

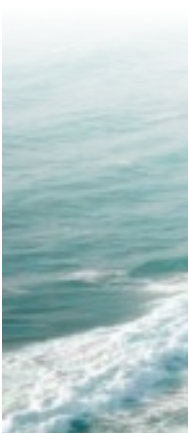


OCEAN PROTECTION COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

February 24, 2022 – June 14, 2022

Providing an update on outcomes and accomplishments since the previous OPC Meeting.



CONTENTS

UPDATES BY STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL.....	1
PROJECTS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DELEGATED AUTHORITY.....	7
LEGISLATION.....	8
PERSONNEL NOTES.....	11
COMMUNICATIONS.....	12

UPDATES BY STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL

Goal 1: Safeguard Coastal and Marine Ecosystems and Communities in the Face of Climate Change • Goal 2: Advance Equity Across Ocean and Coastal Policies and Actions • Goal 3: Enhance Coastal and Marine Biodiversity • Goal 4: Support Ocean Health through a Sustainable Blue Economy

GOAL 1: SAFEGUARD COASTAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS AND COMMUNITIES IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Prop 68 Solicitation - Improving Coastal Resilience

On May 5, OPC released a [solicitation](#) for projects that build resilience on the coast to prepare for and adapt to the impacts of sea-level rise (SLR). Specific project types include

research-based projects that focus on coastal habitat mapping, contaminated sites, and socio-economic impacts, and implementation projects that work to provide resilience to climate change through restoration and/or habitat enhancement. OPC anticipates distributing \$9.5 million through this round of Proposition 68, Chapter 10 funding. An [Informational Webinar](#) was held on May 19, and Letters of Intent (LOIs) were due June 13. Selected applications will be invited to submit full proposals by August 26. Recommended projects are expected to be brought to the December 2022 OPC meeting for funding approval.

Sea-Level Rise Action Plan Update

At the February 2022 OPC meeting, staff released the draft [State Agency Sea-Level Rise Action Plan](#), a collaborative effort to address coastal resilience through approximately 80 trackable actions. After the public release, OPC staff shared the Action Plan at six public meetings (California Coastal Commission, State Coastal Conservancy, State Lands Commission, Bay Conservation and Development Commission, San Diego Regional Climate Collaborative, and California State Association of Counties) and is initiating tribal consultation to solicit feedback that will strengthen this living document. OPC held a public comment period through June 3 and received letters from over 13 organizations, including environmental NGOs, scientific networks, and community-based organizations. Generally, the comments recommended clarifying SLR planning targets, strengthening the vision for the future of California's coast, considering wildlife impacts, and addressing equity concerns at a deeper level. Staff is currently reviewing comments and updating the Action Plan to incorporate feedback. The final version will be reviewed by the SLR Leadership Team and posted to the OPC website.

Sea-Level Rise Science and Planning Efforts

The recently released federal multi-agency 2022 [Sea Level Rise Technical Report](#) highlights the constantly evolving science on sea-level rise and the need to regularly update OPC's [Sea-level Rise Technical Guidance \(2018 Update\)](#). In order to support sea-level rise decision-making, planning, and projects, OPC is proposing ([Item 4a](#)) to update its Guidance with the most recent science. This update will support vulnerability and planning efforts such as [Items 4b](#) and [4c](#), to develop a Regional Sea-Level Rise Adaptation Guidance for San Francisco Bay and evaluate vulnerability of coastal habitats, respectively. This suite of projects, if approved, will support California's effort to address and adapt to sea-level rise utilizing a consistent and coordinated approach.

Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia (OAH)

OPC and California Sea Grant will host a Project Meeting on June 23 for the [recently funded OAH projects](#). The Principal Investigators of each project will have the opportunity to meet, learn about each funded project, and have a discussion to promote collaboration. Additionally, OPC has joined a workgroup of experts to help the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) develop a 303d listing process for OAH. This group consists of members from Oregon, California, Washington, and Alaska, and is working towards how this 303d listing process for OAH could translate to water quality criteria. The [OAH Modeling project](#), while still ongoing, shared interim results with OPC, the

California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), and a subset of the Oregon workgroup in May. Ultimately, the results from this OAH Modeling project are expected to inform both Oregon and California in assessment of OAH and water quality.

