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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

March 1, 2024 – June 4, 2024

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

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Budget

The 2021 and 2022 Budget Acts committed \$1.3 billion to advance ocean and coastal resilience over multiple years. However, given the state's \$37.9 billion shortfall, the Governor's proposed FY24/25 budget outlines the following General Fund solutions to OPC's funding to help balance the state budget:

- **Ocean and Coastal Ecosystem Resilience:** OPC received an original appropriation of \$100 million over two years (FY 22/23 and FY 23/24) for resilience projects that conserve, protect, and restore marine wildlife and healthy ocean and coastal ecosystems.

The January budget proposed to reduce funding by \$35 million, retaining \$65 million (\$50 million in FY 22/23 and \$15 million in FY 23/24). Of the FY 22/23 appropriation, over \$35 million has already been committed for projects and staff support.

The May Revise proposes to maintain the remaining \$27.5 million, but shifts the funding source from General Fund to Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF).

- **Senate Bill 1 Implementation:** OPC received an original appropriation in FY22/23 of \$37.5 million in Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds (GGRF), \$54.5 million in General Funds in FY23/24 and an anticipated additional \$10 million in General Funds (FY24/25) to support the implementation of Senate Bill 1 (Atkins, 2021), which requires OPC to administer grants to local and regional governments to complete sea level rise adaptation plans and implement adaptation projects along the coast and shoreline of the San Francisco Bay.

The January budget proposed to reduce funding in FY 23/24 by \$51.8 million and shifted \$36.8 million from the General Fund to GGRF in FY24/25, resulting in an overall reduction of \$25 million.

The May Revise proposes to maintain the remaining \$77 million for this program with a two-year delay of \$36.8 million in GGRF from FY 24/25 to FY 26/27.

Updates By Strategic Plan Goal

Goal 1: Safeguard Coastal and Marine Ecosystems and Communities in the Face of Climate Change

State of California Sea Level Rise Guidance: 2024 Science and Policy Update

To support sea level rise preparedness in California, OPC partnered with the Ocean Science Trust (OST) and a scientific Task Force to update California's Sea Level Rise Guidance with the best available science and updated planning and decision-making guidance. The draft State of California

Sea Level Rise Guidance: 2024 Science and Policy Update (Guidance), released January 19, 2024 for a 45-day public comment period, featured the best available science to update sea level rise (SLR) projections through 2150 and will replace the 2018 Update of the State of California Sea Level Rise Guidance previously adopted by OPC. This Guidance is updated approximately every five years and includes updated projected sea level rise and guidance to help state, tribal, local, and regional jurisdictions integrate this science into coastal adaptation projects, resilience planning, and investments. The final Guidance is scheduled to be presented to the Council for consideration of adoption as [Item 4](#) at the June 4, 2024 Council meeting.

Senate Bill 1 Sea Level Rise Adaptation Planning Grant Program – Technical Assistance Program Launch

On March 27, 2024, the Senate Bill 1 Technical Assistance Program (SB 1 TA Program) was launched in partnership with Coastal Quest. Complementing the SB 1 Sea Level Rise Adaptation Planning Grant Program (SB 1 Grant Program), the SB 1 TA Program supports eligible local, regional, and tribal governments facing significant sea level rise threats along the California coast and San Francisco Bay shoreline. Prioritizing environmental justice communities, federally recognized California Native American tribes, small and rural communities, and applicants facing locally-specific barriers to sea level rise planning, the program provides tailored technical assistance to help these entities prepare and submit applications for the SB 1 Grant Program. Services include grant requirement guidance, proposal development, project conceptualization, and more. Further details on eligibility and application procedures can be found on the [SB 1 Funding webpage](#).

Nature-Based Solutions Targets

On April 22, Earth Day, California Natural Resource Agency (CNRA) released 81 targets to use millions of acres to help absorb carbon emissions, the first for the state and among the most comprehensive in the world. [California's Nature-Based Solutions Climate Targets](#), as called for by Governor Newsom's California Climate Commitment, the 81 targets for nature-based solutions will strategically harness the equivalent of more than half of the state to fight the climate crisis and help California achieve its world-leading climate goals, including carbon neutrality by 2045. The specific targets call for 1.5 million of deserts and beaches to be managed to protect fragile ecosystems and 233,000 acres of wetlands and seagrass to protect coastal ecosystems.

