

Session Summary

West Coast Regional Collaboration to Address Ocean Health: Examining Challenges and Opportunities

California and the World Ocean Conference 2006
Long Beach, CA – Sept. 18, 2006

Chair

- **Mike Sutton**, Director, Center for the Future of the Oceans, Monterey Bay Aquarium

Organizer

- **Craig Russell**, MMA, NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration

Panelists

- **Jessica Hamilton**, Natural Resources Policy Advisor, Office of Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski: *Oregon State Perspective on West Coast Regional Collaboration to Address Ocean Health*
- **Brian Baird**, Assistant Secretary for Ocean and Coastal Policy, California Resources Agency: *California State Perspective on Regional Collaboration to Address Ocean Health*
- **Kathleen Drew**, Governor's Executive Policy Advisor for Sustainable Economic Development, Energy, and Environmental Management, Office of Washington Governor Christine Gregoire: *Washington State Perspective on West Coast Regional Collaboration to Address Ocean Health*
- **William Douros**, West Coast Regional Superintendent, National Marine Sanctuary Program: *A Federal Perspective on West Coast Regional Collaboration to Address Ocean Health*
- **Russell Moll**,[^] Director, California Sea Grant College Program, University of California, San Diego: *West Coast Sea Grant Perspective on West Coastal Regional Collaboration to Address Ocean Health*
- **Marc Hershman**, Professor, School of Law and School of Marine Affairs, University of Washington: *Academic Perspective on West Coast Regional Collaboration to Address Ocean Health*

Session Abstract

The Pew Oceans Commission, the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and the U.S. Ocean Action Plan all recommend advancing regional ocean governance to address the growing challenges we face in our oceans and coastal zones. There have been

[^] Replacement for Robert Malouf, Oregon Sea Grant Program

numerous regional initiatives at the national and state level. With gubernatorial support, California, Oregon and Washington are each actively moving forward with changes in state ocean policy and coordination. Recent discussions to develop a West Coast Governors' statement on regional collaboration to address ocean health indicate high-level interest in regional coordination, yet conceptual, institutional, and political barriers remain. This session will examine this draft statement and discuss the relevant issues with and opportunities for advancing West Coast regional collaboration.

Moderator Mike Sutton (Monterey Bay Aquarium) will set the context for the presentations and discussions by introducing the draft Governors' statement. Six panelists will then discuss political and institutional issues and obstacles to and next steps and opportunities for regional collaboration. The first three speakers, Kathleen Drew (WA Governor's Office), Jessica Hamilton (OR Governor's Office) and Brian Baird (CA Resources Agency) will provide state perspectives. The next three speakers will offer federal (William Douros, National Marine Sanctuary West Coast Regional Superintendent), Sea Grant (Robert E. Malouf, OR Sea Grant) and academic perspectives (Marc J. Hershman, University of Washington). The moderator will then engage the panelists in a lively discussion and facilitate questions from the session audience.

Session Summary Notes*

PANEL

- **Mike Sutton**, introduction; mismatch b/w jurisdictions; lack of federal / regional effort; reasons for regional collaboration; examples from Northeast, Gulf of Mexico, Great Lakes; US Ocean Action Plan;
- West Coast Oceans Agreement was modeled after tri-state agreement on global warming; California LME as connection between three states;
- Panel doesn't have all answers, still looking for ideas to help states how best to work together and move forward;

- **Jessica Hamilton, Oregon;**
- Strong relationship between CA, WA and OR, building communications for future;
- Look at agreement as way to share lessons learned; OR leader in some areas, behind in others;
- Proud of wave energy technology developments; benefits to coastal communities, use of renewable energy;
- Investigating Marine Protected Areas, look at possible mistakes made in CA and learn from them; OPAC investigating coast wide National Marine Sanctuary proposal, look to WA and CA for possible models;
- Proved joint success in Klamath Basin and commercial salmon fisheries emergency; good use of California's congressional delegation, for example; looking forward to working together;

* Based on rapporteur notes; meant for summary purposes, not official record of discussion and comments;

- **Brian Baird, California;**
- Developed good relationship with other states, ability to make things happen;
- 6 months of work to get agreement agreed and signed; issue-driven;
- Ecosystems aren't confined to political jurisdictions, early attempts at EBM difficult;
- Identify issues, figure out ways to address those issues;
- Hesitated moving forward on regional discussions unless there were issues driving it; spent time early identifying where those issues were, if anywhere;
- Ocean Commissions got it right on agreeing there were advantages to regional approach;
- Examples of activities in CA: sediment, MPAs, SF Bay port dredge disposal,
- Must be **issue-driven**, science needs of region, cooperative mgmt needs, political influence of 3 states much better than 1 state, elevates attention to ocean/coastal affairs;
- Now must plan what to do by Fall 2007, along with 6-month objectives, will build momentum for long-term objectives;