GOAL 2: ADVANCE EQUITY ACROSS OCEAN AND COASTAL POLICIES AND ACTIONS

Tribal Engagement Strategy

In fall 2021, OPC engaged more than 10 coastal tribes through listening sessions and government-to-government consultations aimed at soliciting tribes' perspectives on two key issues: 1) best practices for outreach and engagement between OPC and tribes, and 2) tribes' priorities for the coast and ocean. Based on feedback received from tribes, OPC staff have developed a draft Tribal Engagement Strategy, which is intended to serve as a framework for enhanced partnership between OPC and tribes. The draft Strategy is has been reviewed by CNRA's Assistant Secretary for Tribal Affairs and is currently being reviewed by the Governor's Office of the Tribal Advisor. In the coming months, OPC will distribute this draft to tribes for further consultation and collaboration. OPC staff would like to bring the final Tribal Engagement Strategy to the Council for consideration and possible adoption at its September 14, 2022 meeting.

Equity Plan Update

Last month, OPC released its comprehensive [draft Equity Plan](#) for a 45-day public review and comment period. The Equity Plan represents OPC's commitment to advancing equity across ocean and coastal policies and actions in California and strengthening internal efforts to create a more inclusive workplace and workforce for California's coasts and ocean. The draft was collaboratively developed with OPC staff and leadership, funding grantee, Better World Group (BWG), and members of OPC's Equity Plan [Environmental Justice \(EJ\) Advisory Group](#). The Equity Plan highlights the equity efforts within coastal and ocean policymaking and research that are primed for statewide action. Specifically, the Plan outlines priorities, milestones, and outcomes to increase communication and outreach; provide targeted funding and technical assistance; improve staff training and capacity; strengthen environmental justice policies, and further integrate community science and tribal expertise into decision-making.

The public can access the draft Equity Plan at www.opc.ca.gov/equity and submit public comments to OPCEquityPlan@resources.ca.gov by June 23, 2022. Feedback and outcomes from public comment will inform the final proposed Plan, which OPC staff anticipate bringing to the Council for consideration and possible adoption at its September 14 meeting this year. OPC intends on releasing a version of the final proposed Plan in both English and Spanish.

GOAL 3: ENHANCE COASTAL AND MARINE BIODIVERSITY

Statewide Microplastics Strategy: Research Solicitation

Following the adoption of the [Statewide Microplastics Strategy](#) during the February 2022 Council Meeting, OPC has committed to releasing a research proposal in partnership with California Sea Grant to advance the research priorities outlined in the Statewide Microplastics Strategy and California Ocean Litter Strategy. Staff is in the process of

defining the scope of a forthcoming research solicitation centered on advancing standardized methods and source attribution of microplastics statewide. It is anticipated the research solicitation will be brought before the Council for approval and public release of the competitive solicitation during the September 14, 2022 OPC meeting.

California Ocean Litter Strategy

OPC is hosting a California Ocean Litter Strategy Workshop in partnership with NOAA Marine Debris Program on June 21 and June 22. The [virtual workshop](#) will discuss the six goals of the [California Ocean Litter Strategy](#) (Goal 1: Reduce Use of Items that Contribute to Ocean Litter; Goal 2: Changes in Product Materials & Design; Goal 3: Improve Waste Management & Pathway Interception; Goal 4: Research; Goal 5: Behavior Change; Goal 6: Reduce Ocean-Sources of Debris) and share information on projects and research that advance the California Ocean Litter Strategy and Statewide Microplastics Strategy to prevent and reduce ocean litter in California. [Registration](#) for this public workshop is open until June 15, 2022.

