



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

## CA Ocean Protection Council Two Sea Grant Fellow Opportunities

### Host location

Ocean Protection Council  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### Fellowship Supervisor

Catherine Kuhlman  
Executive Director, OPC

### Points of contact for prospective fellows and finalists

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### Position description

The CA Ocean Protection Council (OPC) was created by state law, the California Ocean Protection Act of 2004, to protect ocean health and we view all of our actions through the lens of climate change. Under changing ocean and coastal conditions that threaten communities, ecosystems and our economy, we have an urgent need to catalyze innovative and bold action to protect ocean and coastal health. The OPC and our partner Ocean Science Trust (OST) are engaging with partners in building a shared vision for ocean and coastal health, as well as what it means to be successful in ensuring ocean and coastal health given climate change:

- *How do we know if our management actions are resulting in a healthy ocean and coast?*
- *What are concrete actions that agencies and researchers can take to reduce the impacts of ocean acidification and hypoxia?*
- *How can we make our fisheries climate ready? How will we know if we are successful with adapting to sea-level rise?*
- *How can we use Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) as living laboratories to understand changing ocean conditions and to offer refuges from stressors?*

OPC was designed to be a convener and problem-solver for difficult questions like these that require bringing together managers, scientists, tribal representatives and other groups to protect what we love about California's coast and ocean. To learn more about our current initiatives, see a recent summary from the [OPC's Executive Director](#) and a [meeting agenda](#).

**The OPC will be hosting two Sea Grant fellows for 2016. One of the fellows will be more focused on climate change and the other will be more focused on MPAs.**

**Climate Change** - One of the Sea Grant fellows will work with Abe Doherty, OPC's Climate Change Policy Advisor, Jennifer Phillips, OPC Program Manager whose focus includes ocean acidification and hypoxia, and Catherine Kuhlman, OPC's Executive Director, who is also the ocean and coastal sector lead for implementing the [Governor's Executive Order B-30-15](#) on climate change. This Sea Grant fellow will be working on a variety of initiatives related to coastal and ocean climate adaptation, such as:

- Producing a report on state agency actions that have been taken to implement the coastal and ocean chapter of the [Safeguarding California Plan](#) (due June 2016);
- Helping to manage the [OPC's Local Coastal Program Sea-level Rise Grant Program](#), which has provided \$2.5 million in grants to local governments to conduct sea-level rise vulnerability assessments and update Local Coastal Programs in collaboration with the Coastal Commission;
- Assisting with OPC's efforts to map out, coordinate and suggest comprehensive monitoring, management and adaptation for ocean acidification and hypoxia at the state and federal government level. The fellow will be joining the team as the [West Coast Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Science Panel](#) wraps up and will play a central role in implementing and carrying out the recommendations of the Panel for the state of California, in close coordination with Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia and our federal partners such as NOAA and EPA.

**Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)** - One of the Sea Grant fellows will work with Cyndi Dawson, OPC's MPA Policy Advisor to help manage an effort among several state agencies to collaborate more effectively on the long-term management of MPAs created under the auspices of the Marine Life Protection Act. The fellow will play an integral role in facilitating and supporting the work of the MPA Statewide Leadership Team (Team). The Team is comprised of high level leadership from Department of Fish and Wildlife, Fish and Game Commission, State Lands, Coastal Commission, Water Boards, Collaborative Implementation Project, Ocean Science Trust and the West Region Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. The work of the Team is organized in four focal areas of outreach and education, research and monitoring, enforcement and compliance and policy and permitting. The fellow will be tasked with the following:

- Staffing and doing the preparatory work for biannual meetings of the Team known as the "MPA Milestones Meeting" that is led by the Secretary of National Resources and attended by the Directors of all the member agencies;
- Working closely with the local community MPA Collaboratives to ensure their priorities are being integrated into agency decision making; and
- Providing periodic updates to the OPC including drafting resolutions and recommendations.

**Supporting the functions of the Council** - All OPC staff support the functions of the 7-member council, including agenda setting, policy recommendations, and project development. Potential tasks associated with managing projects include: frequent communication with project stakeholders, partners, or grantees; presenting staff recommendations to the council; drafting and amending contracts and grant agreements; managing project-related invoices; organizing, and/or leading related meetings and workshops; participating in site visits; ensuring outcomes of projects are communicated to the public, relevant agencies, and institutions; seeking out additional funding sources or matching funds; encouraging transparency by working with stakeholders; and working to maintain broad project or program support. **Both fellows would support all the functions, above.** <http://www.opc.ca.gov/>

**Thank You Ocean** - The Thank You Ocean campaign is a joint partnership between the State of California and the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of National Marine Sanctuaries to raise awareness about the importance of the ocean and to engage the public in stewardship. The campaign's website focuses on four specific threats to the ocean and uses social media tools to

engage the public in the campaign. Specific activities may include development or review of campaign materials (such as podcasts, web content, and social media), overall project management, and fundraising.

**Both fellows with the OPC will be involved in the Thank You Ocean campaign.**

<http://www.thankyouocean.org/>

***Resources Agency Sea Grant Advisory Panel (RASGAP)*** - Cat Kuhlman serves as Chair of the Resources Agency Sea Grant Advisory Panel (RASGAP). The Panel is in charge of evaluating proposals for ocean and coastal research by California's two Sea Grant programs. **One fellow with the OPC will be responsible for all aspects of the RASGAP project including managing the membership of RASGAP, leading meeting logistics, review of pre-proposals and proposals, and participation in technical review panels held in San Diego.**