

Ocean Protection Council Science Advisory Team (OPC-SAT) Annual Meeting

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Scripps Institution of Oceanography

San Diego, CA

8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

OPC-SAT Members Present: R. Ambrose, A. Boehm, D. Cayan, F. Chavez, K. Coale, G. Griggs, T. Haymet, S. Johnson, J. Paduan, H. Scheiber, B. Sydeman, S. Weisberg

Ocean Science Trust (OST) Staff Present: A. Mace, Former OST ED and Executive Director of the Ocean Protection Council; T. Hoffmann, Independent Consultant; D. Pietri, Program Associate; L. Rogers, CA Sea Grant Fellow; R. Fisher, Support Staff

OPC-SAT Members Absent: M. Carr, C. Costello, J. Field, S. Gaines, F. Gulland, M. Hall-Arber, K. McLeod, M. Moline, S. Murray, K. Nielsen, J. Schubel, J. Stachowicz

Guests: B. Baird, California Natural Resources Agency; A. Blacow, California Natural Resources Agency; C. Cohen, Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System; N. Fishman, Ocean Protection Council; D. George, Ocean Protection Council; L. Hazzard, Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System; E. Knight, Communication Partnership for Science and the Science; B. Posthumus, Senior Water Resource Control Engineer; S. Schuchat, Ocean Protection Council; S. Semans, Ocean Protection Council; J. Thomas, Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System;

MAIN ACTIONS:

- **Co-chair Election:** G. Griggs and A. Boehm were elected by OPC-SAT members as Co-Chair and as Co-Chair Elect of the OPC-SAT.
- **Executive Committee Establishment:** It was decided that the current Co-Chair, the Co-Chair Elect, the Science Advisor and the previous Co-Chair will serve as the OPC-SAT Executive Committee. D. Pietri will provide support to the Executive Committee.
- **ED Search Committee:** It was agreed that G. Griggs (Co-Chair) and K. Coale (OPC-SAT member and OST Trustee) will serve on the search committee for the new Executive Director of the OST.
- **OPC-SAT Meeting Schedule:** The OPC-SAT will have **two yearly meetings**. The additional meeting will provide a chance for the OPC-SAT to engage directly with the OPC Management Team and will serve to increase integration between the OPC and the OPC-SAT.

- **Increased Communication:** The OPC Science Advisor will encourage meetings with individual OPC-SAT members to increase communication and keep OPC-SAT members updated on the Science Advisor's and the OPC's activities. OPC-SAT members will be treated to lunch with the Science Advisor if they are in the Oakland area, or if the Science Advisor is at conferences with OPC-SAT members.
- **Legislative Briefings:** OST will arrange for policy/legislative briefings at each OPC-SAT meeting.
- **Annual Work Plan:** The OPC-SAT Executive Committee will create a work plan for the OPC-SAT for the coming year.
- **Consensus/Position Statement:** The OPC-SAT will periodically create position statements for the OPC on various scientific topics of importance. A position statement will only be provided to the OPC if 100% of the subcommittee drafting the statement and 80% of all OPC-SAT members approve it. **If 100% of the OPC-SAT agrees on the statement, it will be classified as a "consensus" statement.** Members will assemble a subcommittee to work on an ocean observing position statement. This will be a one page document, completed in one month. The ocean observing position statement subcommittee is composed of F. Chavez (Chair), D. Cayan, K. Coale, T. Haymet, J. Paduan, and B. Sydeman.
- **CWO Conference Subcommittee:** G. Griggs will represent the OPC-SAT on the California and the World Oceans 2010 (CWO) concurrent session committee. This committee will help plan the concurrent session topics for the CWO 2010 meeting on September 7-10, 2009 in San Francisco, CA. The OPC-SAT will also convene a separate subcommittee to provide input on CWO. Members of the subcommittee include: G. Griggs (Chair), K. Coale T. Haymet, S. Johnson, H. Scheiber, B. Sydeman, and S. Weisberg.
- **Critical and Emerging Issues:** OST will assist the Executive Committee in creating a list of emerging and critical issues. Working groups will be formed to prioritize the list of emerging and critical issues. The working groups will prepare a brief write-up to present to the Management Team. Once the list is presented to the OPC Management Team they can be further developed.
- **Email Updates:** OST will send bi-monthly updates to OPC-SAT members on how their input has been used in OPC actions and business. These communications will also include updates on the activities of the OPC and the Science Advisor. In order to improve communication, OST staff will send a separate email for each request and "OPC-SAT" will be in the subject line of each email.
- **COMPASS List-serve:** All OPC-SAT members will be added to the COMPASS email list-serve in order to stay abreast of policy issues.

