

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 20, 2016

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 31, 2016

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 28, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 2139**

---

---

**Introduced by Assembly Member Williams  
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Gonzalez)**

February 17, 2016

---

---

An act to add Section 35618 to the Public Resources Code, relating to ocean resources.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2139, as amended, Williams. Ocean Protection Council: ocean acidification.

Existing law establishes the Ocean Protection Council in state government and prescribes the membership, functions, and duties of the council with regard to the protection and conservation of ocean and coastal resources.

This bill ~~would require~~ *would, subject to the availability of funding, authorize the council to coordinate and facilitate research and work with other relevant public agencies with ocean protection responsibilities develop an ocean acidification and hypoxia science task force to ensure that council decisionmaking is supported by best available science, and require the council to take specified actions to address ocean acidification, as prescribed, and, beginning January 1, 2018, and annually thereafter, at its first meeting of the year, to adopt recommendations for further actions that may be taken to address ocean acidification.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares both of the  
2 following:

3 (a) The West Coast Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Science  
4 Panel was a binational collaboration of leading scientists from  
5 California, Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia that was  
6 convened at the request of the Ocean Protection Council and the  
7 California Ocean Science Trust. The West Coast Acidification and  
8 Hypoxia Science Panel’s executive summary report outlines  
9 findings, recommendations, and actions to address ocean  
10 acidification and hypoxia.

11 (b) The mission of the Ocean Protection Council is to ensure  
12 that California maintains healthy, resilient, and productive ocean  
13 and coastal ecosystems for the benefit of current and future  
14 generations. In order to do this, the council should address the  
15 challenge of ocean acidification.

16 SEC. 2. Section 35618 is added to the Public Resources Code,  
17 to read:

18 ~~35618. (a) The council shall coordinate and facilitate research  
19 and work with other relevant public agencies with ocean protection  
20 responsibilities to do all of the following:~~

21 ~~(1) Generate an inventory of areas that are most vulnerable to  
22 ocean acidification.~~

23 *35618. (a) Subject to the availability of funding, the council  
24 may develop an ocean acidification and hypoxia science task force  
25 to ensure that decisionmaking is supported by the best available  
26 science.*

27 *(b) Subject to the availability of funding, the council shall do  
28 both of the following:*

29 *(1) Take actions to address ocean acidification and hypoxia,  
30 including, but not limited to, all of the following:*

31 *(A) Implement measures to facilitate climate change adaptation  
32 in the ocean, consistent with subdivision (c) of Section 71154.*

33 ~~(2)~~

1 (B) Develop, refine, and integrate predictive models *that identify*  
2 *the relative contributions of global and local drivers of ocean*  
3 *acidification and hypoxia in California waters.*

4 ~~(3) Inventory the colocation of protected areas and areas~~  
5 ~~vulnerable to ocean acidification and hypoxia.~~

6 ~~(4) Facilitate agreements and work with organizations that fund~~  
7 ~~ocean acidification and hypoxia research to establish joint research~~  
8 ~~priorities.~~

9 ~~(5) Define gaps between ocean acidification monitoring efforts~~  
10 ~~and management needs in coordination with relevant state, federal,~~  
11 ~~and academic entities.~~

12 (C) *Work with other agencies to coordinate and ensure that*  
13 *criteria and standards for coastal water health to address ocean*  
14 *acidification and hypoxia are developed and informed by the best*  
15 *available science.*

16 (D) *Develop a comprehensive inventory of areas in California*  
17 *vulnerable to ocean acidification and hypoxia.*

18 (E) *Facilitate agreements with other national, state, and*  
19 *regional governments and private entities to establish and advance*  
20 *joint priorities for ocean acidification and hypoxia research.*

21 (F) *In coordination with relevant federal, state, and academic*  
22 *entities, identify and define gaps between ocean acidification*  
23 *monitoring efforts and management needs and the actions*  
24 *necessary to address these gaps.*

25 ~~(b)~~

26 (2) Beginning January 1, 2018, and annually thereafter, at its  
27 first meeting of the year, ~~the council shall~~ adopt recommendations  
28 for further actions that may be taken to address ocean acidification.