

## Exhibit 4: Letters of Support



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE  
Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary  
113 Harbor Way, Suite 150  
Santa Barbara, CA 93109

June 8, 2005

California State Coastal Conservancy  
Mr. Sam Schuchat  
Executive Officer  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Mr. Schuchat:

I strongly encourage the Coastal Conservancy to fund the Channel Islands Marine Protected Area Monitoring Program ROV Survey Project. The current proposal involves a collaboration between NOAA National Marine Sanctuaries, the California Department of Fish and Game, two non-profit organizations (The Nature Conservancy and MARE), and potentially several universities and for-profit companies. Funding would allow the partners to perform baseline and annual monitoring to determine fish density and change over time in marine protected areas (MPAs). This project is a key component of the overall monitoring of Channel Islands MPAs.

The Channel Islands MPA network provides a unique opportunity to study the effectiveness of MPAs for ecosystem-based ocean and fishery management in California marine waters. The Channel Islands MPA network was established in 2003 by the state of California, within state waters of the Channel Islands, after being planned in a partnership between the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary and the state of California. MPAs have been recommended by the U.S. Ocean Commission as a potentially powerful ecosystem-based management tool. Further, the State of California's Marine Life Protection Act intends to establish a network of MPAs across California's marine waters.

Last year we provided our state-of-the-art research vessel SHEARWATER to support the remotely operated vehicle (ROV) survey cruises. The project team developed ROV survey methods that parallel those used by scuba divers at shallower depths, effectively extending the MPA monitoring into much deeper waters (20-100 meters). They have demonstrated their competence and dedication in 5 expeditions during the past 14 months, completing over 100 linear kilometers of transects. We found the project to be an excellent example of cooperation, synergy and leveraging. In addition, we support acoustic mapping, since high resolution acoustic maps allows ROV surveys to be targeted to the best monitoring sites.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chris Mobley".

Chris Mobley  
Manager



Exhibit 4: Letters of Support



State of California – The Resources Agency

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor

**DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>

Marine Region  
20 Lower Ragsdale Drive  
Monterey, CA 93940  
(831) 649-2893



June 7, 2005

Douglas Bosco, Chairman  
California State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612



Re: Support for Channel Islands Marine Protected Areas Monitoring Program:  
ROV Survey Project

Dear Mr. Bosco:

On behalf of the California Department of Fish and Game (Department), I encourage your support for the Channel Islands Marine Protected Areas Monitoring Program: ROV Survey Project. This project is a collaborative partnership between The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Marine Applied Research and Exploration (MARE), the Department and the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (Sanctuary).

The project brought funding, technical expertise and other partners together to extend ongoing monitoring around the Channel Islands marine protected areas (MPAs). Last year Department biologists worked closely with the ROV team to develop and implement ROV methodology to monitor fish and invertebrate populations. The team successfully completed 5 cruises, collecting more than 100 km of transect data that will be used to help evaluate the MPAs.

The new proposal will allow the partners to perform baseline and annual fish density monitoring. We expect the proposed work to produce quantitative data that can be used by managers to assess marine resources. We hope that you will be able to support this important project

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Ugoretz".

John Ugoretz  
Nearshore Ecosystem Coordinator  
California Department of Fish and Game

*Conserving California's Wildlife Since 1870*

Exhibit 4: Letters of Support

## The Kingfisher Foundation

February 16, 2005

California State Coastal Conservancy  
Sam Schuchat  
Executive Officer  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Mr. Schuchat,

Kingfisher Foundation is supportive of expanding the available monitoring of deepwater habitat throughout the State. Last year we were a key funder of the Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) monitoring of the bell-weather Channel Islands Marine Protected Areas. The group coordinated by Marine Applied Research and Exploration (MARE) has developed methods for ROVs to parallel those used by scuba divers at shallower depths, effectively extending the monitoring into much deeper waters (20-100 meters). They have demonstrated their competence and dedication in 5 expeditions over the past 14 months.

During the past year, the project team produced far more in results than we expected. They brought to light the habitat and biota in covering over 100 linear km of transect. We found the projects to be excellent examples of cooperation, synergy and leveraging. Based upon the results to date the CINMS is encouraged that quantitative methods may be extended to future Channel Islands monitoring cruises and into other baseline and monitoring surveys throughout the state. In addition we encourage the support of acoustic mapping of the habitats to be evaluated- as this focuses the magnifying lens of the ROV, by concentrating its use in areas where quantitative change can be determined and documented.

The current proposal involves a collaboration between NOAA National Marine Sanctuaries, the California Department of Fish and Game, two non-profit organizations (The Nature Conservancy and MARE) and potentially several universities and for-profit companies. The capital equipment funding sought will allow the partners to perform baseline and annual monitoring to determine fish density and change over time. We expect the proposed work to produce quantitative data that can be used by managers as a tool to evaluate MPAs and other important sites.

Therefore we strongly encourage the Coastal Conservancy to fund the proposal entitled "MARE Proposed Capital Equipment Plan". Kingfisher is interested in continuing its support of this project.

Please support us in this pioneering work.

Yours truly,

Kristine Johnson  
Executive Director