



November 3, 2020

Dr. Anderson and Dr. Ruhl  
The California Ocean Observing Systems  
*Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System*  
*Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System*

Dear Dr. Anderson and Dr. Ruhl:

On behalf of The Marine Mammal Center, I enthusiastically endorse the valuable data and services provided by the Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS) and the Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System (CeNCOOS).

The Center 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 inspiring the public towards great ocean stewardship. In its 45-year history, the Center has treated more than 23,000 marine mammals. Many of these animals traverse 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 the Center's scientists and veterinarians because many of our sea lion patients are affected by domoic acid-producing algal blooms.

As a science-based decision support program, CeNCOOS and SCCOOS collaborate with local, state and federal agencies, tribes, resource managers, industry, policy makers, educators, scientists and the general public to provide data, models and products that advance understanding of the current and future state of our ocean. SCCOOS and CeNCOOS focus on high-priority regional requirements to provide the information necessary to address 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 and CeNCOOS is crucial to the maintenance of the state's ocean observing network and to continue the delivery of important data products and services that these observing systems enable. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jeff Boehm  
CEO