MEETING MINUTES

1. Welcome Remarks, Introduction, Agenda

A. Mace opened the meeting, welcomed the members, and reviewed the meeting objectives. T. Hoffmann outlined the ground rules for the meeting.

2. OPC, OST and OPC-SAT Updates

OPC-SAT Update: Accomplishments

R. Ambrose gave a brief review of the year's activities and explained that the main role of the OPC-SAT is to ensure that the best available science is applied to Ocean Protection Council (OPC) policy decisions. Ambrose highlighted the OPC-SAT's accomplishments this past year.

The group discussed the mismatch between the OPC's priority research areas and current OPC projects. A. Mace explained that project selection depends on funding and the goals of the OPC. Additionally, since the identification of the research priorities, the OPC has not been able to fund any new projects due to the fiscal crisis and related budget limitations.

OPC Update: Funding Situation and Future Projects

S. Schuchat provided the group with an update on the Ocean Protection Council and its current budget situation. He explained that the OPC has not started any new projects in the last year due to lack of available funds. In recent months, OPC has been able to re-start some of the existing projects that were frozen last year. However, the state of future funding is unclear. S. Schuchat identified potential funding opportunities in the future, from federal stimulus package funds to foundations to various future ballot initiatives.

S. Schuchat highlighted the importance of OPC-SAT in OPC projects since resource managers and other staff do not have access to peer reviewed journals and similar resources. He discussed potentially expanding the role of the OPC-SAT to work with the broader community of state resource managers and state agencies. A. Mace stressed that this is an important year to highlight the accomplishments of the OPC and the OPC-SAT in order to demonstrate their value.

Update: Search for New OPC Science Advisor

A. Mace started by explaining that as of November 30, she is no longer the OPC Science Advisor, having accepted the position of OPC Executive Director. She explained that the new Science Advisor would be selected by the Ocean Science Trust Board of Trustees. She next indicated that S. Weisberg, who is a member of the SAT and Chair of the OST Board is serving as the acting Science Advisor of the OPC and co-chair of the OPC-SAT.

Weisberg noted that he was excited about this meeting. The SAT had a number of accomplishments in the last year despite a challenging budget year, but this was only the second meeting of the SAT and our opportunity to set OPC-SAT priorities, take advantage of opportunities, and improve integration with the OPC.

Weisberg provided an update on the search for the OST ED, who also acts as the OPC Science Advisor. He indicated that the position had been advertised and that the search committee was meeting that evening to screen the applications. OPC-SAT members expressed concern that the person who – serves as the spokesperson for the OPC-SAT would be hired by the OST Board with little input from them. Weisberg, who Chairs the search committee, agreed with that concern and offered to add OPC-SAT representation to the OST ED search committee. He further offered to have SAT members participate in subsequent performance reviews for the Science Advisor. Members indicated that they liked these suggestions and agreed to add two members of the OPC-SAT to the ED search committee as well as have the OPC-SAT co-chair participate in the Science Advisor's performance review. An action was taken on this later in the meeting.

The group had additional discussion clarifying the relative roles of the OST (coordinating body for the OPC-SAT), the OPC-SAT, OST's Board of Trustees (governing body for the OST) and the OPC staff.

3. Overview of Governance Binder

D. Pietri reviewed the contents of the Governance Binder. A. Mace provided an overview of the draft OPC-SAT Charter and led a discussion about the roles outlined in the Charter as well as the function of the Charter as a guiding document and a code of conduct for the OPC-SAT.

The group requested clarification on communication between the OPC-SAT, the OPC and the OST. OST staff explained that the OST acts as an intermediary body between the OPC-SAT and the OPC and that every conversation with OST staff is communicated to OPC staff. The OPC-SAT suggested that OST provide more updates about OPC activities and efforts.

OPC-SAT members expressed desire to have an expanded role in more high-level priority setting with the OPC. The group agreed to return to this topic when discussing improving effectiveness.

4. Appointment of new Co-Chair

OPC-SAT members provided five nominations for the next co-chair (with the OPC Science Advisor serving as the other Co-Chair). Prior to voting, the SAT members discussed mechanisms for enhancing continuity between Co-Chairs and ultimately decided to appoint an active co-chair and a co-chair elect (who would serve as active co-chair the year following their election). Members also suggested the formation of an executive committee composed of the current co-chair, the co-chair elect, the co-chair emeritus, and the Science Advisor to create continuity of leadership, maintain institutional knowledge, and ensure information transfer in the group.

- **ACTION:** G. Griggs and A. Boehm were elected by OPC-SAT members as Co-Chair and as Co-Chair Elect of the OPC-SAT.

- **ACTION:** It was decided that the current Co-Chair, the Co-Chair Elect, the Science Advisor and the previous Co-Chair will serve as the OPC-SAT Executive Committee. D. Pietri will provide support to the Executive Committee.

