST) to improve fisheries management in California. OPC will enter into an \$750,000 interagency agreement with CDFW to develop and implement a marine landings database. Up to \$235,000 will be granted to CalOST for the purposes of conducting an ecological risk assessment (including a pilot project), applying a productivity and susceptibility analysis to specified fisheries, and developing a climate change assessment. In addition to this funding request, Fisheries Policy Advisor Jacqueline Meyer presented draft findings from a "lessons learned" assessment of OPC's investments to date in fisheries management (Laird-aye, Rodriguez-aye, Schmidt-aye, Brown-aye).

Due to time constraints, agenda items 6 and 7 on climate change and marine protected area management, respectively, have been postponed to the next meeting.

A webcast of the meeting will be posted to the following website within the next 24 hours at <http://www.opc.ca.gov/category/meetings/> (click on “webcast” to the right of “July 29”).

The OPC meeting was preceded by a workshop on the emerging findings from the West Coast Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Science Panel (Panel). In addition to sharing with the public the Panel’s emerging findings, additional goals of the workshop were to explore examples of application of the Panel’s findings in resource management and policy and to discuss additional opportunities for science-informed action on these issues. For information specifically on the workshop, please visit <http://www.opc.ca.gov/category/meetings/> (click on “workshop” next to July 29, 2015).

For more meeting details, please visit our website: <http://www.opc.ca.gov/category/meetings/>