



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary
University of California Santa Barbara
Ocean Science Education Building 514, MC 6155
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-6155

October 30, 2020

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

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 Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary (CINMS), I enthusiastically endorse the valuable data and services provided by the Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS) and Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System (CeNCOOS). Our collaborations 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 the data and serving it up to agencies, stakeholders, academia, and the public in effective and innovative ways.

Our mission is to protect and restore the species, habitats, and ecosystems of the approximately 1,500 square mile sanctuary surrounding the five Northern Channel Islands, while allowing compatible uses such as fishing and recreation. In order to accomplish this mission we need reliable, preferably long-term, data regarding sanctuary status and trends. This is more important than ever as we are seeing unprecedented phenomena like marine heat waves, and dramatic changes to El Nino/La Nina and Pacific Decadal Oscillation frequency and intensity.

While we engage a lot of partners in our own sanctuary-centric research and monitoring projects to understand what is happening in the sanctuary, we and our partners rely heavily on SCCOOS data to understand how physical oceanographic changes across the Southern California Bight are impacting the sanctuary. For example, these changes drive species distributions in space and time, the frequency and intensity of harmful algal blooms, the propensity for successful establishment of noxious invasive species, and the growth and productivity of key species.

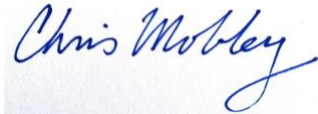
We appreciate SCCOOS and CeNCOOS' ability to collaborate with us and to provide data, models and products that advance our understanding of the current and future state of our coastal and global environment. Sustained funding for SCCOOS and CeNCOOS is crucial to the maintenance of the program's ocean 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.

I sent a similar letter of support to SCCOOS in January of 2020, but I wanted to update this support with a note regarding some specific Tier 2 proposals that we hope IOOS supports. This includes the *Ocean Sound Observation Network* proposed along with our west coast regional

partners (including other sanctuaries). It also includes other proposed Tier 2 projects that are particularly relevant to CINMS including CalCOFI, telemetry, and UAS. We strongly support funding of all of these Tier 2 components because they will provide valuable information to support sanctuary research, monitoring, 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 (chris.mobley@noaa.gov, 805-259-6540).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Mobley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "y".

Chris Mobley, Superintendent