



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



November 12, 2020

Dr. Clarissa Anderson and Dr. Henry Ruhl
The California Ocean Observing Systems
Scripps Institution of Oceanography
9500 Gilman Drive, 0206
La Jolla, California 92093-0214

Dear Doctors Anderson and Ruhl:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) values the data and services provided by the California Coastal Ocean Observing Systems at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California San Diego.

OSPR is the California's lead for response to oil spills in inland and marine waters of the State. 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 and other tools to better predict trajectories and plan response operations.

As a science-based decision support program, the California Ocean Observing Systems (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 our understanding of the current and future state of our coastal and global 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.

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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 or my Program Manager for Response Technology, Greg McGowan, at greg.mcgowan@wildlife.ca.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas M. Cullen, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Thomas M. Cullen, Jr.
Administrator
Office of Spill Prevention and Response
California Department of Fish and Wildlife