California's 30x30 Initiative

On April 22, California released the final draft of [Pathways to 30x30: Accelerating Conservation oalifornia's Nature](#), which details the state's approach to conserving 30% of our lands and coastal waters by 2030. OPC coordinated closely with California Natural Resources Agency leadership on the coastal and ocean components of *Pathways to 30x30*. Currently, OPC [estimates that 16% of coastal waters are conserved](#) through the state's marine protected area (MPA) network. Moving forward, OPC will be working with California Native American tribes, the research community, other state and federal agencies, and coastal stakeholders – including environmental organizations and fishing communities – to conserve an additional half a million acres of coastal waters by implementing science-based protections that address the most serious threats to coastal and ocean biodiversity. As a first step, in the coming weeks, OPC will meet with NOAA leadership to discuss strengthened biodiversity protections for National Marine Sanctuaries in California.

Restoration and Mitigation Policy Statement

OPC staff have developed a draft policy for restoration and mitigation for coastal and ocean habitats. Although habitat restoration and mitigation activities have been occurring for years in California, the state currently lacks a comprehensive policy for such activities within marine waters, resulting in a piecemeal and inconsistent approach. This new policy will provide a consistent, standardized foundation for evaluation and approval of such efforts. The draft policy is currently being reviewed by an expert panel that includes Dr. Sean Anderson (CSU Channel Islands), Dr. Richard Ambrose (UCLA), Dr. Marissa Baskett (UC Davis), Dr. Peter Raimondi (UC Santa Cruz), and Whelan Gilkerson (Merkel & Associates). The review panel will meet to provide feedback on June 15, and OPC will subsequently revise the draft policy and share with partner agencies for input. OPC anticipates finalizing and publicly releasing the policy at the end of 2022.

Ask the Researcher Webinar Series

On May 24, OPC, in partnership with CDFW and Strategic Earth Consulting, kicked off an eight-part virtual summer webinar series that unpacks the results of the latest state-

funded [MPA long-term monitoring projects](#). Each one-hour webinar is open to the public; no pre-registration required. Recordings will be made available with closed captioning after the series is completed. Information about MPA monitoring, including the full technical reports and 'snapshot' reports highlighting key report findings (in English and Spanish), are available on [OPC's website](#). Webinars on kelp forest ecosystems and rocky intertidal habitats were held at the end of May. [Join](#) the remaining upcoming webinars:

- June 23, 2022: Ocean Conditions Observing Systems
- June 24, 2022: Sandy Beach and Surf Zone Ecosystems
- July 18, 2022: California Collaborative Fisheries Research Program
- July 20, 2022: Commercial and CPFV Fisheries
- August 9, 2022: Estuary Ecosystems
- August 11, 2022: Mid-Depth Rocky Habitats

Proposition 68 Chapter 9 Solicitation Scoping: MPAs & Climate Resilience

Staff is currently scoping a \$2 million competitive solicitation to advance our scientific understanding of the intersection of California's MPA Network and climate change, including potential areas of refuge, vulnerability, and resilience. Proposed projects should be responsive to priorities and gaps outlined in the [Climate Resilience and California's MPA Network](#) report developed by an OPC-SAT working group in 2021. The call for proposals is anticipated to be released in Summer 2022 using Proposition 68, Chapter 9 funds.

Supporting Sustainable Marine Fisheries

OPC staff is currently working to develop a comprehensive strategy for attaining climate-resilient fisheries in California. This strategy is a necessary step to ensure long-term sustainability of our marine fisheries in the face of changing ocean conditions that California is already beginning to experience. As a first step in this process, OPC staff is bringing before the Council a [proposal to support CDFW in updating California's Market Squid Fishery Management Plan](#). The market squid fishery is one of the state's largest and most valuable fisheries as well as one that is facing some of the most immediate pressures from climate change. The proposed package will fund research to better understand market squid's genomic landscape as well as to support facilitation of the Squid Fishery Advisory Committee, the body responsible for reviewing and updating the Market Squid Fisheries Management Plan. The advisory committee process is anticipated to begin Fall 2022 and take approximately one year to complete.