Goal 2: Advance Equity Across Ocean and Coastal Policies and Actions

Environmental Justice Advisory Board for California's Coast and Ocean

In May, OPC and partners at [Better World Group](#) announced the [inaugural Environmental Justice Advisory Board for California's Coast and Ocean](#) (EJ Advisory Board), comprised of community leaders and advocates who represent California's diverse regions and communities. The primary purpose of the Environmental Justice Advisory Board is to provide advice and share perspectives to advance equity across OPC and state programs that impact the coast and ocean. BWG and OPC staff will facilitate focused quarterly meetings with EJ Advisory Board members to share their expertise and perspectives on key [Equity Plan](#) and [Strategic Plan](#) priorities to advance equity and environmental justice goals and outcomes statewide. The first convening is scheduled to take place May 29, 2024; the session focused on onboarding members and collaboratively informing the development of a draft Charter, including shared principles, to ensure relevance and effectiveness in guiding the EJ Advisory Board's activities.

Members and their respective geographic area are listed below:

- Frank Buncom IV (he/him), San Diego
- Patricia J. Flores Yrarrázaval (she/they), Los Angeles
- Sonya Hammons (she/they), San Francisco Bay Area
- Hannah Lent (she/her), Central Coast
- Carlos Moran (he/him/él), Los Angeles
- Luis Neuner (he/him), North Coast
- Mario Ordoñez (he/him), San Diego

Environmental Justice Small Grants Program

Last summer, OPC initiated a partnership with [Justice Outside](#) to develop, design, and steward an Environmental Justice (EJ) Small Grants Program through Justice Outside's [Liberated Paths Grantmaking Program](#), in partnership with the State Coastal Conservancy. In February 2024, Justice Outside [announced the upcoming grant opportunity](#), including offering four informational webinars to give interested applicants an opportunity to meet Justice Outside staff, to learn about their relationship-driven/trust-based approach to grantmaking, and to learn about eligibility details and application process for the grant program. Grant applications were accepted between March and April 2024 to fund projects and programming that engage people in ocean and coastal conservation at the intersection of racial justice, including addressing ocean and coastal issues, advocacy, research, education, awareness, equitable access to the California coast, and more. Applications are currently undergoing evaluation and scoring; the selection committee anticipates announcing the final awarded grantees by July 2024.

Proposition 68 Grant Guideline Revision

OPC's priorities for Prop 68 funding are projects that contribute to healthy coast and ocean ecosystems, while also improving community resilience to climate change and adaptation. Following the adoption of OPC's [Equity Plan](#), which includes explicit recommendations to improve equitable grantmaking and to support community engagement, partnership, and priorities in project development, OPC staff are updating the Prop 68 grant guidelines to improve community engagement and project criteria to advance and prioritize projects that are meaningfully informed by local community priorities. The draft Prop 68 guidelines update is scheduled to be released for public review and comment in June 2024 with virtual webinars and listening sessions to take place this summer. The final grant guidelines are anticipated to be brought to the Council for consideration and approval at the September 10, 2024 Council meeting.

Tribal Nature-Based Solutions Grant Program

To support implementation of OPC's first-of-its-kind [Tribal Engagement Strategy](#), designed to enhance collaboration with California Native American tribes on coastal and ocean issues, OPC committed \$1 million to California's [Tribal Nature-Based Solutions](#) (TNBS) Program with the goal of restoring culturally important habitats and species, improving tribal access to the coast and ocean, and supporting tribally-led stewardship.

OPC is awarding up to \$500,000 to Kai Poma, a tribal non-profit representing 3 tribes, and up to \$500,000 to the ytt Northern Chumash Nonprofit representing the yak tit'yu tit'yu yak ti'hini (ytt) Northern Chumash Tribe in support of TNBS projects on California's coast. This investment comes as part of a [larger commitment](#) by Governor Gavin Newsom to award up to \$107.7 million for 34 projects statewide that support tribal priorities related to ancestral land return, restoration, workforce development, implementation of traditional knowledges, and climate resilience. More information on OPC's contribution to the Tribal Nature-Based Solutions Grant Program will be presented during [Item 6](#) at the June 4, 2024 Council meeting.

