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Fish and Game Commission

Sonke Mastrup, Executive Director 1416 Ninth Street, Room 1320 Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 653-4899

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Wildlife Heritage and Conservation Since 1870

July 22, 2015

John Laird, Secretary Natural Resources Agency 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311 Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Secretary Laird:

The Fish and Game Commission (Commission) appreciates the leadership and generous support that the Natural Resources Agency and Ocean Protection Council (OPC) have provided toward implementing the Marine Life Management Act and the Marine Life Protection Act. Both the Commission and Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) have made realizing the vision of these acts priorities in our service to the people of California through management actions to support sustainable fisheries and marine protected areas.

Our collective work is far from done and there are many important tasks that still must be completed to see the vision come to fruition. I write this letter asking the leadership of the Agency and OPC to continue making strategic investments like those that have allowed us to make the significant progress we have realized to date; this includes OPC's scheduled action at its July 29, 2015 meeting to consider authorizing funds for new projects in support of California's state fisheries management. While the Commission is not in a position to support specific projects, it does rely on the Department's considerable experience and expertise to inform your decision-making process on our behalf.

The Commission looks forward to your support and wisdom, and stands ready to help in any way that it can.

Sincerely

Sonke Mastrup

Executive Director

ec: Members, Fish and Game Commission

Members, Ocean Protection Council

Catherine Kuhlman, Executive Director, Ocean Protection Council

Charlton Bonham, Director, Department of Fish and Wildlife