



what is **PISCO**?

The Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans is a long-term program of scientific research and training dedicated to advancing the understanding of the **California Current Large Marine Ecosystem** along the **U.S. west coast**. **PISCO** is pioneering an integrated approach to studying the nearshore portion of this complex, rich, and economically important environment.

PISCO is distinguished by its interdisciplinary approach, large geographic extent, and decades-long time frame. **PISCO** conducts monitoring and experiments along more than 1,200 miles (2,000 kilometers) of coastline, as well as laboratory and theoretical studies. The research incorporates oceanography, ecology, chemistry, physiology, molecular biology, genetics, and mathematical modeling to gain novel insights into systems ranging from individual animals and plants to the whole ecosystem.

PISCO's findings apply to conservation and resource management issues. **PISCO** scientists participate in local, regional, national, and international initiatives for marine environmental planning. Through its university courses, **PISCO** helps to train the next generation of scientists in interdisciplinary approaches to marine research and policy.

Established in 1999 with funding from The David and Lucile Packard Foundation, **PISCO** is led by scientists from Oregon State University (OSU); Stanford University's Hopkins Marine Station; University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC); and University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB). As of 2005, core **PISCO** activities are funded by collaborative grants from The David and Lucile Packard Foundation and the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. The core support and additional funding from diverse public and private sources make this unique partnership possible.



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View from the Wave Crest

Welcome to the sixth edition of *PISCO Coastal Connections*, a publication of the Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans (PISCO). This publication highlights our scientific, education, and outreach programs as well as our work with collaborative partners.

Our interdisciplinary studies are conducted by established scientists, postdoctoral fellows, graduate students, and research technicians. Database experts develop innovative approaches for storing and sharing large data sets. Policy coordinators help ensure that we accurately communicate science to inform decision-making and management.

Because of our long-term and interconnected programs over a wide geographic range, PISCO is well positioned to detect and understand changes in the ocean. This information is essential for conducting ecosystem-based management and tracking climate change. In this issue,

“**Patterns of Change**” reveals valuable information about species distributions,
“**Oceanographic Frontiers**” describes impacts of unanticipated ocean changes,
“**Ecological Linkages**” features research into how changing ocean temperatures affect species,
“**Interdisciplinary Training**” highlights PISCO’s unique educational program, and
“**Sharing the Science**” outlines our efforts to communicate findings to management agencies and the public.

We greatly appreciate our dedicated staff, collaborators, and partners who make these accomplishments possible. We invite you to enjoy this issue of *PISCO Coastal Connections*.



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