Tribal Marine Stewards Network

On April 30c, in Sacramento, CNRA and OPC leadership met with California Native American tribes, as well as agency and philanthropic partners, to discuss the future of the [Tribal Marine Stewards Network](#) (TMSN), an alliance of five tribal nations working collaboratively to enhance tribal stewardship and protect and restore coastal and marine ecosystems in their ancestral territories. Meeting attendees learned valuable lessons from other indigenous-led stewardship networks from around the globe. The meeting also provided an opportunity for California tribal leaders to highlight the importance of tribally-led stewardship and key successes of the TMSN to date. OPC

appreciated the opportunity to participate in productive roundtable discussions and begin exploring next steps for making the TMSN an enduring program into the future.

2nd Cross-Pacific Indigenous Exchange

On April 8 – 9, OPC staff attended the 2nd Cross-Pacific Indigenous Exchange in Monterey, hosted by the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS). This meeting provided a venue for state and federal agency leadership to meet with California Native American tribes and indigenous communities from around the country, including the Pacific Islands. The exchange built on previous commitments by ONMS leadership to further elevate tribal priorities and stewardship, including inclusion of indigenous approaches to conservation and investing in indigenous communities. OPC and ONMS staff are continuing discussions to further identify areas of alignment and partnership to support tribally-led ocean and coastal protection.

Goal 3: Enhance Coastal and Marine Biodiversity

Conserving 30% of California's Coastal Waters by 2030 (30x30)

On March 12, Executive Director Jenn Eckerle testified at a Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water informational hearing on 30x30 in Coastal Waters, alongside Secretary Crowfoot, Director Eckerle, California Department of Fish and Wildlife Director Charlton Bonham, and Ocean Science Trust Executive Director Dr. Liz Whiteman to discuss progress made toward the 30x30 goal in coastal waters.

The 30x30 [Technical Advisory Panel](#) held one meeting in March and two meetings in April to develop the decision-making framework which will be presented during [Item 7](#) at the June 4, 2024 Council meeting. In addition, OST and OPC held a focused small group session with subject matter experts to discuss the nexus of water quality and 30x30. The panel is scheduled to meet twice in June to continue discussion of threats to biodiversity in California's coastal waters and management options to address those threats in support of the 30x30 goal.

The release of the draft decision-making framework for evaluating candidate 30x30 conservation areas, informed by the 30x30 [Technical Advisory Panel](#), will launch a 120-day public comment period concurrent with a 120-day tribal consultation period. This public comment period will be accompanied by digital webinars and in-person workshops taking place in 3 locations across the coast: Arcata (North Coast), Monterey (Central Coast), and San Diego (South Coast). Public comment and feedback received during tribal consultation will inform the refinement of the draft document. OPC encourages interested members of the public to visit the [30x30 OPC webpage](#) for webinar registration, workshop information, and instructions for submitting public comment.

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

On April 17, the Fish and Game Commission (FGC) approved CDFW's proposed Phase 1 evaluation of petitions for changes to individual MPAs, which involves separating petitions into Bin 1 (near-term evaluation) or Bin 2 (long-term evaluation). Petitions will be placed into Bin 1 if the petitions meet all of the following criteria:

- Policy direction not needed for next phases
- Within FGC authority
- Immediate evaluation possible
- Limited clarification needed from petitioner
- Limited controversy anticipated

If petitions do not meet one or more of the criteria, these petitions be placed in Bin 2 for long-term evaluation. CDFW will present the recommended results of Phase 1 to the FGC Marine Resources Committee (MRC) on July 17, followed by a full-day MRC meeting to discuss the petitions on July 18. OPC is collaborating with CDFW throughout this process, including reviewing the proposed Bin 1 versus Bin 2 petitions and the public-facing documents explaining CDFW's process and recommendations. The evaluation framework for Bin 2 petitions is still being finalized, and OPC will work with CDFW on developing a transparent, inclusive, and science-based evaluation for Phases 2 and 3.

Once-Through Cooling: Interim Mitigation Calculation Update

On April 17, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) adopted a resolution and revision to the Interim Mitigation Payment Calculation for the Water Quality Control Policy on the Use of Coastal and Estuarine Waters for Power Plant Cooling to ensure annual payments appropriately compensate for impacts to marine life based on current mitigation costs. OPC staff worked with the State Water Board to update the interim mitigation costing since the analysis of the 2012 Expert Review Panel (ERP II) was completed in 2012, based on data derived from mitigation projects initiated since the ERP II and meet the statutory directive of Senate Bill 846 (Stats. 2022, ch. 239). The adopted Interim Mitigation Resolution updates the following components of the interim mitigation payment:

- Default cost for entrainment increased from \$5.65 per million gallons to \$12.51 per million gallons.
- Default cost for impingement increased from \$0.80 per pounds of fish impinged to \$100.73 per pounds of fish impinged.
- The annual inflation escalator from 3% to at least 3% or greater reported by the California Department of Finance, whichever is greater.

