WHO WE ARE

Ocean Science Trust is an independent, nonprofit. Though we are not a state agency, we were created by the Legislature and our relationship to the State is formalized by the California Ocean Resources Stewardship Act (CORSA), passed in 2000.

- Ocean Science Trust brings together government, academics, and communities using science as a gathering point.
- It is our mission to mobilize the scientific community on behalf of California management and policy needs with respect to coasts and oceans.

CHANGING OCEAN CONDITIONS

Since the passage of CORSA our understanding of the breadth of changing ocean conditions has deepened considerably and the need for objective responsive science on ocean change has never been greater. If Ocean Science Trust didn't already exist, we'd want to invent it!

Implementing the West Coast OAH Panel recommendations - a multi-stressor issue with tractable actions

- Last year the West Coast OAH science panel, convened by OST, released its final recommendations.
    - Ocean acidification is a global problem and is already impacting marine ecosystems and populations.
    - This means that there are actions that managers - water quality, fisheries and coastal managers - can take to mitigate and adapt.
    - We are proud of the tractable recommendations and roadmap for action developed by the Panel; and we are proud to see California take on these scientific recommendations and lead the nation with new legislation and ongoing funding for work through OPC.
    - For our part we are continuing the work of the West Coast OAH science panel through leveraging state funds alongside private and federal sources.
    - As per the panel's recommendations, several OPC-SAT working groups are underway to advance our knowledge of locations of particular stress and vulnerability, the role of seagrasses in ameliorating impacts, and impacts on coastal communities.

Advancing Science for Sustainable Fisheries- responding to changing ocean conditions

- This year we have turned our attention to delivering the scientific information, tools, and guidance needed for ocean and coastal policy and management to prepare for, adapt to, and mitigate the impacts of multiple stressors impacting ocean health. We are supporting CDFW in their MLMA amendment process and one of these projects, has been the coordination of an OPC-SAT working group to provide guidance on how climate change will impact California's fisheries
    - The report's approach addresses fisheries as linked social-ecological systems- wherein we need to understand the impacts and response of not just the fish, but the communities (e.g. commercial and recreational fishermen, subsistence fishermen, buyers and processors, etc.)
    - The report is being finalized now, and offers a suite of management approaches to foster ecological and social resilience for managers and decision-makers to consider.

Harmful Algal Blooms and Fisheries - Putting the pieces in place to be at the ready to respond

- As you know, we have reported to you on our work to support the State's scientific needs related to HABs and their expected impacts to California's fisheries. We are working closely with OPC and CDFW to scope the next phase of the scientific OPC-SAT HABs working group to continue to address this pressing issue in the face of changing ocean conditions.

Marine Protected Areas

Lastly, I want to highlight some good news and share with this committee the completion of the third regional baseline reporting ---the South Coast MPA baseline monitoring.

- While for the majority of the Region, the reporting was to establish a baseline...the Northern Channel Island MPA's (established in 2003) have shown benefits ...DETAILS FROM THE REPORT..
- We are on deck to complete the baseline monitoring program, with the North Coast, by the end of the year.
- As we reflect, on the success and the final stages of the baseline program and pivot to long term monitoring, it is a great time to think about how we can put this precedent leading MPA network to work for California's ecosystems and fisheries in the face of changing ocean conditions.

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