

COMMITTEE STAFF SUMMARY FOR NOVEMBER 15, 2016

8A. UPDATES: MARINE DEBRIS**Today's Item****Information** ☒**Direction** ☒

Receive an update on the topic of marine debris, previously before the Committee.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

- Informational presentations on marine debris Mar 21, 2016; MRC, Los Alamitos
- FGC accepts MRC recommendation to engage OPC Apr 13-14, 2016; FGC, Santa Rosa
- Update to MRC from OPC Jul 21, 2016; MRC, Petaluma
- **Today's update** **Nov 15, 2016; MRC, Los Alamitos**

Background

FGC referred this topic to the MRC in Feb 2016 to discuss concerns over marine debris and plastic pollution in California's coastal waters and ocean ecosystem, potentially impacting marine organisms under FGC purview. FGC previously discussed several issues that fall under this broad topic, ranging from *land-based* activities to *ocean-based* activities, all leading to *floating* or *submerged* debris in the ocean environment. Examples include plastics and trash originating from land, and lost gear associated with fishing and shellfish aquaculture. These all have the potential to harm to marine wildlife through ingestion, entanglement, or habitat disruption.

In Mar 2016, the MRC received informational briefings from a panel of three invited speakers on marine debris and plastic pollution, and discussed potential actions and opportunities at local, state and federal levels, including FGC engagement. Based on discussion, the MRC recommended, and in Apr 2016 FGC approved, for staff to coordinate with the California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) regarding possible efforts to jointly address marine debris (e.g., interagency workgroup or a possible multi-stakeholder workshop to share ideas).

1. OPC update: Holly Wyer, Program Manager at OPC, will report to MRC on progress in the OPC focal area of addressing marine debris (Exhibit 1). OPC is launching an effort to expand its 2008 Implementation Strategy for the 2007 OPC Resolution to Reduce and Prevent Ocean Litter (Exhibit 1). Ms. Wyer will discuss OPC funding granted in Oct for this effort. In line with FGC's request, based on MRC recommendation, Ms. Wyer has scheduled an interagency "lessons learned/kickoff meeting" in late Nov 2016, in which FGC staff will participate.
2. Plastics bag ban status and new referendum: FGC staff will briefly highlight and share preliminary election results for the "California Plastic Bag Ban Referendum", Proposition 67, a veto referendum to uphold the legislation banning plastic bags, which FGC voted to formally supported in Aug 2016.
3. Lost fishing gear: Staff will update on passage of SB 1287 by Senator McGuire (Chapter 542, Statutes of 2016), which will facilitate the retrieval of lost or abandoned Dungeness crab traps through a DFW-established retrieval permit program. Further, the OPC recently provided funding to support the Dungeness Crab Fishing Gear Working Group and implementation of its projects to reduce the risk and impact of whale entanglement in Dungeness crab fishing gear.

COMMITTEE STAFF SUMMARY FOR NOVEMBER 15, 2016

Significant Public Comments (N/A)**Recommendation**

Discuss FGC involvement with marine debris reduction efforts, including future meetings of interest sponsored by OPC. Staff recommends participation by staff and commissioners to the extent feasible with OPC's Strategy update process, beginning with the interagency workgroup.

Exhibits

1. [OPC report: Highlights from the Oct 17, 2016 OPC meeting](#)
2. Link: http://www.opc.ca.gov/webmaster/ftp/pdf/opc_ocean_litter_final_strategy.pdf

Committee Direction/Recommendation (N/A)

From: [Posting-OceanPublic](#)
To:
Subject: Highlights from the October 17, 2016 Ocean Protection Council meeting
Date: Wednesday, October 19, 2016 1:37:37 PM



CALIFORNIA OCEAN PROTECTION COUNCIL

John Laird, Secretary for Natural Resources, Council Chair
Matt Rodriguez, Secretary for Environmental Protection
Betty Yee, State Controller, State Lands Commission Chair
Fran Pavley, State Senator
Bill Quirk, State Assemblymember
Geraldine Knatz, Public Member
Michael Brown, Public Member

To: California Ocean and Coastal Community
From: John Laird, Secretary for Natural Resources and Chair, California Ocean Protection Council
Date: October 19, 2016
Subject: Highlights from the October 17, 2016 Ocean Protection Council meeting

The Ocean Protection Council (OPC) held a meeting on Monday, October 17, 2016 in Sacramento. Topics of discussion included consideration of funding under Proposition 84 for 16 projects totaling just over \$6 million. Additionally, the Council unanimously adopted a resolution supporting Proposition 67 as on the November 8, 2016 ballot, which upholds the statewide single-use plastic bag ban. Below are highlights from the meeting. I look forward to seeing you at the next OPC meeting.