Unexpected Whale Entanglements Prompt Early Closure of Dungeness Crab Season

On March 25, 2022, CDFW director Charlton H. Bonham announced the closure of the commercial Dungeness crab fishery in Fishing Zones 3, 4, 5 and 6 (Sonoma/Mendocino County line to the U.S./Mexico border) due to elevated entanglement risk as assessed under the Risk Assessment Mitigation Program (RAMP). All commercial Dungeness crab traps were removed from the fishing grounds by the April 8. The cause of the early season closure was the unexpected entanglement of two humpback whales observed entangled in Dungeness crab fishing gear in Monterey Bay and near Half Moon Bay in mid-March. The presence of what are thought to be younger whales near shore and in close proximity

to crab fishing gear in March (normally assumed to be a lower risk month) surprised researchers, managers and fishermen alike. The unexpected season closure and subsequent economic impact highlights the need for continued research and monitoring to better understand how changing ocean conditions are affecting whale movements along the California coast, as well as development of gear innovations to allow fishing to continue without additional risk to whales.

Proposed Requirements to Seek Chemical Alternatives in Vehicle Tires

Under a new regulation proposed by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), companies manufacturing motor vehicle tires for sale in California will have to evaluate safer alternatives to 6PPD, a chemical that transforms into a toxicant known as 6PPD-quinone that [researchers](#) found kills coho salmon as the fish migrate upstream from the ocean to inland headwaters to spawn. DTSC's formal rulemaking process aims to list motor vehicle tires containing 6PPD as a [Priority Product](#) under the Safer Consumer Products Program, with the intent of adopting this regulation by early 2023. The [public comment](#) period for this rulemaking proposal is open until July 5, 2022.

GOAL 4: SUPPORT OCEAN HEALTH THROUGH A SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY

Offshore Wind

The Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management (BOEM) is moving forward with its timeline aimed at announcing lease sales in late 2022. On May 26, 2022, BOEM announced proposed auction details and lease terms for offshore wind energy development in the [Morro Bay Wind Energy Area](#) and [Humboldt Wind Energy Area](#), located offshore central and northern California, respectively. The California Proposed Sale Notice provides detailed information about potential areas that could be available for leasing, proposed lease provisions and conditions, auction details, and lease execution. The proposal includes up to five lease areas within the two Wind Energy Areas (WEAs) off California for potential commercial wind energy development. The proposed lease areas in the Humboldt and Morro Bay WEAs consist of approximately 373,268 acres (583 square miles) and have the potential to unlock over 4.5 gigawatts (GW) of offshore wind energy. The California Coastal Commission unanimously approved consistency determinations for the Humboldt WEA in April 2022 and the Morro Bay WEA on June 8, 2022.

The California Energy Commission (CEC) is also leading implementation of [AB 525](#) and convened a [workshop](#) on May 18, 2022 to review CEC's draft report proposing maximum feasible capacity and megawatt planning goals for 2030 and 2045, as required by AB 525. Planning goals of 3 GW by 2030 and 10-15 GW by 2045 were proposed for the purposes of the strategic planning process with refinement possible based on further evaluation. The megawatt planning goals do not include an evaluation of potential impacts to marine and cultural resources or ocean uses. Based on feedback at the May 18 hearing, however, CEC is scheduling a follow-up hearing to explore higher megawatt planning goals. OPC staff are supporting the interagency strategic planning process through participation on working groups and funding relevant research.

Promoting Sustainable Aquaculture - Aquaculture Action Plan

The development of the statewide Aquaculture Action Plan is proceeding on schedule with completion planned for early 2023. The Conservation Aquaculture Research Team (CART) at the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS) and California Sea Grant, in close partnership with OPC staff, completed reviewing all agency comments on the initial draft of the Action Plan. After consultation with OPC staff and the Aquaculture Leadership Team (ALT) member agencies, a new Action Plan outline was developed and received sign-off from the ALT at their May 25 meeting. The CART team is building out a new draft action plan based on the approved outline, which will be provided to the ALT for review and feedback in July 2022, with release for public review and comment anticipated in December 2022.