5. Improving OPC-SAT Impact and Effectiveness

D. Pietri reviewed the results of the OPC-SAT survey that was sent to OPC-SAT members in August 2008 to gather ideas and suggestions about improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the team. The three key areas of recommendations identified from the survey were in relation to: 1) objectives and expectations; 2) communication; and 3) impact.

D. Pietri discussed ways in which the OPC-SAT can be involved in OPC projects and provided a list of active and ongoing projects that could benefit from OPC-SAT input. A. Mace explained that the list was not a comprehensive list of all of the projects that the OPC has worked on.

Members asked questions regarding Sea Grant projects and noted that some important topics (e.g., HABs, land-sea interactions) were underrepresented on the project list.

The group discussed the goals of the OPC-SAT. Identified goals included:

- Engage in focused efforts where there are real opportunities to make an impact
- Provide scientific input in management and decision-making
- Support the Science Advisor
- Create strong working groups
- Advise, support and review projects and proposals
- Provide technical expertise and high level planning and priority setting
- Provide reactive/responsive support as well as proactive/strategic support
- Advise OPC on developing partnerships and leveraging funds
- Advise OPC on leveraging funds
- Not engaging in advocacy

6. California and the World Oceans (CWO) Conference 2010

B. Baird discussed the upcoming CWO 2010 conference, which will be held September 7-10, 2010 at the San Francisco Hyatt Regency. Baird and the group discussed how the OPC-SAT would like to be involved in the conference. The group suggested the following concurrent session topics as a start for the committee to discuss:

- Climate change, sea level rise, shoreline retreat
- Coastal hazards, El Niño's, Scenario Management
- Water quality, Nutrient Criteria
- Fisheries
- Sea Ports
- Ecosystem Based Management
- Recreational Ocean Uses
- Collaborative Research

S. Weisberg explained that CWO represents an opportunity for the OPC-SAT to be more proactive. He suggested that OPC-SAT could establish a concurrent session committee to brainstorm and suggest concurrent session topics and possibly provide additional support for the conference by participating in or sponsoring concurrent sessions. B. Baird, who is organizing the conference, endorsed that suggestion.

- **ACTION:** G. Griggs will represent the OPC-SAT on the California and the World Oceans 2010 (CWO) concurrent session committee. This committee will help plan the current session topics for the CWO 2010 meeting on September 7-10, 2009 in San Francisco, CA. The OPC-SAT will also convene a separate subcommittee to provide input on CWO. Members of the subcommittee include: G. Griggs (Chair), K. Coale T. Haymet, S. Johnson, H. Scheiber, B. Sydeman, and S. Weisberg.

7. Ocean Observing Consensus Statement

S. Semans expressed interest in the OPC-SAT creating a consensus statement highlighting the scientific importance of ocean observing. This statement could be used to improve California's ability to leverage federal funds for ocean observing in California.

Members discussed whether the OPC-SAT should produce consensus statements. Sentiment was positive, representing an opportunity for the SAT to be more proactive, but the following concerns were raised: 1) ensuring the OPC-SAT does not engage in advocacy; 2) whether producing a consensus statement would prioritize certain issues; 3) what a consensus statement would look like; 4) whether the statement be called a "consensus statement" or a "position statement"; 5) the procedures for deciding when to create a consensus statement; and 6) the utility of a consensus statement to the OPC. The group agreed to create position statements when appropriate and discussed how the group will decide when they will create a position statement.

- **ACTION:** The OPC-SAT will periodically create position statements for the OPC on various scientific topics of importance. A position statement will only be provided to the OPC if 100% of the subcommittee drafting the statement and 80% of all OPC-SAT members approve it. **If 100% of the OPC-SAT agrees on the statement, it will be classified as a "consensus" statement.**
- **ACTION:** The SAT agreed to develop an ocean observing position statement as its first position statement. This will be a one page document, completed in the next month. An ocean observing position statement subcommittee composed of F. Chavez (Chair), D. Cayan, K. Coale, T. Haymet, J. Paduan, and B. Sydeman was formed.

8. Improving the OPC-SAT Effectiveness

The meeting agenda was revised in order for the group to be able to spend more time discussing ways to improve the effectiveness and impact of the OPC-SAT. This conversation focused on five topic areas that had been raised during discussion under agenda item 5:

a) Being Proactive: The members discussed ways to work more closely with the OPC and have a more proactive role. The group agreed that they had already made decisions at the meeting that positively addressed ways to be proactive, such as creating position statements. They also suggested having two yearly meetings, creating an annual work plan, and commenting on the OPC's new strategic plan as ways to address this issue.