The proposed resolution also applies the default entrainment cost multiplier to Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plan instead of a site-specific entrainment cost multiplier, and a site-specific cost multiplier of \$33.46 per pounds of fish impinged. OPC, the State Water Board, and State Coastal Conservancy will initiate a public process in summer 2024 to update the interagency Memorandum of Understanding to reflect tribal and community priorities in the interim mitigation program.

Protecting and Restoring California's Kelp Forests

On April 24, OPC staff participated in a briefing on kelp protection and restoration hosted by partners at the California Ocean Science Trust and Assemblymember Diane Papan. OPC staff joined colleagues from California Sea Grant, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), researchers, and tribal scientists to discuss the state's priorities related to kelp and exciting new projects that are accelerating kelp research and restoration across the state.

On March 13, the Kelp Restoration and Management Plan (KRMP) Community Working Group met virtually to discuss the three focal areas of the KRMP: ecosystem-based management, harvest, and kelp restoration. Through breakout sessions facilitated by project staff from Strategic Earth, OPC, and CDFW, the Community Working Group shared their communities' perspectives on these core considerations and began to develop a process for integrating these perspectives into the KRMP.

On April 11 and 12, OPC staff helped lead the first in-person meeting of the KRMP Science Advisory Committee. The purpose of this meeting was to identify the intersections between kelp forest ecosystems and human socioeconomic systems and to develop a framework for integrating states, indicators, stressors, and pressures into the KRMP. The outcomes from this meeting will guide future conversations focused on the integration of best available science into the KRMP.

Closure of California's Salmon Fisheries

On April 10, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) unanimously recommended closure of California's commercial and recreational salmon fisheries through the end of 2024. This decision was driven by low ocean abundance forecasts as well as low 2023 returns and is expected to be upheld in Federal and State regulations. Based on recommendations from PFMC and CDFW, the California Fish and Game Commission approved an emergency closure of sport fishing for Spring Chinook Salmon in the Klamath and Trinity rivers on May 15. These decisions mark the second year of the salmon fishery closure in California.

California salmon populations have suffered from ongoing drought and climate impacts; multi-year drought and severe wildfires have impacted salmon spawning and rearing populations and adult salmon have suffered from harmful algal blooms and ocean forage shifts. In response to these

myriad threats, Governor Newsom released the [California Salmon Strategy for a Hotter, Drier Future](#) this January. The strategy outlines 6 priorities and 71 actions to build healthier, thriving salmon populations in California. Furthermore, CDFW and the Governor's office are working to expedite a federal resource disaster determination for the Sacramento River Fall Chinook and Klamath River Fall Chinook salmon fisheries. Governor Newsom requested a similar disaster determination for the fishery in 2003, which was approved.

Plastic Pollution

Fourth Session of the United Nations Intergovernmental Program on Plastic Pollution (INC-4): OPC and CalRecycle staff [attended](#) the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop a legally binding instrument on plastic pollution ([INC-4](#)), which took place on April 23-29, 2024 in Ottawa, Canada. As part of a panel on the role of local and state governments, OPC discussed the importance of source reduction to prevent plastic pollution, and highlighted California's actions to reduce and prevent plastic pollution through the Statewide Microplastics Strategy. OPC and CalRecycle also met with partners from Canada to exchange information and share perspectives to accelerate information and knowledge exchange on a circular economy and to efforts to address microplastic pollution. The fifth and final negotiating session ([INC-5](#)) is scheduled for November 25 – December 1, 2024 in Busan, Republic of Korea.

Development of the Statewide Plastics Monitoring Plan: San Francisco Estuary Institute, in partnership with OPC, is developing a statewide [Plastics Monitoring Plan](#) to support the development of a statewide monitoring network for both large plastic and microplastics debris in California waters. Early [public engagement](#) took place March – February 2024 to increase public awareness of state monitoring efforts related to plastic pollution, to include community priorities in the development of the plan, and to understand where existing efforts are taking place and could contribute to a statewide monitoring network. Public feedback emphasized the importance of addressing plastics at the source, challenges with enforcing plastic related ordinances, the need for statewide approaches to product bans and monitoring, and highlighted the many community cleanups already happening throughout the state. Development of the monitoring plan has also been informed by extensive engagement with state partners and drafting by a technical advisory committee is expected to begin in the coming months. A Draft Plastics Monitoring Plan anticipated to be released for public comment in early 2025.

