

11/18/2020

Dr. Clarissa Anderson  
Executive Director  
Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System  
Scripps Institution of Oceanography



Dear Dr. Anderson:

On behalf of Channel Islands Marine & Wildlife Institute (CIMWI) 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.

CIMWI, a 501c3 nonprofit, is the only organization permitted to rescue and rehabilitate marine mammals along the Southern coast of California's Santa Barbara and Ventura counties which includes 155 miles of coastline. CIMWI sends a monthly report to SCCOOS with marine mammal stranding information regarding suspected domoic acid cases with details including stranding sight, GPS, species, age class and severity of illness. Domoic acid is of particular interest and concern because it can cause sickness and fatality in humans. Marine mammals are sentinels of both local and widespread ocean environments. They eat what we eat, so information regarding domoic acid strandings and animal health has important implications to public health.

SCCOOS provides a one-of-a-kind service by collecting and making ocean data public knowledge benefiting scientists, researchers and public health officials. CIMWI uses the domoic acid data provided by the monthly SCCOOS report to monitor domoic acid along the California coast in order to be at the ready for heightened stranding volumes and put resources in place to respond to these animals. CIMWI plans to use additional data compiled by SCCOOS in the future to explore trends in local ocean conditions in relation to high stranding events (non-domoic acid related) to enable us to better predict when and where our resources would be most needed.

As a science-based decision support system, SCCOOS collaborates with local, state and federal agencies, 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 focuses on coastal observations and product development to provide the information necessary to address issues on marine operations, coastal hazards, climate variability and change, ecosystems, fisheries and water quality.

Sustained funding for SCCOOS is crucial to maintaining the program's ocean observing network and continuity of the important data products and services they produce. We hope you will give SCCOOS' proposal the utmost consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ruth Dover", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Ruth Dover  
Director