- **ACTION:** The group agreed that the OPC-SAT Executive Committee will create a work plan for the OPC-SAT for the coming year and will provide input on the next OPC strategic plan.
- **ACTION:** The OPC-SAT will have **two yearly meetings**. The additional meeting will provide a chance for the OPC-SAT to engage directly with the OPC Management Team¹ and will serve to increase integration between the OPC and the OPC-SAT. When possible, meetings will be scheduled in conjunction with other events, such as OPC meetings, though members will be polled on the best potential meeting dates.

b) Being Responsive: OPC staff mentioned that they would like the OPC-SAT to continue to serve in a reactive/responsive capacity as well. A. Mace explained that the peer reviews have greatly influenced OPC projects, are essential for the credibility and quality of OPC work, and will be incorporated into the scope and contract for all future projects. The members indicated a willingness to continue in that role, but expressed some frustration that they did not typically hear the outcome of their suggestions. The OST agreed to provide follow-up information to SAT members who provide suggestions.

c) Communication: OPC-SAT members discussed ways that the OST could communicate more effectively with the OPC-SAT. In order to improve OPC-SAT responsiveness, members agreed that: 1) multiple peer review requests should come in separate emails; 2) requests should have a consistent subject line heading.

- **ACTION:** OST will send bi-monthly reports updating OPC-SAT members on how their input has been used in OPC actions and business.
- **ACTION:** In order to improve communication, OST staff will send a separate email for each request and "OPC-SAT" will be in the subject line of each email.
- **ACTION:** The OPC Science Advisor will seek to meet individually with OPC-SAT members to increase communication and keep OPC-SAT members updated on the Science Advisor's activities. OPC-SAT members will be treated to lunch by the Science Advisor if they are in the Oakland area, or if the Science Advisor is at conferences with OPC-SAT members.

¹ The OPC management team includes B. Baird (Assistant Secretary for Ocean and Coastal Policy for the California Resources Agency), A. Mace (Executive Director of the OPC), S. Schuchat (OPC Secretary and Executive Officer of the Coastal Conservancy), Neal Fishman (Deputy Executive Officer/Ocean Program Supervisor), C. Blackburn(OPC Program Manager), and the OPC Science Advisor

d) Administration: Several SAT members had expressed concern earlier in the meeting that OPC-SAT communication with the OPC staff was modulated through the Science Advisor, who is employed by the OST and not the SAT.

The group revisited the discussion from earlier in the day about search for the OPC Science Advisor/OST ED and noted that having SAT representation on the search committee for the OST ED/Science Advisor and having the Co-Chair of the SAT participate in the performance review for the Science Advisor would help address this issue. The group also agreed that having the OPC staff participate in at least one of the two SAT annual meetings (agreed to under item (a) above) will further ensure correct communication of the SAT messages. Finally, the group agreed that formation of an Executive Committee that the Science Advisor can confer with on a more regular basis will also help.

- **ACTION:** It was agreed that G. Griggs (Co-Chair) and K. Coale (OPC-SAT member and OST Trustee) will serve on the search committee for the new Executive Director (ED) of the OST.
- **ACTION:** It was further agreed that G. Griggs (Co-Chair) will contribute to the performance review of the Executive Director (ED) of the OST.

e) Integration: The group requested a policy/legislative update to be integrated into OPC-SAT meetings. They explained that this type of briefing would assist the group in making a two-way connection between science and policy/management. A. Mace explained that an update would be possible but reminded the group that their role is to serve as a scientific advisory body and all policy discussions will be done at the OPC.

- **ACTION:** OST will arrange for policy/legislative briefings at each OPC-SAT meeting.
- **ACTION:** All OPC-SAT members will be added to the COMPASS email list-serve in order to stay abreast of policy issues.

9. Critical and Emerging Issues

OPC-SAT members discussed how the OPC-SAT should organize and develop teams to address critical and emerging issues. The group discussed the use of working groups and conference calls to generate and refine the list of issues. The group agreed that the Executive Committee would work to prioritize issues before forming working groups to address the identified issues.

- **ACTION:** OST will assist the executive committee in organizing a conference call to create a list of emerging and critical issues. Working groups will be formed to prioritize the list of emerging and critical issues. The working groups will prepare a brief write-up to present to the OPC Management Team. Once the list is presented to the OPC Management Team, the high priority critical and emerging issues can be further developed.

10. Next steps

A. Mace thanked members for all of their input and thanked everyone for communicating their frustrations. She summarized that there had been three working groups established at the meeting: CWO Concurrent Sessions Working Group, Ocean Observing Position Statement Working Group, and the Executive Committee.

A. Mace closed the meeting by thanking all members for their time and expertise.

11. Meeting Closure

Meeting adjourned.