New Projects

In addition to conducting studies that are funded by the SCCWRP sponsors, the SCCWRP staff also receives grants and contracts from other government agencies and private organizations. The information gathered through these projects helps in understanding the Southern California Bight, which is a benefit to all concerned. Recently, SCCWRP became involved with two new contracts, one from the U.S. Department of the Interior's Minerals Management service (MMS) and one from the American Petroleum Institute (API).

The Ocean Studies Institute (OSI; a consortium of the California State University campuses at Dominguez Hills, Fullerton, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Northridge, and Pomona) received a 30-month $333,000 contract from MMS to produce a graduate level textbook, which is tentatively titled *Ecology of the Southern California Bight: A Synthesis and Interpretation*. SCCWRP became part of the proposal to provide its expertise regarding the Southern California Bight.

Twenty-four scientists from the Pacific Northwest to Southern California will be contributing to the text which will contain chapters on various aspects of the Southern California Bight including physical oceanography, geochemistry and chemical oceanography, microbiology, phytoplankton, zooplankton, algae and marine spermatophytes, benthic invertebrates, fish, birds, marine mammals, major natural events, anthropogenic inputs and effects, complexity of governance, and ecosystem interrelationships. The project will also provide a current bibliography on the Southern California Bight to MMS, the result of a thorough literature search, which will list research done in the bight.

In addition to writing portions of the text, Murray Dailey (Director of OSI) will oversee the project as Program Manager, Jack W. Anderson (Director of SCCWRP) will aid the project as Publications Editor, and Donald J. Reish (Professor of Biology at California State University, Long Beach) will serve as Science Editor. A review board consisting of several scientists, all with well-known expertise in their respective fields, has been put together by the management team to ensure a high-quality text.

Jack W. Anderson of SCCWRP and Donald J. Reish of California State University, Long Beach, received a $100,000 contract for the first year of research from API to study the effects of produced waters on selected marine species through bioassays. In order to attain these goals, the principal investigators will develop methods for the collection, transport, and dilution of produced water samples; determine the chemical composition of produced water samples during specific time periods; compare mysids with five other organisms to evaluate test procedures and comparative sensitivities; and measure the toxicity of reference compounds and produced water samples with various salinities on five organisms. A second year of funding at approximately the same level is anticipated to complete the project.