



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration
National Ocean Service
Office of Response and Restoration
7600 Sand Point Way N.E. - Bin C15700
Seattle, Washington 98115

February 7, 2019
Dr. Clarissa Anderson, Executive Director
Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System
Scripps Institution of Oceanography
9500 Gilman Drive, 0214
La Jolla, CA 92093-0214

Dear Dr. Anderson:

On behalf of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R), we enthusiastically endorse 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.

Our office provides scientific support to the US Coast Guard during marine spills of oil and hazardous materials to inform time-critical response decisions. A key element of that support is contaminant fate and transport modeling. Our staff, including oceanographers and regionally based Scientific Support Coordinators, have worked with SCCOOS and the larger IOOS community for many years to efficiently access coastal ocean observations for incorporation into our response modeling efforts. The SCCOOS' network of established data sources and technical expertise in the fields of surface currents (HF radar), nearshore and subsurface transport, water quality, wave monitoring, telemetry buoys, and un-manned aerial systems have also been instrumental in strengthening our spill response efforts.

As an example, on 19 May, 2015, a ruptured pipeline caused thousands of gallons of crude oil to be released into the ocean along the Santa Barbara coast. Within 24 hours, HF radar operators were able to install an additional temporary site to increase local coverage. As the spill extended offshore, the HF radar data network provided valuable information on oil transport patterns which informed our model predictions. Subsequent to the spill, SCCOOS observations were used for damage assessment modeling.

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 us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Amy MacFadyen, PhD
Oceanographer

Jordan Stout
Scientific Support Coordinator

