California Ocean Science Trust

Summary document:

Lessons-learned from convening the West Coast Ocean Acidification & Hypoxia Science Panel

Purpose of a lessons-learned

The West Coast Ocean Acidification & Hypoxia Science Panel (the Panel), convened by California Ocean Science Trust at the request of the California Ocean Protection Council (OPC), concluded its term in April 2016. Since then, the OPC, state agencies, and the West Coast region have begun to pursue a range of initiatives based on the Panel's recommendations, and are actively working to raise the regional (Pacific West Coast) and international profile of the issue of ocean acidification. With several months having passed, and follow-up work in response to the Panel now underway, Ocean Science Trust seeks to:

- reflect upon the process by which we convened and stewarded the Panel on behalf of the OPC and the West Coast region;
- understand the perspectives of those involved in various aspects of the Panel, some close to the Panel process and others more removed; and
- draw lessons-learned, including what worked and what didn't.

By going through this process, we hope to improve our growing role in convening teams of scientists (both large and small) to address decision-makers' needs in effective and innovative ways.

Background: Convening the Panel

Ocean Science Trust convened the Panel in late 2013 to produce a range of products based on state, regional and federal decision-makers' science needs. The Panel conducted its work throughout 2014, and starting in 2015, released products on a rolling basis until April 2016. Ocean Science Trust designed and stewarded the process by which the Panel conducted its work, and served as the liaison to the Panel's many decision-making audiences. In particular, we strove to ground the Panel in decision-makers' needs, while also preserving the Panel's independence from political influence. Our aim was to help shape and channel the innovative ideas of the panelists (and scientific community at large) into decision-making processes and frameworks where those ideas would have the most impact. This goal informed the components of the Panel process and structure, including:

- Ensuring Panel membership reflected an interdisciplinary pool of expertise;
- scoping of Panel products;
- designing and leading the process by which products were generated and reviewed; and
- cultivating decision-making and other audiences for the Panel.

Milestones and related documents

- September 2012: The OPC formally requested then OPC Science Advisor and Ocean Science Trust Executive Director Skyli McAfee to assess the current scientific understanding of the challenges of ocean acidification and hypoxia (OAH).
- November 2012: Ocean Science Trust convened the OPC Science Advisory Team (SAT), OPC staff, state and federal managers, and scientific experts from Oregon and Washington State to brainstorm the potential for a California science panel to address OAH.

- August 2013: Oregon and California sign a memorandum of understanding to jointly sponsor a California-Oregon Panel. Washington State and British Columbia later followed - resulting in the West Coast Ocean Acidification & Hypoxia Science Panel.
- November 25 - 26, 2013: Ocean Science Trust convened the first in-person meeting of the West Coast Panel.
- 2014/2015: The Panel and Ocean Science Trust conducted work, and released products on a rolling basis:
    - ◊ Affiliate product (Ocean Science Trust), *"Envisioning a Future Science Landscape,"* February 2015.
    - ◊ Affiliate product (Ocean Science Trust), *"Today's Need for a Coastwide Approach,"* October 2015.
    - ◊ Publication (Panel product), *"Ocean Acidification Science Needs for Natural Resource Managers,"* Boehm et al., Oceanography, June 2015.
    - ◊ Technical guidance (Panel product), *"Multiple Stressor Considerations,"* July 2015.
    - ◊ Publication (Panel product), *"What changes in the carbonate system… portend for species,"* Somero et al., Bioscience, December 2015.
    - ◊ Technical guidance (Panel product), *"West Coast Monitoring Network,"* April 2016.
    - ◊ Technical guidance (Panel product), *"Research Priorities,"* April 2016.
    - ◊ Technical guidance (Panel product), *"Modeling Tools,"* April 2016.
    - ◊ Foundational science (Panel product), *"Ecological Resilience,"* April 2016.
    - ◊ Publication (Panel product), *"Water Quality Criteria,"* Weisberg et al., Ocean and Coastal Management, April 2016.
    - ◊ Final Panel product, *"The West Coast Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Science Panel: Major Findings, Recommendations, and Actions,"* April 2016.

Lessons-learned process

We intend to hold a series of conversations with panelists, staff and decision-maker clients. We may use existing meetings to hold these conversations, or set up new meetings as needed. In order to capture a diversity of perspectives across key issues, we will use the same set of questions for all interviewees.

Process steps

Lessons-learned process timeline: October through November 2016.

1. Ocean Science Trust to develop a one-pager interview document, including brief overview of our goals for the conversation, and several key questions.
2. Ocean Science Trust to hold conversations (in person or over the phone).
3. Ocean Science Trust to convene a conference call (including former Panel leadership, the OPC, and other key participants) to discuss findings.
4. Ocean Science Trust to summarize our findings in writing, including how we intend to incorporate lessons into our work going forward. This document will be shared with all interviewees and other close partners.

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