



# ADVANCING OCEAN CONSERVATION: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SCALING OCEAN RESTORATION

*Global oceans are experiencing unprecedented impacts from a changing climate and a history of resource extraction. Mitigating these threats, restoring ocean health and ensuring our oceans can provide for the billions of people dependent on thriving, abundant coastal resources requires a portfolio of conservation strategies including restoration, resilience, and enhancement.*

## GROWING THREATS

In California, the threats of a changing ocean are costing the state millions of dollars per year and demand an urgent response. Warming waters, coastal pollution, ocean acidification, overfishing, and loss of key habitats and ecosystems threaten life as we know it.

Over the past two decades, Californians have witnessed the **closure of dozens of fisheries, massive oil spills, the loss of more than 90% of kelp forests on the North Coast, disease outbreaks, and lost revenue to ocean dependent communities.** Never has there been such an urgent need to reimagine ocean conservation.

## OPPORTUNITY ON OUR COAST

A once in a lifetime opportunity to acquire a former abalone farm has appeared on California's Central Coast. This soon to be vacant property sits on an unmatched coastline, has a conservation-minded landowner, a permitted seawater intake pipe and invaluable infrastructure. The confluence of these factors makes this a unique and timely conservation acquisition.

Two leading conservation groups, Creek Lands Conservation and The Nature Conservancy are exploring an opportunity to acquire the facility and reimagine its purpose for conservation in a changing ocean.

## THE TOOLS FOR TOMMOROW

In response to growing ocean threats, academic and private sector interests are working to advance ocean restoration and conservation approaches that can keep pace with the threats, including:

- breeding and outplanting of climate resilient stocks
- developing the practice of restorative aquaculture
- triple-bottom lined business models
- experiential education for next-gen researchers

These approaches need a place to scale and bolster innovation, while collaborating with leaders in the field. Such a place may exist on California's Central Coast





## FUTURE HOME FOR OCEAN RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT

The land-based aquaculture facility north of Cayucos, CA includes highly specialized buildings, staff offices, equipment, water pumping and filtration facilities, piping and extensive growing tanks for larval, juvenile and mature marine organisms.

The aquaculture facility will shut its doors in early 2020. If no new entity takes ownership, the permits, infrastructure and opportunity will be lost to conservation forever.

The uniqueness of this facility and the conservation opportunity has inspired us to imagine the site as a platform where nonprofit, academic, government, and commercial entities can realize a shared vision for ocean conservation.

### NEXT STEPS

Short-term goal: secure commitments from landowner and aquaculture entity to:

- Perform due diligence on aquaculture facility and develop transition proposal
- Conduct visioning summit with diverse experts to explore site full potential
- Develop a set of potential business models for the Center
- Cultivate the right set of partners, investors, and advisors



**JOIN US AS WE WORK TOGETHER TO BUILD A SUSTAINABLE OCEANS FUTURE**

For more information, contact : [jonowilson@tnc.org](mailto:jonowilson@tnc.org) or [don@creeklands.org](mailto:don@creeklands.org)