



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary
University of California Santa Barbara
Ocean Science Education Building 514, MC 6155
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-6155

January 23, 2020

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 NOAA's Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary, I 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 mission is to protect and restore the species, habitats, and ecosystems of the approximately 1,500 square mile sanctuary surrounding the five Northern Channel Islands, while allowing compatible uses such as fishing and recreation. In order to accomplish this mission we need reliable data regarding sanctuary status and trends. This is more important than ever as we are seeing unprecedented phenomena like the "warm water blob", and dramatic changes to El Nino/La Nina and Pacific Decadal Oscillation frequency and intensity.

While we engage a lot of partners in our own sanctuary-centric research and monitoring projects to understand what is happening in the sanctuary, we and our partners rely heavily on SCCOOS data to understand how physical oceanographic changes across the Southern California Bight are impacting the sanctuary. For example, these changes drive species distributions in space and time, the frequency and intensity of harmful algal blooms, the propensity for successful establishment of noxious invasive species, and the growth and productivity of key species.

We appreciate SCCOOS' ability to collaborate with us and to provide data, models and products that advance our understanding of the current and future state of our coastal and global environment. 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.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me (chris.mobley@noaa.gov, 805-893-6416).

Sincerely,

Chris Mobley, Superintendent