

From: aeboken <aeboken@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, September 28, 2025 7:07:05 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)

To: CNRA COPC Public <COPCPublic@resources.ca.gov>; Crowfoot, Wade@CNRA <Wade.Crowfoot@resources.ca.gov>; Eckerle, Jenn@CNRA <Jenn.Eckerle@resources.ca.gov>

Cc: Camille St-Pierre <camille@onekawater.com>

Subject: Written Submission for California State Ocean Protection Council Meeting September 30, 2025
Agenda Item #10 Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

TO: California State Ocean Protection Council

cc: Wade Crowfoot, Chair and Natural Resources Agency Secretary
Jenn Eckerle, Executive Director

cc: Oneka Technologies,
Camille St-Pierre, Commercial Director

FR: Eileen Boken,
State and Federal Legislative Liaison

Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods

RE: Written Submission for Ocean Protection Council Meeting September 30, 2025 Agenda
Item #10 Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

The California State Ocean Protection Council (OPC) Chair and Executive Director were copied on the Supplemental EIR (Environmental Impact Report) comments sent to the State Lands Commission for the renewal of sandmining area leases in San Francisco Bay.

The written comments to the State Lands Commission refer to the OPC Coastal Mapping (LiDar) Data.

There are inconsistencies among studies as to what the impacts sandmining in San Francisco Bay are having on erosion on south SF Ocean Beach and accretion on north SF Ocean Beach.

NEW SUBJECT

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has approved a grant to Fort Bragg for a pilot project on offshore desalination (desal).

The company who will be installing the offshore desal unit in Fort Bragg is Oneka Technologies which is headquartered in the province of Quebec.

Oneka Technologies will be in Fort Bragg on Friday November 14, 2025 for the installation.

Oneka Technologies has been invited by the Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods to stop in San Francisco on the way to Fort Bragg for a presentation to local officials, state officials and community advocates on either Wednesday November 12, 2025 or Thursday November 13, 2025.

Oneka Technologies has accepted our invitation.

The preliminary plan is for a hybrid meeting which would be recorded by SFGovTV.

Therefore, the Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods would be honored to have Secretary Crowfoot and members of OPC attend either in-person or remotely.

Besides the possibility of offshore desal being part of the City's alternative water supplies portfolio, there is also the question of dual use.

The City's dedicated Emergency Firefighting Water System (EFWS) aka Auxiliary Water Supply System (AWSS) needs to be expanded.

That being said, it's challenging to cost justify dedicated AWSS when it's only used for catastrophic fires.

Exploring the possibility of giving AWSS a "day job" with desal for normal operations and switching over to ocean water for fighting catastrophic fires.

Also, looking at the possibility of multi tasking a desal unit with NOAA buoy instruments to monitor climate change.

###

Advancing Resilient Fisheries in California

Good afternoon Council Members,

My name is Melissa Mahoney, and I am the Executive Director of the Monterey Bay Fisheries Trust. I want to express my gratitude and share how we are working to ensure a balance between protecting ocean resources while supporting a thriving, resilient seafood economy in Monterey Bay.

First, I want to acknowledge and thank Staff Officer Katie Cieri for generously giving her time to speak with me on multiple occasions over the past year. She provided thoughtful feedback on our draft Future of Blue Initiative proposal—a community-based effort to revitalize Monterey Bay's working waterfronts and build a thriving blue economy. Her guidance on the OPC's process has been invaluable. We remain hopeful that this council may, in time, be receptive to considering funding for our project, either through the general fund or through an RFP that would broadly support climate-resilient fisheries projects along California's coast.

I would also like to thank OPC leadership for the opportunity to engage in the strategic plan refresh process. The Fisheries Trust submitted written comments, intended to strengthen the plan's ability to support both ecological and economic resilience. I included the letter with my comments, and want to reiterate here our most important recommendation is to be more explicit with Objective 4.1 ('advance sustainable seafood and thriving communities'), to ensure additional progress can be made in that area.

California is often celebrated as the "salad bowl of the world," its farm-to-table reputation drawing visitors, fueling tourism, and supporting a vast agricultural economy and workforce. I believe we can once again achieve a similar distinction with seafood, reclaiming its role as a leading producer on the West Coast.

Over the past two decades, we have rebuilt our fish stocks, safeguarded extensive marine habitats, and reformed state and federal regulations to ensure sustainable harvests. However, the economic comeback is a different story. Many fishermen and fishing support businesses in the Monterey Bay region are hanging on by a thread. There is not enough infrastructure or access, or government support* for fishermen and the seafood industry to thrive.

California is home to some of the best fisheries science in the world. Paired with an untapped wealth of local knowledge and stewardship within every fishing community, these assets can create the foundation for a new era of California seafood: abundant, sustainable, and locally celebrated.

In closing, I want to impress upon this council the power and influence you possess as a funding entity for ocean conservation and climate-resilient fisheries work in California.