Goal 4: Support Ocean Health Through Sustainable Blue Economy

Offshore Wind

The California Energy Commission (CEC) held public workshops on March 22 and on March 29 to gather input on the [draft AB 525 Strategic Plan](#), with the final AB 525 Strategic Plan scheduled for

release in June 2024. OPC staff have additionally engaged in recurring meetings of [the California Offshore Wind and Fishery Working Group](#), established to fulfill a condition outlined in the California Coastal Commission's Certificate Determination for the BOEM's current wind energy areas in California. This effort is focused on developing a statewide approach to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts on fishing and fisheries.

On May 13 – 15 the Pacific Offshore Wind Summit, hosted by Offshore Wind California, took place in Sacramento, CA. OPC Executive Director Jenn Eckerle participated in a panel discussion addressing the challenges related to sea space for offshore wind development.

OPC-funded projects related to offshore wind topics have continued to advance. In April 2024, OPC released [a call for nominations of tribal scientists](#) to recruit tribal expertise in the [development of comprehensive environmental monitoring guidance for offshore wind in California](#). Additionally, the Point Blue offshore wind energy siting model project to identify the areas with the highest wind power generation and the least negative impacts concluded as scheduled at the end of March 2024. The findings, incorporating expert feedback and updated data, were published in [a final report](#).

Legislation

The following is an update on coastal and ocean-related legislative proposals tracked by OPC staff this legislative session:

[AB 80 \(Addis\)](#): This bill would require OPC to establish and oversee, in coordination with other unspecified state and federal agencies, a West Coast Offshore Wind Science Entity. This is a two-year bill.

[AB 106 \(Gabriel\)](#): This authorizes the Legislature suspend the authority to expend one-time funding provided in Section 2 of the 2021, 2022 and 2023 Budget Acts until June 30, 2024. (Chapter 9, Statutes of 2024).

[AB 953 \(Connolly\)](#): This bill would require OPC, in coordination and in consultation with various entities, to implement a statewide voluntary vessel speed reduction and sustainable shipping program for the California coast in order to reduce air pollution, the risk of fatal vessel strikes on whales, and harmful underwater acoustic impacts by January 1, 2026. This is a two-year bill.

[AB 1284 \(Ramos\)](#): This bill would encourage the Secretary of Natural Resource or the Secretary's delegate to enter into co-governance and co-management agreements with federally recognized tribes for the purpose of shared responsibility, decision-making, and partnership in resource management and conservation within a tribe's ancestral lands and waters. This is a two-year bill.

[AB 1407 \(Addis\)](#): This bill would require OPC, on or before December 1, 2024, to establish acreage-based targets and Kelp Forest and Estuary Restoration and Recovery Framework to restore kelp forests, eelgrass meadows, and native oyster beds with the goal of achieving restoration by 2050. The bill would establish in the State Treasury the Ocean Restoration and Recovery Fund to be administered by OPC to develop and carry out large-scale restoration and enhancement projects. This is a two-year bill.

[AB 1533 \(Utilities and Energy Committee\)](#): This bill would specify that energy generated by the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant could not be counted toward the state's "zero carbon" energy goals after August 26, 2025. This is a two-year bill.

[AB 1567 \(Garcia\)](#): This bill would enact the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparation, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation, Clean Energy, and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2024, which if approved by voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$15.995 billion. This is a two-year bill.

[AB 1797 \(Wood\)](#): This bill would establish the Dungeness crab (*Metacarcinus magister*) as the official state crustacean.

[AB 1798 \(Papan\)](#): This bill would require the development a programmatic environmental review process by the Department of Transportation, in consultation with CDFW, the State Water Resources Control Board, and Department of Toxic Substances Control, to prevent 6PPD and 6PPD-quinone from entering salmon and steelhead trout bearing surface waters of the state.

[AB 1881 \(Davies\)](#): This bill would amend the Coastal Act to allow the Governor's appointment to the Commission who is currently required to reside in and work with environmental justice communities to, alternatively, have a professional background in geology, environmental engineering, carpentry, or building and construction trades.

