

# California Ocean Resources Management: A Strategy for Action

**Proposed insert text regarding human generated noise pollution:**

## **C. RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT**

- **Develop funding for research into habitat assessment** of California marine environments subject to environmental impacts by new or recent technologies and practices. This would include research into the environmental impacts of deep water drag trawling, seismic exploration, deep-water minerals and resource extraction, 'new generation' active sonar and the use of the ocean as an acoustic communication channel.

Little is known about the impacts of some recent practices in ocean resource extraction. Much of what we do know about new areas of the sea comes by way of the industrial exploration. This is due to the fact that exploration of these areas has been driven by the extraction practices, and not by scientific exploration and research. The result of this convention often involves the destruction of complex habitats for the extraction of just one element within the habitat. Once an extraction practice or area has been included into industrial practice, it becomes exceedingly difficult to halt or mitigate the practice.

Provisions for scientific, and environmentally safe methods of habitat and resource assessment need to be implemented prior to opening up new areas to commercial exploitation.

## **HABITATS, LIVING MARINE RESOURCES AND WATER QUALITY**

- **Develop an Ocean Use Noise Criteria.** Identify and reduce impacts of human generated ocean and coastal noise sources. As human enterprises expand into the ocean, the level of human-generated noise also increases. Noise from civil engineering projects, underwater communication, active sonar, ship and boat traffic, personal watercraft, oil and gas exploration and extraction, geological mapping, marine geography, and animal research all generate noises both above and below water. The increase in noise not only compromises the recreational use of coastal areas, but also threatens the biological productivity of ocean environments.