PROJECTS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DELEGATED AUTHORITY

Grantee	Project	Amount	Description
Conservation Biology Institute (CBI)	Phase 3: Model Enhancements and Support for California Offshore Wind Energy Planning and Prioritization	\$135,012	In this next project phase, CBI will continue providing support to State agency staff and key stakeholders, as well as expand the models to include additional information. CBI will focus on enhancing the Ocean Uses and Environmental Considerations Environmental Evaluation Modeling System (EEMS) models , based on the highest State and stakeholder priorities. CBI will identify and acquire additional spatial data of high value to OSW planning and integrate it into the EEMS modeling framework, consulting with subject matter experts on refining the model structure as appropriate. CBI will focus on data acquisition and processing for additional marine mammals (pinnipeds, sea otters), bats, benthic habitats, prey base, and upwelling. Also, new key fisheries data could be incorporated as it becomes available.
Point Blue Conservation Science	Enhancing Offshore Wind Energy Siting Models	\$199,891	Point Blue has developed a spatial model that evaluates the potential impacts of offshore wind energy development on wildlife, habitats and human uses of the ocean. Phase II of this project is to enhance recently created models that identify areas that maximize energy generation potential while preserving

			existing ocean uses and protecting the marine and coastal environments by incorporating additional datasets, expanding the vulnerability assessments, getting feedback on the models, and publishing this work in a peer reviewed journal.
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LEGISLATION

OPC staff are tracking the following coastal and ocean-related legislative proposals that have passed from their house of origin:

[AB 1611](#) (Davies) - Oil spills: potential casualties with submerged oil pipelines: vessels: reporting

This bill would require a potential casualty with a submerged oil pipeline to be treated as a threatened discharge of oil in waters of the state pursuant to the above-specified reporting provision of the Lempert-Keene-Seastrand Oil Spill Prevention and Response Act. The bill would require the operator of a vessel involved in a potential casualty with a submerged oil pipeline to immediately report the potential casualty to the office and would subject a vessel operator who fails to make that report to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$1,000,000 for each violation.

[AB 1832](#) (L. Rivas) - Waters subject to tidal influence: hard mineral extraction

This bill would repeal the State Lands Commission's existing authorization to issue leases or grant permits for the extraction or removal of hard minerals from tidelands or submerged lands of the state. This bill would effectively prohibit seabed mining in California.

[AB 2016](#) (Bauer-Kahan) - State Water Resources Control Board: desalination plant: feasibility study

This bill would request the California Council on Science and Technology, in consultation with the Department of Water Resources, to undertake and complete a comprehensive feasibility study of the desalination of ocean water, brackish water, and groundwater and the potential impact of desalination plants along the San Francisco Bay and inland lakes and streams.

[AB 2109](#) (Bennett) - White sharks: prohibition on use of attractants

This bill would make it unlawful to use any bait, lure, or chum to attract any white shark or to place any shark bait, shark lure, or shark chum into the water within one nautical mile of any shoreline, pier, or jetty when a white shark is either visible or known to be present except if the activity is authorized by a permit issued by the department for scientific, educational, or propagation purposes.

[AB 2225](#) (Ward) - Resource conservation: Native American tribes: tribal ecological knowledge

This bill would require the Natural Resources Agency to conduct regional workshops with

Native American tribes across the state to solicit input, priorities, and concerns regarding the state's collection, acquisition, storage, and use of traditional ecological knowledge by January 1, 2024. The bill would require the agency, in consultation with the Governor's tribal advisor, to adopt a policy regarding the state's collection, acquisition, storage, and use of traditional ecological knowledge by July 1, 2024.

