



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
**NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE**  
**Office of National Marine Sanctuaries | West Coast Region**  
 99 Pacific Street, Bldg 100, Suite F  
 Monterey, CA 93940

November 9, 2020

Clarissa Anderson, PhD  
 Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System  
 Scripps Institution of Oceanography  
 9500 Gilman Drive, 0206  
 La Jolla, CA 92093-0214

Henry Ruhl, PhD  
 Central and Northern California Coastal Ocean Observing System  
 Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute  
 7700 Sandholdt Rd  
 Moss Landing, CA 95039

Dear Drs. Anderson and Ruhl:

On behalf of NOAA’s Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS), West Coast Regional (WCR) office, we enthusiastically endorse the valuable data collection and services provided by the Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS) and the Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System (CeNCOOS). National marine sanctuaries offshore California include Channel Islands, Monterey Bay, Cordell Bank and Greater Farallones. Joint collaborations between scientists at these national marine sanctuaries and CeNCOOS and SCCOOS scientists and affiliated partners are extremely valuable in meeting our respective missions, particularly when it comes to gathering important data regarding the status and trends of west coast marine ecosystems as well as analyzing and sharing data with agencies, stakeholders, academia, and the public in effective and innovative ways.

Our mission is to understand and protect the species, habitats, and ecosystems of the west coast national marine sanctuaries totaling over 12,000 square miles along the California coast from Point Arena to Ventura. National marine sanctuaries allow compatible uses such as fishing and recreation that are consistent with our primary goal of protecting marine ecosystems. In order to accomplish this mission, we need reliable, preferably long-term, data regarding status and trends of sanctuary ecosystems. This is more important than ever as we are seeing unprecedented phenomena like marine heat waves, and changes to historic patterns of El Niño/La Niña and Pacific Decadal Oscillation.

While we engage many partners in our sanctuary-centric research and monitoring projects, we and our partners rely heavily on SCCOOS and CeNCOOS data to understand how physical oceanographic, and increasingly biological, changes along the west coast are impacting sanctuary resources and ocean health (e.g., sanctuary condition reports). For example, these

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**National Marine Sanctuary**  
 115 E. Railroad Avenue  
 Suite 301  
 Port Angeles, WA 98362

**Cordell Bank**  
**National Marine Sanctuary**  
 P.O. Box 159  
 Olema, CA 94950

**Greater Farallones**  
**National Marine Sanctuary**  
 The Presidio  
 991 Marine Drive  
 San Francisco, CA 94129

**Monterey Bay**  
**National Marine Sanctuary**  
 99 Pacific Street  
 Suite 455A  
 Monterey, CA 93940

**Channel Islands**  
**National Marine Sanctuary**  
 University of California Santa Barbara  
 Ocean Science Bldg 514, MC 6155  
 Santa Barbara, CA 93106



physical changes drive species distributions in space and time, the frequency and intensity of harmful algal blooms, the propensity for successful establishment of introduced species, and the growth, distribution and productivity of key species.

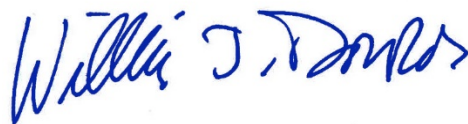
We appreciate SCCOOS's and CeNCOOS's ability to collaborate with us and to provide data, models and products that advance our understanding of the current and future state of our coastal and global environment. Sustained funding for SCCOOS and CeNCOOS is crucial to the maintenance of the program's ocean observing network and to the continuity of the important data products and services that these observations enable. The expansion of monitoring beyond physical and chemical oceanography to indicators of marine biodiversity trends via MBON is also a very important initiative that is critical to understanding ecosystem trajectories.

Specific Tier 2 proposals that we encourage the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) to support include the Ocean Sound Observation Network proposed along with our west coast regional partners; CalCOFI; animal telemetry; UAS surveys; kelp canopy cover assessments by satellite; zooplankton, mammal and bird surveys and CTD cast data; development of climate indicators and other critical data for sanctuary Condition Reports; and outreach and engagement initiatives to diverse user group communities.

We urge IOOS to fund all of these Tier 2 components because each will provide valuable information to support sanctuary research, monitoring, education, and management. By working together and leveraging our respective core strengths, we can deliver timely, accurate, and cutting-edge data products and services to the nation.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me ([william.douros@noaa.gov](mailto:william.douros@noaa.gov); (831) 236-6792).

Sincerely,



William J. Douros  
West Coast Regional Director