

**For Immediate Release**

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**\$6 Million Grant Program Launched to Support Ocean and Coastal Scientific Research**

*USC Sea Grant awarded key role in administering program to benefit state priorities in ocean and coastal management*

Los Angeles - The California Ocean Protection Council (OPC), in partnership with the University of Southern California Sea Grant Program (USC Sea Grant) and California Sea Grant Program is initiating a competitive grant program to implement scientific research projects that directly support the stewardship and management of California's ocean and coastal resources.

Up to \$6,000,000 will be distributed to advance research for priorities identified by OPC in the areas of: ocean acidification and hypoxia; sustainable fisheries and aquaculture; sea level rise adaptation and coastal resilience; coastal sediment management; marine pollution; and marine renewable energy. The Sea Grant Programs were awarded funding to administer the multi-year program.

Communities and economies throughout California depend on healthy ocean and coastal resources—from water quality to fisheries to tourism. There is a need to develop strategies to increase environmental and economic sustainability and reduce risks in the face of changing ocean and climate conditions. Using the best available science to inform management decisions is critical.

“This is an opportunity to advance innovative scientific research and translate those results into action across communities and government,” said Linda Duguay, Director of USC Sea Grant. “The state’s investment will enable smart decisions as we plan for a changing future.”

Eligible applicants for this grant program include academic institutions, public agencies, nonprofit corporations, and private entities. The source of funds will be from OPC's appropriation of the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84).

Preliminary grant proposals are due March 15, 2018. An informational webinar about the grant program will be held for interested applicants on February 20, 2018. For the full grant program announcement, webinar information and additional details, visit:

<http://dornsife.usc.edu/uscseagrant/opc-prop-84-funding/>

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