



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE  
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries  
West Coast Region  
99 Pacific St., Bldg. 200, Suite K  
Monterey, CA 93940

April 22, 2013

Mary Nichols, Chair  
California Air Resources Board  
1001 I Street, PO Box 2815  
Sacramento, CA 95812

**RE: Revise the Final Investment Plan to include the Vessel Speed Reduction Incentive Initiative**

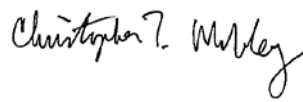
Dear Chair Nichols and Board Members:

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, West Coast Region (WCR) appreciates the opportunity to review the Draft Cap-and-Trade Auction Proceeds Investment Plan: Fiscal Years 2013-14 through 2015-16 (Draft Investment Plan)<sup>1</sup>. We offer one comment - **please include in the final plan the widely supported Vessel Speed Reduction (VSR) Incentive program as a priority for Cap and Trade auction funding.**

We have partnered with the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (SBCAPCD) and the Environmental Defense Center to develop a VSR Incentive program that would provide financial incentives to large marine ships to voluntarily reduce speeds along the California coast to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, improve air quality, and protect whales. The VSR Initiative tiers off the very successful vessel speed reduction program of the Ports of LA and Long Beach. We have built a strong coalition of local, state and federal agencies, shipping interests and non-government organizations who support the program. The VSR Incentive program fulfills multiple objectives of AB 32 (Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006), AB 1532 and SB 535 (Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund), and priorities in the Draft Investment Plan while also meeting California's clean-transportation goals and sustainable freight strategies.

We recognize that CARB and the Department of Finance face considerable challenges in determining how investment funds should be deployed equitably and efficiently. Thank you for considering our comment and including a **vessel speed reduction (which is missing from the Draft Investment Plan) in your Final Investment Plan as a priority for funding and request Cap-and-Trade money be directed to the Vessel Speed Reduction Incentive program.**

Sincerely,

  
for

William J. Douros  
West Coast Regional Director

<sup>1</sup> California Air Resources Board and California Environmental Protection Agency 2013. Draft Cap-and-Trade-Auction Proceeds Investment Plan. Fiscal Years 2013-14 through 2015-16. Accessed at: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/capandtrade/auctionproceeds/DraftCapandTradeInvestmentPlan.pdf>