[AB 1992 \(Boerner\)](#): This bill would amend the Coastal Act to explicitly authorize the Coastal Commission to authorize blue carbon demonstration projects, defined as the creation or restoration of coastal wetland, intertidal, or marine habitats or ecosystems, including, but not limited to, seagrasses and wetlands that capture carbon. State grant programs may be used to contribute toward the project.

[AB 2162 \(Papan\)](#): This bill states the intent of the Legislature to enact subsequent legislation to consider innovative new approaches to permitting efficiency and thereby encourage sustainable shellfish and seaweed operations and marine restoration projects.

[AB 2208 \(Zbur\)](#): This bill states the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to submit to the voters an act authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds in the amount of \$1 billion for seaport infrastructure improvements to facilitate offshore wind energy projects off the California coast.

[AB 2214 \(Bauer-Kahan\)](#): This bill would require OPC, on or before March 1, 2025, the council to establish and lead an interagency coordination group and adopt a workplan to implement the Statewide Microplastics Strategy on or before December 31, 2025.

[AB 2220 \(Bennett\)](#): This bill would prohibit CDFW from renewing an existing, valid gill net or trammel net permit for anyone other than the person whose name appears on the permit. The bill would additionally prohibit the incidental take of white sharks by commercial fishing operations using set gill nets, drift gill nets, or roundhaul nets.

[AB 2537 \(Addis\)](#): This bill would create the Offshore Wind Community Capacity Building Fund Grant Account in the Voluntary Offshore Wind and Coastal Resources Protection Program for the California Energy Commission to award for capacity building grants within local communities and tribal communities to engage in the process of offshore wind energy development.

[AB 2298 \(Hart\)](#): This bill would require OPC to participate in an advisory capacity to the Protecting Blue Whales and Blue Skies Program to support coastal air districts in their efforts to implement a statewide voluntary vessel speed reduction and sustainable shipping program for the California coast in order to reduce air pollution, the risk of fatal vessel strikes on whales, and harmful underwater acoustic impacts.

[AB 2572 \(Muratsuchi\)](#): This bill would require the California Air Resources Board to develop a plan to include ocean carbon dioxide removal technology and projects that it determines are environmentally safe and sustainable into the Carbon Capture, Removal, Utilization, and Storage Program by January 1, 2027. Held in Assembly Appropriations.

[AB 2916 \(Eggman\)](#): This bill would prohibit the sale, distribution, installation, or arrangement of the installation of a floating device that contains expanded polystyrene, as defined, or other plastic foam that is not fully enclosed by January 1, 2026.

[SB 638 \(Eggman\)](#): This bill would enact the Climate Resiliency and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2024 which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount \$6 billion for flood protection and climate resiliency projects.

[SB 951 \(Weiner\)](#): This bill would amend the Coastal Act to relocate the coastal zone boundary in San Francisco seaward and amend the types of coastal development permits that can be appealed

to the Coastal Commission statewide. The bill would additionally apply specified rezoning standards for any necessary local coastal program updates for jurisdictions located within the coastal zone.

Personnel Notes

Katie Cieri, *Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Program Manager*



Katie Cieri (she/her) joined OPC's Biodiversity Program in May 2024 as the Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Program Manager. Katie will lead OPC's efforts related to sustainable marine fisheries, resilient fishing communities, thriving fish and wildlife populations, and sustainable aquaculture in coordination with other state agencies. Katie was OPC's 2023 Biodiversity Sea Grant State Fellow. Prior to joining OPC, she completed her Master's in Marine Science at Moss Landing Marine Laboratories. She has collaborated with recreational, small-scale, and commercial fishermen both in California and

the Mediterranean. Through projects such as the Monitoring & Evaluation of Mid-Depth Rocky Reef Ecosystems Project, the Benthic Observation System Survey (BOSS), and the California Collaborative Fisheries Research Program (CCFRP) she has evaluated the impacts of fishing on nearshore fishes. Katie also holds a B.S. in Biology from the University of Virginia. In her free time, she enjoys kayaking, scuba diving, hiking, traveling, and other adventures with her husband and dog.

Departures: At the end of May, Yi-Hui Wang left OPC after serving as OPC's Offshore Wind Program Manager from May 2022 – May 2024. We are deeply grateful for the expertise she shared in fisheries and offshore wind to support the development of the comprehensive offshore wind environmental monitoring guidance, among other interagency initiatives related to offshore wind. We wish Yi-Hui the best in her next endeavor!