[AB 2248 \(E. Garcia\)](#) - Water quality: California-Mexico cross-border rivers

This bill would make \$100,000,000 available from the General Fund, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to the California Environmental Protection Agency to address water quality problems arising in the rivers that come across the border from Mexico. Of that amount, the bill would make \$50,000,000 available for purposes consistent with the New River Water Quality, Public Health, and River Parkway Development and \$50,000,000 available for purposes consistent with water quality projects for the Tijuana River.

[AB 2257 \(Boerner Horvath\)](#) - State Lands: oil and gas leases: cost study

This bill would require the State Lands Commission to develop, on or before December 31, 2024, a cost study that measures the fiscal impact of a voluntary buy-out of any lease interests in actively producing state offshore oil and gas leases in state waters.

[AB 2278 \(Kalra\)](#) - Natural Resources - biodiversity & conservation report

This bill would require the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency to prepare and submit, beginning on or before January 1, 2024, an annual report to the Legislature on the progress toward achieving the directives of Executive Order No. N-82-20, establishing the California Biodiversity Collaborative and conserving at least 30% of the state's lands and coastal waters by 2030.

[AB 2287 \(Stone\)](#) - California Ocean Resources Stewardship Act of 2000

This bill would rename the California Ocean Trust to the California Ocean Science Trust and make conforming changes to administer grants and expenditures of the trust for specified purposes from private and public fund sources.

[AB 2758 \(O'Donnell\)](#) - Southern Los Angeles: ocean dumpsites: chemical waste

This bill would require the California Environmental Protection Agency, until January 1, 2027, to hold at least 4 public meetings per year, with the first meeting occurring on or before March 31, 2023, to provide members of the public with current information on the agency's efforts to study and mitigate DDT and other chemical waste located at Dumpsite-1 and Dumpsite-2 off the coast of Los Angeles.

[SB 54 \(Allen\)](#) - Plastic Pollution Producer Responsibility Act

This bill would establish the Plastic Pollution Producer Responsibility Act to prohibit producers of single-use, disposable packaging or single-use, disposable food service ware products from offering for sale, selling, distributing, or importing in or into the state such packaging or products that are manufactured on or after January 1, 2032, unless they are recyclable or compostable.

[SB 852 \(Dodd\)](#) - Climate resilience districts: formation: funding mechanisms

This bill would authorize a city, county, city and county, special district, or a combination of any of those entities to form a climate resilience district, as defined, for the purposes of

raising and allocating funding for eligible projects and the operating expenses of eligible projects.

SB 867 (Laird) – Sea level rise: planning and adaptation

This bill would require a local government located in whole or in part within the coastal zone or the jurisdiction of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission to address sea level rise planning and adaptation through either a local coastal program or a San Francisco Bay shoreline coastal resiliency plan, as applicable, by January 1, 2026, and to update that planning and adaptation every 5 years.

SB 1036 (Newman) - California Conservation Corps: California Ocean Corps Program

This bill would require the California Climate Corps director to establish and administer the California Ocean Corps Program to provide competitive grants to certified local conservation corps located in coastal communities in order to provide opportunities for young people to complete workforce preparation, training, and education programs, and to obtain employment, or continue education, in ocean and coastal conservation or related fields.

SB 1078 (Allen) - Sea Level Rise Revolving Loan Pilot Program

This bill would require the Ocean Protection Council, in consultation with the State Coastal Conservancy, to develop the Sea Level Rise Revolving Loan Pilot Program for purposes of providing low-interest loans to local jurisdictions for the purchase of coastal properties in their jurisdictions identified as vulnerable coastal property, located in specified communities, including low-income communities.