This council has identified four strategic goals, the last one of which is to support a sustainable seafood economy. I urge you to prioritize and direct available funding toward this goal—so your investments reflect a true balance across all four priorities and help to ensure the future of our working waterfronts.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak. I am happy to answer any questions now or later by email or phone.

Melissa Mahoney

Executive Director, [Monterey Bay Fisheries Trust](#)

mmahoney@mbfishtrust.org | +1.831.332.0465

[Book time with me](#) | [@mbfishtrust](#)

*According to a recent study, less than 1% of the USDA's \$32 billion in grants (2018-2023) went to seafood-related projects ([Stoll et al 2025](#)).



July 31, 2025

To the California Ocean Protection Council (OPC):

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Strategic Plan for 2026–2030. We appreciate the Council’s thoughtful approach in crafting a plan that reflects the values, priorities, and partnerships necessary to protect California’s ocean and coastal resources.

The Monterey Bay Fisheries Trust (MBFT) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring the long-term health of our ocean, fisheries, and fishing communities. We work in close partnership with local fishermen, harbor managers, scientists, policymakers, and community organizations to promote sustainable seafood, support economic resilience, and ensure responsible ocean stewardship throughout the Monterey Bay region.

General Comments

We commend the OPC for the conciseness of the draft plan. The shorter format, focused on OPC-led actions, and alignment with other state policy strategies (such as the California Salmon Strategy), strengthens its purpose and accessibility. We especially appreciate the elevation of key collaborative priorities and the integration of Traditional Ecological Knowledge in decision-making and monitoring efforts.

We also recognize the extensive outreach efforts conducted in the plan's development. We encourage continued efforts to engage more resource users who depend on ocean access for their livelihoods and subsistence — particularly those in commercial fishing — many of whom may not have had the capacity to participate during the public comment period.

The **appendix** is helpful in tracking outcomes from the previous strategic plan (2020-2025). Under Objective 4.1, investment in the California Fisheries Fund is a notable outcome. However, there seemed to be less progress noted for ‘*advancing sustainable seafood and thriving fishing communities.*’ Given the significant economic, cultural, and historic value of commercial fisheries to California, as well as contributing to food security, we recommend that the new plan ensure OPC is supporting efforts to accomplish meaningful outcomes in this area.

Specific Comments

Goal 4 – Objective 4.1: Fisheries and Aquaculture

(831) 233-3101
info@mbfishtrust.org
www.MontereyBayFisheriesTrust.org
101 Cooper Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

We support the objective's intent, and recommend defining key terminology, especially the phrase "climate-resilient fisheries." Does this refer solely to ecological resilience, or does it include social and economic resilience of fishing communities as well? A clear definition would help ensure shared understanding among stakeholders.

Of the six listed targets under Objective 4.1, only one — Target 4.1.5: "*Develop initiatives that promote California wild-caught seafood...*" — explicitly supports wild capture fisheries and fishing communities. In contrast, the 2020–2025 plan included multiple targets under 4.1.2 (p. 27) focused on harbors, infrastructure, gear innovation, and community resiliency. There is also concern that some of the other objectives in this strategic plan (i.e. 30x30 goals) could lead to further loss of fishing opportunities in state waters, which is already very limited. We strongly encourage OPC to restore targeted actions aimed at supporting California's commercial fishing communities, particularly through climate adaptation and infrastructure investment.

Goal 2 – Objective 2.3: Inclusive Ocean and Coastal Workforce

The current language appears to focus on training related to science, policy, and conservation. However, a truly inclusive blue economy also includes marine technology, aquaculture, fisheries, seafood supply chains, and maritime trades. We recommend broadening the scope of this objective to ensure that workforce development programs reflect the full range of ocean-dependent careers, especially for disadvantaged communities who may often be synonymous with fishing communities.

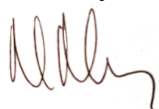
Recommendations

To strengthen the plan's ability to support both ecological and economic resilience, we respectfully recommend:

1. Define "climate-resilient fisheries" and other key terms to clarify OPC's intent.
2. Expand the scope of Objective 2.3 to support workforce development in a broader range of ocean-dependent sectors and inclusivity relative to disadvantaged communities.
3. Add an explicit outcome statement for Objective 4.1, such as: "Advance Sustainable Seafood and Thriving Fishing Communities."
4. Include a new target under 4.1 to support the development of fishing community resilience pilot projects, building on unmet goals from the 2020–2025 plan.

Thank you again for your leadership and commitment to the future of California's oceans and coastal communities. We look forward to continued collaboration with the Ocean Protection Council in advancing a sustainable, equitable, and resilient blue economy. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Melissa Mahoney
Executive Director, Monterey Bay Fisheries Trust
mmahoney@mbfishtrust.org | +1.831.332.0465