

## CALIFORNIA FISHERIES

### Improving sustainability in California's state-managed fisheries

California's fisheries management law, the Marine Life Management Act, signalled a transformative shift from traditional single-species management to an ecosystem-based approach when it was passed into law in 1998. However, some features of the law present challenges in practice. State fisheries managers, Commissioners and stakeholder communities have been unable to implement, or reap benefits from, key provisions of the law due to data gaps, high compliance costs and funding and capacity constraints. As a result, these practitioners lack access to the best available knowledge, data and technologies, and often do not have the resources or capacity to implement or sustain novel fisheries solutions.

The fisheries management community in California, including the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the California Fish and Game Commission, is striving to integrate new science and management innovations while maximizing its limited capacity.

The Center for Ocean Solutions is working to identify opportunities for increasing ecological and socio-economic sustainability in state-managed fisheries.

### The California Fisheries project aims to:

- Establish strategic and trusted relationships with the fishery practitioner, stakeholder and research communities in California.
- Use social-ecological knowledge and interdisciplinary fisheries research to build our understanding of California fisheries and the current management policies under the Marine Life Management Act.
- Identify and prioritize the most salient challenges for California fisheries at the intersection of social, ecological, and governance systems for which we are uniquely suited to create implementable solutions.
- Co-develop and communicate materials and tools with practitioners that they can incorporate into management decisions.

### WHO WE ARE

The Center for Ocean Solutions is a collaboration among the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment and Hopkins Marine Station, the Monterey Bay Aquarium, and the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute.

The Center's mission is to work towards solving the major problems facing the ocean and prepare leaders to take on these challenges.



### WHAT WE DO

We bridge the gap between research and decisionmakers and identify pathways to solutions within science, technology and policy for solving major ocean challenges.



A California fisherman brings in his catch. (Marine Photobank)



Early career law fellow Don Gourlie participates in fisheries research with staff from Moss Landing Marine Laboratory. (Eric Hartge)

## HOW WE DEVELOP SOLUTIONS: *California Fisheries*

### Analyzing key challenges and opportunities

In partnership with fisheries decisionmakers, managers and scientists, the Center for Ocean Solutions conducted a policy assessment of California's ocean fisheries management. This assessment allowed us to improve our understanding of how: (1) the MLMA's goals and requirements are being implemented; (2) certain provisions of the MLMA could be better incorporated into management actions; and (3) elements of external management practices could enhance sustainability of California's fisheries.

### Increasing state management capacity to engage fishing community stakeholders

In collaboration with key partners, we are creating a broadly applicable toolbox of targeted strategies to improve stakeholder engagement in California fisheries. State fisheries managers acknowledge the need for more effective stakeholder engagement to facilitate collaboration, understanding, decision-making and long-term outcomes.

### Tracking management performance to prioritize management actions

In collaboration with project partners, including researchers at the Monterey Bay Aquarium's Seafood Watch Program, we are creating a flexible framework to track management performance under the goals and requirements of the Marine Life Management Act. This framework will provide relevant indicators to quantitatively or qualitatively measure management outcomes, helping managers to prioritize limited resources.

## KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Translating Science to Policy

Invited to present at California Ocean Protection Council Winter 2015 Science Advisory Team Workshop on Ready-ing California's Fisheries for Climate Change

Invited to incorporate our research and analyses into the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's updated Master Plan (process pending, late 2015)

### Publications

Produced 200+ page report enabling the funding community to prioritize their state fisheries funding strategy

Drafted white paper based on 30+ expert interviews reviewing global best available stakeholder engagement practices to inform similar efforts in CA

## OUR COLLABORATORS

Seafood Watch, Monterey Bay Aquarium; Hopkins Marine Station, Stanford University; CA Department of Fish and Wildlife, CA Fish and Game Commission, California's Ocean Science Trust, CA Ocean Protection Council and Science Advisory Team, Kearns & West, Resources Legacy Fund

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### Visit our new website:

[www.centerforoceansolutions.org](http://www.centerforoceansolutions.org)



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