

6 November 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 University of Southern California (USC) Sea Grant Program, 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), located at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California San Diego (UCSD) and the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI), respectively.

- USC Sea Grant is one of 34 Sea Grant Programs supported by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in every coastal and Great State Lakes State as well as Hawaii, Puerto Rico and Guam. USC Sea Grant contributes to solving the problems of the Urban Ocean, while recognizing the opportunities for coastal commerce, recreation and improving the quality of life in coastal regions such as Southern California. We fund research on the critical issues associated with the influence of massive cities on the sea, promote connections between scientists and the policy-makers who must craft solutions, and broadly distribute information to the electorate through public education outreach efforts.
- Our staff, researchers, and stakeholders use ocean observing information within California provided by CeNCOOS and SCCOOS to inform research, decision making and even our formal calls for research proposals.
- The information provided is invaluable to our staff, researchers and stakeholders in multiple ways on a daily basis. The current data is invaluable to the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach for the safe movement of their ships. The harmful algal bloom network informs stakeholders of potential contamination of seafood as well as the potential health of marine mammals.

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.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda E. Duguay". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, flowing "L" and "D".

Linda E. Duguay, PhD
Director USC Sea Grant Program
Email: duquay@usc.edu