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NOAA Office for Coastal Management  
Section 312 Evaluation, Docket No. 260623-0150

Submitted electronically via [czma.californiaevaluation@noaa.gov](mailto:czma.californiaevaluation@noaa.gov)

**Re: Comments on Performance Evaluation of the California Coastal Management Program**

To Whom It May Concern:

The Del Norte County Board of Supervisors respectfully submits these comments in response to NOAA's Section 312 evaluation of the California Coastal Management Program. Del Norte County is located in the far northwestern corner of California, where the Pacific coastline, the Klamath and Smith Rivers, and adjacent nearshore waters form the backbone of our local economy, culture, and quality of life. We appreciate the opportunity to provide input from the perspective of a rural coastal community directly affected by state and federal decisions concerning offshore resources.

The Board is concerned that new or expanded offshore oil drilling off the Northern California coast would pose significant risks to Del Norte County. Commercial and recreational fishing are central to the County's identity and economic vitality. Crescent City Harbor supports an active fishing fleet, and our coastal waters sustain Dungeness crab, salmon, and other fisheries on which local families and businesses depend. Offshore oil development could affect fishing grounds, vessel traffic patterns, gear deployment, marine habitat, and the continued viability of our working waterfront. An oil spill or other operational incident could result in severe and lasting harm to fisheries, coastal businesses, tourism, and the natural resources upon which the community depends.

Del Norte County's coastal character is also a significant community asset. Residents and visitors value the wild and working nature of this stretch of the California coast. Offshore oil infrastructure and operations can carry visual, acoustic, environmental, and economic consequences that may be difficult to fully anticipate or reverse. The concerns of rural coastal communities should be meaningfully considered alongside broader statewide and national interests.

The County further believes that decisions affecting local coastal communities are best informed by meaningful participation from those communities. We encourage NOAA to evaluate whether existing program structures adequately incorporate the perspectives of individual counties and local governments, particularly smaller rural jurisdictions that may have limited capacity to participate in complex state and federal regulatory proceedings but whose residents would bear the direct consequences of offshore development decisions.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments. We welcome further dialogue with NOAA's Office for Coastal Management regarding the protection of Del Norte County's coastal resources, fisheries, working waterfront, and local economy.

Respectfully submitted,

Joey Borges, Chair  
Board of Supervisors

CC: Honorable Alex Padilla, Member of the U.S. Senate  
Honorable Adam Schiff, Member of the U.S. Senate  
Honorable Jared Huffman, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives  
Greg Burns, Thorn Run Partners