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Office of Public Affairs

BOEMRE Awards \$995,000 to the California Ocean Science Trust

Grant Promotes Integration of Science into Management of California's Coastal and Marine Resources

WASHINGTON, DC — The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE) announced today that it has awarded a \$995,000 grant to the California Ocean Science Trust (OST) to provide scientific support for coastal and ocean policy and management of California's coastal and marine resources. This is the most recent of a series of grants made through BOEMRE's Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP).

Created by the Energy Policy Act of 2005, CIAP provides funding to the six Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas producing states to conserve and protect the coastal environment. CIAP is an ongoing program with grant funding that is allocated based on the offshore energy revenues collected by the United States.

"California's diverse coastline and rich marine ecosystems require effective management strategies to ensure protection for future generations," said BOEMRE Director Michael R. Bromwich. "We are proud to partner with the California Ocean Science Trust in meeting this challenge by supporting efforts to enhance the role of science in effectively managing the state's coastal resources."

The OST, which serves as the science arm of California's Ocean Protection Council (OPC), will use the grant to improve coordination among scientists, policymakers and resource managers, focusing specifically on resource management priorities; establish mechanisms to connect science and scientists with the OPC; and establish partnerships to improve communication and collaboration between scientists and the OPC. Grant funding will directly support Marine Protected Area baseline monitoring projects along southern and central California and California Ocean Protection Council workshops on critical marine-related issues.

Since January 2010, the State of California and coastal counties have received \$5,749,334 from BOEMRE in CIAP grants to support a broad range of projects that will protect and restore the California coastline through coordination, education and restoration. With CIAP funding, the state is better able to implement its core functions relative to the coastal environment, such as planning and regulatory programs as well as marine law enforcement. In addition, CIAP grants help the state to increase its capacity to facilitate coastal policy discussions and partnerships among scientists, managers and policy makers, with the objective of bridging the gap between science and policy. California counties are applying CIAP funds to coastal restoration, development of mitigation strategies in coastal watersheds and education campaigns aimed at improving coastal water quality.

CIAP will receive \$250 million in appropriated funds for each of the Fiscal Years 2007-2010 to be disbursed to six eligible Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas producing states – Alabama, Alaska, California, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas.

A complete list of CIAP grants to California and coastal counties can be found on the BOEMRE website at:
<http://www.boemre.gov/omm/pacific/enviro/CIAP.htm>.

Contact: [BOEMRE Public Affairs](#)