

College of Natural Resources and Sciences

November 6, 2024

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Dr. James Woglom, Co-Chair USFAC  
Michael Fisher, Co-Chair USFAC

FROM: Dr. Eric M. Riggs, Dean

SUBJECT: **New Research Vessel naming recommendation**

---

During the week of October 28, the College of Natural Resources launched a broad community survey to gauge relative preferences and enthusiasm for a proposed set of names for the new research vessel that will be delivered to the university and operated by the college starting in mid-February 2025.

1,956 individuals responded to the survey, supplying 5,190 votes of top-three choices and a number of write-in suggestions. Over 948 of these respondents identified as alumni and 53 as community members. Of the current active campus population, 572 students responded, as did 246 staff and 137 faculty. This is a very robust level of participation and we are grateful to all those who took the time to contribute.

We asked participants to select their top three choices but did not ask for these to be ranked. The results yielded four strong overall favorites for final consideration. The CNRS Dean's office team discussed these results at length and weighed feedback received in the process.

Based on this input, we recommend the following:

**We recommend the vessel be named the *R/V North Wind*.**

The North Wind is a physical process that defines this region, driving the Pacific current, contributing to ocean upwelling which provides our mild climate and rich fisheries. It drives the ocean swells that generate our rugged coastline and provides a steady stream of Pacific storms and moisture that lead to our temperate, wet climate feeding our forests and grasslands.

As a science vessel operated by a college devoted to the study of natural resources, sciences, and engineering, this seems to be a very appropriate name. The vessel will spend

---



**H.**

most of its days enabling research of all these phenomena related to the north wind and will educate thousands of future students on board, providing the next generation of well-rounded technical professionals for the North Coast and the state of California.

We also acknowledge the generosity of the Yurok tribe in permitting us to submit two Yurok language terms for consideration, Tey-wo-lew, and Kee Kyah. These were also among the top four vote recipients, along with the term Cascadia.

However, based on independent feedback we received, we have concerns recommending an indigenous name for this vessel. These concerns are based on honoring correct pronunciation, variances in interpretation and translation of these terms, and the desire to avoid any appearances of conflict or favoritism, as this vessel will operate in waters stewarded by all the tribal nations of this region and beyond. We wish to operate in partnership and consultation with all inhabitants of the region without the possibility of any inadvertent cultural missteps.

We respectfully submit this recommendation to the USFAC for consideration. If this recommendation is accepted, then we will further transmit this recommendation to President Spagna for his evaluation.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric Riggs', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Eric Riggs, Ph.D.  
Dean, College of Natural Resources and Sciences