



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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June 12, 2026

Wade Crowfoot, Secretary for Natural Resources
Chair, California Ocean Protection Council
California Natural Resources Agency
715 P Street, 20th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: Support for Actions to Advance Strategic Plan Goal 4: Enable a Sustainable Blue Economy that Protects Ocean Health

Dear Secretary Crowfoot,

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) has worked closely with the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) to identify shared priorities and supports the proposed actions under Items 7, 8, and 9. The suite of activities proposed for approval and funding represents a coordinated, strategic investment in California's ability to manage its marine resources effectively and adaptively in alignment with the goals of OPC's Strategic Plan.

The work supported through Item 8: Support for Fisheries Management will significantly advance climate-ready fisheries management in California. Key advancements include development of responsive decision support tools that are tuned to California's dynamic marine ecosystem. These proposed investments will improve collection of essential fishery information that will directly support sustainable harvest and bycatch management while preparing the state for broader implementation of electronic monitoring and reporting systems. The funding will advance several major fishery specific initiatives that continue to modernize California's fishery management toolbox and will help ensure California's fisheries are managed with the best available science and have improved opportunities for stakeholders and California Native American tribes to participate.

Additionally, the proposed investments will ensure continuity in endangered white abalone restoration efforts by maintaining field capacity during a gap in federal funding. This work is

essential to advancing outplanting, recruitment surveys, and multi-partner restoration actions that underpin recovery of this iconic species.

Item 9 and the Adoption of the Blueprint for Building a West Coast Science Collaborative Blueprint for Offshore Wind represents an important step toward establishing a coordinated, science-driven approach to understanding and minimizing impacts from offshore wind development on fish, wildlife, marine, and estuarine ecosystems. The Department remains committed to working closely with OPC, California Native American tribes, and our other partners as implementation of the West Coast Science Collaborative advances and informs planning and permitting for offshore wind projects.

Finally, the Department has worked closely with OPC staff and supports adoption of the Statewide Marine Aquaculture Action Plan (AAP) and implementation of the AAP through disbursement of funds to support the development of the Aquaculture Science Plan (Item 7). The AAP will establish a coordinated, comprehensive management and regulatory framework for local, state, and federal resource managers, California Native American tribes, industry participants, and stakeholders, that maximizes sustainability of marine aquaculture operations while maintaining a robust level of environmental protection using the best available science.

These various efforts represent a comprehensive and forward-looking approach to marine resource science and management—improving data quality, enhancing transparency, modernizing management tools, supporting coastal communities, and strengthening resilience across California's marine ecosystems.

OPC's support has been and will continue to be critical to ensuring a sustainable blue economy that protects ocean health. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at (805) 568-1246 or r7regionalmgr@wildlife.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Craig Shuman, D. Env.
Marine Regional Manager

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