



The Marine
Mammal Center

21 February 2019

Dr. Clarissa Anderson
Executive Director
Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System
Scripps Institution of Oceanography
9500 Gilman Drive, 0206
La Jolla, CA 92093-0214

Dear Dr. Anderson:

On behalf of The Marine Mammal Center (TMMC), I enthusiastically encourage continued support for the valuable data and services provided by the Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS) at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California San Diego.

TMMC is a non-profit ocean conservation organization that is an internationally recognized leader in advancing the science of marine mammal health, training veterinary and scientific professionals, and teaching and inspiring the public towards great ocean stewardship. In its 44-year history, TMMC has treated more than 20,000 seals, sea lions, and other marine mammals. Many of these animals breed and forage in the Southern California Bight and are exposed to health and disease threats within the SCCOOS region. Our organization relies on data provided by SCCOOS to better understand how these threats impact marine mammal and ocean health. Most notably, the California Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin and California Harmful Algae Risk Mapping (C-HARM) data products are incredibly valuable to TMMC scientists and veterinarians because many of our sea lion patients are affected by domoic acid-producing algal blooms.

As a science-based decision support system, the Ocean Observing System works interactively with local, state and federal agencies, resource managers, industry, policy makers, educators, scientists and the general public to provide data, models and products that advance our understanding of the current and future state of our coastal and global environment. SCCOOS focuses on coastal observations and product development to provide information necessary to address issues related to marine operations, coastal hazards, climate variability and change, and ecosystems, fisheries, and water quality.

I understand that SCCOOS is funded primarily by the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Sustained funding for SCCOOS will be crucial to the maintenance of the program's ocean observing network and to the continuity of the important data products and services that these observations enable. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jeff Boehm
Executive Director

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