The Council unanimously approved the following 16 projects for funding under Proposition 84 (Laird-aye; Rodriguez-aye; Baker-aye; Knatz-aye; Brown-aye). Additional information can be found in the [Summary of Proposed Projects](#) or by accessing the staff recommendations for the individual projects on the [OPC's website](#).

Item	Description
4a-f	Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia. The six ocean acidification and hypoxia projects enhance our understanding and employ strategies and tools to best prepare for, mitigate and adapt to ocean acidification and hypoxia across California. All the projects were recommended next steps by the West Coast Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Science Panel, convened at the request of OPC, in its spring 2016 "Major Findings, Recommendations, and Actions" report.
4g-4h	Sea-level Rise. OPC approved two projects to ensure that the State of California is prepared for and successfully adapts to the impacts of sea-level rise and storms. One project supports the U.S. Geological Survey to expand the Coastal Storm Modeling System (CoSMoS) to cover the Central Coast, and to update shoreline change rates statewide. This project also supports Point Blue Conservation Science in making the sea-level rise and coastal hazard maps from the CoSMoS model more accessible through extending the "Our Coast, Our Future" (OCOF) web tool to the Central Coast. The second project will provide the scientific underpinning for an

	<p>update to the State of California Sea-level Rise Guidance Document. California Ocean Science Trust will convene a working group of the OPC-Science Advisory Team to summarize the best available science on sea-level rise, particularly with respect to recent studies on ice melt.</p>
4i-4j	<p>Sediment Management.</p> <p>These two projects—beach restoration at Surfer’s Beach in San Mateo County and an assessment of the extent, location, and physical properties of sand resources-- aim to 1). improve the policies and regulatory practices in ways that restore natural sediment processes, while increasing opportunities for sediment reuse and 2). increase the availability of data and tools that can influence sediment-related planning decisions.</p>
4k-4l	<p>Marine Protected Areas.</p> <p>The two MPA projects complete priority tasks laid out in the MPA Statewide Leadership Team Work Plan. The MPA Signage Project - Round 2 builds on previous investments that resulted in the installation of 195 regulatory and interpretive signs across the MPA Network. Round 2 will address and build on priority sign needs identified in Round 1 by working with local stakeholders to design and install 150 - 160 signs that will improve the enjoyment and regulation compliance of visitors to the MPA Network. The MPA Collaborative Network Small Grants Program will continue to build and formalize an active partnership with the MPA Collaborative Network. The project will result in a ratified Collaborative Network Charter and a first round of funding at \$10,000 to each of the 14 MPA Collaboratives that are part of the Network to complete projects that address the priority needs identified in the MPA Statewide Leadership Work Plan.</p>
4m-4o	<p>Marine Pollution.</p> <p>The three marine pollution projects approved address urgent high-priority needs while laying the groundwork to build out the marine pollution program in a strategic, inclusive, and effective way. The update of the OPC Implementation Strategy to Reduce and Prevent Ocean Litter (Strategy) will use a collaborative process to develop new priorities and projects for the marine pollution program to pursue. The Dungeness Crab Fishing Gear Working Group project will provide funding for urgent collaborative research projects to reduce and prevent whale entanglement. The Unpackaged Community project will reduce a community’s reliance on single-use disposable packaging and will demonstrate an innovative method to address high-priority sources of litter.</p>
4p	<p>Sustainable Fisheries.</p> <p>The fisheries project approved provides guidance on the socioeconomic questions and information needs that are most important for fishery managers to address and a framework for building that information and integrating it into management, specifically the MLMA Master Plan Amendment. This project will result in a guidance document for fisheries managers that details how to incorporate socioeconomic and human dimensions information into California fisheries management.</p>

Additionally, the Council unanimously adopted a resolution supporting Proposition 67 as on the

November 8, 2016 ballot, which upholds the statewide single-use plastic bag ban (Laird-aye; Rodriquez-aye; Baker-aye; Knatz-aye; Brown-aye)

Item	Description
5	Single-use Plastic Bags. The Council unanimously adopted a resolution stating that the statewide bag ban in Senate Bill 270 is consistent with the Ocean Protection Council’s 2008 Implementation Strategy; local bag bans have been shown to be effective at reducing plastic bag pollution, such that a statewide ban is a prudent next step towards reducing marine plastic pollution; that given the existing evidence, the statewide bag ban is likely to reduce impacts that otherwise compromise the health of the ocean, and prevent pollution of the State’s waterways at the source; and supports Proposition 67 as on the November 8, 2016 ballot, which upholds the statewide bag ban.

[*Subscribe or Unsubscribe*](#)