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# Transitioning Research Into Management

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The last several years have been an exciting period at the interface between ocean science and environmental policy. Both California and the federal government have established ocean management councils and developed long-term strategies for the protection of oceans. The White House will soon release a federal Ocean Research Priorities Plan (ORPP), which expands upon a research plan prepared by California last year.

These plans contain priority recommendations for scientific research that will support management of oceans and coastal watersheds. Many of SCCWRP's research directions are aligned with the priorities contained in these plans, indicating that we are at the forefront of science and addressing the issues most relevant to today's managers.

Many organizations will be addressing these research needs and I believe that SCCWRP's unique niche lies deeper in these priority plans. A key recognition of the ORPP, in particular, is that beyond the need for more research investment, the nation needs better mechanisms to transfer research from the laboratory into the management community.

SCCWRP was created to fill this role for southern California's water quality management community. Our Commissioners and their staffs are the leading water quality managers in southern California. Through quarterly Commission meetings and other interactions, our member agencies learn how new scientific advances can affect their management activities. At the same time, the Commission provides valuable feedback regarding which uncertainties in our scientific understanding throttle their adoption of new technologies or management approaches. This feedback, of course, helps establish our next set of research activities, as we attempt to address these roadblocks.

As one of the premier interfaces between science and management in California, it is incumbent on SCCWRP to form partnerships with other scientific entities to ensure that we are presenting the most current scientific information and technologies to our member agencies. In addition to partnering with academia on specific projects (15 of the 25 articles in this report were co-authored with academic partners), we also partner with national entities that share our interest in technology transfer. For example, SCCWRP has worked cooperatively with the Alliance for Coastal Technology ([www.act-us.info](http://www.act-us.info)) over the last five years to better define the technology needs of the water quality community. More recently, we have developed a partnership with the Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology ([ciceet.unh.edu](http://ciceet.unh.edu)), an organization that funds technology development, has worked with SCCWRP to test these technologies, and uses SCCWRP as a primary information source regarding coastal manager's needs when developing funding priorities. We also continue our long-standing relationship with Sea Grant, with whom we have successfully partnered on numerous projects over the years.

I agree with the ORPP's assessment that the linkage between science and management is the crucial bottleneck that will dictate the value of our national investment in research. We are enthusiastic about our role as an interface and continue to look for new opportunities to accomplish this mandate.



Stephen B. Weisberg, Ph.D.

P.S. Please note our new address (3535 Harbor Blvd., Suite 110, Costa Mesa, CA 92626) and look for our new phone numbers that will soon be posted on our web site. We are moving in January to a larger facility (with three conference rooms that will allow us to better facilitate dialog between environmental management and scientific communities).