SB 1123 (Caballero) - Resilience Navigators Program: climate change resilience financial assistance programs

This bill would require the Office of Planning and Research, on or before July 1, 2023, to establish within the program the Resilience Navigators Program to provide information and guidance to potential applicants for state programs that offer financial assistance, including grants or loans, to develop or implement plans, programs, or projects that seek to create, improve, or enhance resilience to climate change. This bill would require the Natural Resources Agency, on or before July 1, 2024, and in coordination with the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program and state entities represented in the California Climate Adaptation Strategy, to develop an interactive internet website that displays the state's climate adaptation strategy, including the strategy's priorities, goals, actions, metrics, timeframes, and lead agencies.

PERSONNEL NOTES

Yi-Hui Wang, Offshore Wind Program Manager

Yi-Hui joined OPC as an Offshore Wind Program Manager on June 1. Working in our Climate Change Program, Yi-Hui's work supports the efforts related to offshore wind development off the coast of California. Prior to joining OPC, Yi-Hui was a researcher at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, assessing offshore wind resources and estimating potential effects of offshore wind development. She is from Taiwan and holds a BS in Atmospheric Sciences from the National Taiwan University. She got her Ph.D. in Earth System Science in the University of California, Irvine, and was a postdoctoral fellow in Jet Propulsion Laboratory. During her free time, she likes to read, camp, do photography, and play volleyball and badminton.



Stacy Hayden, Communications Manager

Stacy joined OPC on June 9 as our new Communications Manager and will lead OPC's strategic communications and community engagement efforts. Stacy has almost two decades of experience as a communication entrepreneur and a communications specialist with the State. She is a certified UC California Naturalist and also holds naturalist certifications from NOAA focused on the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary and great white sharks. Stacy has spent years volunteering as a National Park Service marine mammal docent in Point Reyes and has worked as a naturalist on great white shark diving boats and whale watching trips. She earned a BS in Geography and a BA in Philosophy from Arizona State University. Stacy enjoys kayaking, mountain biking, hiking, and trail running – usually with multiple cameras on hand.



OPC 2022 Summer Interns

OPC is proud to announce the second cohort of interns participating in our 10-week paid Summer Internship program, first launched in 2021. This Internship Program provides rising junior and senior undergraduate college students with an opportunity to gain hands-on experience with a small state agency focused on protecting and enhancing the state's coastal and ocean ecosystems. We are thrilled to welcome five students who will begin their internships throughout the month of June:

- Alyssa Jain: Environmental Studies at UC Santa Barbara
- Gloria Jin: Public Relations and Environmental Studies at the University of Southern California
- Jas Martin: Fisheries Biology at Cal Poly Humboldt
- Thai Le: Environmental Sciences at UC Riverside
- Elizabeth Nguyen: Marine Biology at UC San Diego

Additionally, in the fifth year of its partnership with the Haas Center for Public Service's Undergraduate Fellowships Program at Stanford University, OPC welcomes Emily Zhao, who is majoring in Earth Systems, as our Stanford Summer Fellow.

All six students will work closely with a staff mentor and lead a specific project with a discrete deliverable that advances priorities in OPC's Strategic Plan. The interns will also work together on a collaborative project, contributing to sections of OPC's Annual Coast and Ocean Report. Presentations on their work and reflections on their experience will be scheduled for the September 14 Council meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS

Media Highlights:

Los Angeles Times: [San Francisco D.A. sues fisherman for nearly \\$1 million for 'egregious' illegal crabbing](#)

CDFW: [CDFW Announces Closure of Commercial Dungeness Crab Fishery off Central California to Protect Humpback Whales](#)

New York Times: [In a First, California Plans to Clean Up Microplastics](#)

New York Times: [Warmer Oceans Threaten Another California Forest, This One Underwater](#)

Bloomberg: [Scientists Unveil High-Tech Tool to Save Rainforests of the Ocean](#)

Los Angeles Times: [Love maps and want to save California's wild spaces? This site is for you](#)

Los Angeles Times: [Study finds mysterious DDT chemicals in California condors](#)

National Geographic: [More and Better U.S. Marine Protected Areas Needed to Protect Key Ecosystems](#)

Popular Science: [Climate change is making the ocean lose its memory. Here's what that means.](#)

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