



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Office of Spill Prevention and Response
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090
www.wildlife.ca.gov/ospr

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



January 31, 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:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR), values the data and services provided by the Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS) at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California San Diego. OSPR is the state's lead for response to oil spills in inland and marine waters.

In the event of a significant marine oil spill, and in support of drills and exercises to maintain preparedness for such events, OSPR and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) utilize the HF radar data as a tool to understand and forecast the movement of spilled oil based on the local currents in the spill area. Currents and wind are the primary influences of the trajectory of spilled oil in a marine setting. High quality HF radar data helps OSPR and NOAA to: 1) more accurately forecast where spilled oil will be carried; 2) develop and implement appropriate response strategies to protect our natural resources; and 3) effectively contain and recover spilled oil. While large offshore oil spills are fortunately very rare events, when they do happen it is important that we are able to rely upon the SCCOOS HF radar to better predict trajectories and plan response operations.

We understand that SCCOOS is funded primarily by NOAA. Sustained funding for SCCOOS is 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. The HF radar system in California provides critical data for marine oil spill response.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Cullen Jr.
Administrator
Office of Spill Prevention and Response