



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southwest Fisheries Science Center
8901 La Jolla Shores Drive
La Jolla, CA 92037-1508

October 26, 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 Drs. Anderson and Ruhl:

On behalf of NOAA NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC), 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.

SWFSC monitors and reports on environmental conditions for the Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC) by providing an annual ecosystem status report (ESR). In collaboration with the Northwest Fisheries Science Center, the ESR summarizes eastern north Pacific ecosystem indicators, from large scale atmospheric impacts down to regional and local ecosystem influences and includes human impacts. Data are collected from all available sources, and the west coast IOOS Regional Associations (RA) are important partners in this effort. The RA provided surface currents from HF radar, environmental data from the glider array and shore stations data that are important time series data. These data are also helping the SWFSC to move from single species stock assessments to ecosystem-based fishery management.

There are a number of joint efforts between SWFSC and the RA that will strengthen in future years. The RA shore stations extend the inshore CalCOFI sampling lines and a shared data catalog will provide better data access. During this COVID-19 pandemic, SWFSC has had to cancel most of its survey cruises. The glider network has allowed Fisheries to maintain time series and monitor coastal conditions. Bird surveys and the SCCOOS C-HARM HABS tracking software (hosted on SWFSC servers) are examples of other collaborations that benefit both groups.

Going forward, enhancements to the glider and shore station suite of instruments, expansion of eDNA sampling and the proposed addition of Flow Cytobots to the shore stations will all expand the suite of ecosystem data and syntheses that will be incorporated into the ESR. In addition, the proposed west coast Ocean Sound Observation Network (OSON), an effort including NANOOS, will provide the first coast-wide data on ocean noise, an important environmental parameter that presently isn't monitored in a consistent manner.

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, appearing to read "Newell Garfield". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Newell" and last name "Garfield" clearly distinguishable.

Newell Garfield

Director, Environmental Research Division, SWFSC

and

co-lead, California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment

<https://www.integratedecosystemassessment.noaa.gov/regions/california-current>