

Legislative Science Services

BRINGING SCIENCE TO LAWSMAKING

2021 HIGHLIGHTS



CALIFORNIA
OCEAN
SCIENCE
TRUST

Strengthening Access to Actionable Science for Lawmakers

Building on two decades of success in providing science advice to California's government agencies, in early 2021, OST launched a new program to bring science directly to California lawmakers, expanding the impact of our work towards a healthy and productive coast and ocean.

"Ocean Science Trust is an invaluable partner in bringing ocean science advice to the California Legislature, and fulfills a need for specialized, evidence-based guidance to support healthy oceans and coasts."

DR. AMBER MACE, CEO,
CALIFORNIA COUNCIL
ON SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

"By hosting a briefing on the kelp decline in the California north coast, Ocean Science Trust created an invaluable opportunity to share and discuss the latest scientific advancements that can inform solutions directly with lawmakers."

DR. MARISSA BASKETT, PROFESSOR, UC DAVIS

2021 BRIGHT SPOTS

- **3 expert briefings with >100 attendees each** executed on blue carbon, the kelp loss crisis, and offshore wind, delivering unique opportunities to hear directly from panels of interdisciplinary experts at the top of their field. We proudly partnered with both California State University's Council on Ocean Affairs, Science & Technology (CSU COAST) and California Council on Science & Technology (CCST).
- **70 offices and 10 committees** engaged to introduce the services we provide and offer individualized science advice to staff based on elected representative priorities. OST facilitated connections between scientists and staff by arranging for deeper technical discussions or recommending experts to serve as hearing witnesses.
- **Technical, individualized advice delivered on over 10 topics or bill ideas.** OST leveraged our deep network of scientific experts in California to provide technical advice on bill ideas across a variety of topics, including DDT pollution, blue carbon potential, and the kelp loss crises.
- **\$182,000 raised**, securing support for 2 years of the program. OST has been thrilled by the response from both foundations and individual donors who immediately grasp the value of this program and OST's unique position to carry it forward.



CASE STUDY

A CASE IN RAPID RESPONSE SCIENCE ADVICE: THE HUNTINGTON BEACH OIL SPILL

In October 2021, news broke of an oil pipeline rupture off Huntington Beach, CA. Ten days later, Ocean Science Trust convened a rapid response Science Briefing with CSU COAST to equip the State Legislature with a foundational understanding of the environmental and economic impacts of oil spills. During the briefing, 6 experts from the CSU and UC systems discussed the state of the science related to short and long-term impacts of oil on sensitive ecological habitats, local and migratory wildlife, and coastal livelihoods. Offered only to Legislative offices in an intimate setting, staffers asked honest questions in a live Q&A with the experts. The recent spill reignited the critical topic of offshore oil and gas infrastructure decommissioning in California, and elevated the need for science-based guidance in tackling these complex issues. Following the event, the [Select Committee on the Orange County Oil Spill](#) was established to hold oversight hearings on oil spill response and strategies for decommissioning.

"Ocean Science Trust recently included a Coastal Science and Policy graduate student from UC Santa Cruz into its Legislative Services program. This experience quickly enhanced the student's understanding of how to effectively bring science to the table in the lawmaking process and also jumpstarted the student's desired career path in the policy arena."

DR. ANNE R. KAPUSCINSKI,
DIRECTOR, UC SANTA CRUZ
COASTAL SCIENCE & POLICY
PROGRAM AND PROFESSOR OF
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES



Carrying the vision forward

We are committed to a vision, for Sacramento, and for California, of a lawmaking culture infused with ocean and coastal science. Legislative staffers and members will regularly call on OST for technical advice and connections to the scientific community informing votes, bill drafting,

and appropriations. In the coming months we look forward to engaging on topics such as microplastics, equity in coastal adaptation, ocean carbon-dioxide removal, seaweed aquaculture, and many more in response to California's priorities.