- **Kathleen Drew, Washington;**
- Concerted effort over last 6 months, exciting opportunity to bring strong leaders together, able to see commonality between states;
- Although we share pacific ocean, still have 3 very different cultures, laws, stakeholders, etc.;
- Example: co-management of fisheries in WA State with tribes; but able to bring those lessons to other states;
- Ultimate goal is protection of ocean and resources;
- Helps to learn from others, but can also extend successful models to other states; example: locally-driven San Juan Co Marine Resource Committee ecosystem-approach, using statewide in Washington, and in OR & CA;
- Collaboration between states will deliver better results than working alone;
- Work not just about state gov't, about every citizen;
- Ex: California Public Service Announcement could be utilized in other states; Gov. Gregoire's Puget Sound Partnership found that everyone values living near Puget Sound, but only 25% thought there were any problems;

- **Bill Dorous, Fed Gov't perspective;**
- Impressive endeavor;
- Regional Ocean efforts recommended by Pew/USCOP, but no legislation mandating it yet; but asking a lot of federal agencies to galvanize around concept without direction, this is where states can play good role to define this;
- Fed gov't contributions to regional governance: concept of planning (EPA), Nat'l Parks met with coastal managers for cooperative ocean management strategies; many alliances already around country, NOAA and EPA working with Gulf of Mexico Alliance, created federal working group; broad-scale data sharing (NOAA: Nat'l Marine Sanctuary regional organization structure, SIMON – sanctuary integrated monitoring..., NOAA Fisheries looking at broad west coast ecosystem, NOAA MPA

Center working on west coast pilot project, data to design MPA networks; Nat'l Estuarine Service data network;

- All of these above activities probably best done on federal scale in long run;
- Fed gov't has effective models of place-based management; places as important locations, managed by multiple fed agencies;
- 4 challenges: 1) federal gov't criticism on failing to protect resources, but this is a problem for both fed and state; 2) funding and budgets, add'l resources needed, US Congressional reps focus on their own districts, rather than entire coast; 3) state gov't and fed agencies conflicts over authority/responsibility, more just a delay rather than long-term problem; 4) need to develop mechanisms to engage public at local level, even on coastwide issues, possibly a panel of panels to advise on issues, 3rd leg of stool along with feds and state;
- **Russ Moll, CA Sea Grant;**
 - Agreement going to take a lot of effort, real tasks to get things done; meetings, research, support; Sea Grant program happy to work with states;
 - NOAA grant for Sea Grant to promote regional collaboration, would make a lot more sense to collaborate with state partners; anticipate Oregon Sea Grant hiring FTE to work on west coast Sea Grant collaboration, and states as well;
 - JSOST working on looking at long-term ocean science, technology, outreach planning; must work with those federal priorities;
 - Sea Grant programs will hold series of workshops, series of ~12 throughout 3 states, get public input on what they think about west coast collaboration; when done there is a mechanism to carry it further, which is key;
 - Substantial change to come in how SG programs conduct their activities, state by state model will likely dissolve;
- **Marc Hershman, University of Washington;**
 - West coast agreement in broader debate on how to proceed with ROG;
 - Simplified examples of top-down agreement, vs. bottom-up approach; West coast agreement seems to be good nexus;
 - USCOP and PEW approaches to ROG proposals; 2 bills that proposed ROG, regional proposals, council, nat'l policy structure, strong role for NOAA, deference to States;
 - Underlying philosophy of top-down approach is: if EBM is objective, must have nat'l mandate for action, need lead agency, need goals for ecological services, need framework for determining tradeoffs;
 - Other end of spectrum believes that goal should be specific issues and take conservation-focused actions that will lead to results; argue ROG will never work because scales too different and interests too diverse; only agree to tradeoffs that will benefit themselves; solutions will revolve around the problem; multi-use approaches will weaken agency responses;
 - States are in the lead and using the resources they have, must look up and work with feds, and also use successful activities each state already has; states are moving ahead and working to find solutions;
 - Political muscle of 3 states, ball is now in states' court to move ahead, by defining

state needs that feds should respond to;

DISCUSSION

- **Kevin Ranker, County Commissioner, San Juan Co. WA;**
- Ball really in local communities court to support states;
- Ex of EBM Initiative in SJC; other examples at work in other states, Pt Orford in OR, Monterey CA; every local jurisdiction has comprehensive planning processes, good vehicle;
- Challenge of getting local elected officials educated and interested in broad issues, such as those with ocean and coastal affairs; need local govt engaged in issues, provide political cover for higher levels of govt;

- ***Question: The idea that you don't need to compete between economic health and environmental health said many times today; how do you couple monitoring of environment and economy?**
- **B Baird:** CSO stated in Ocean Action Plan that economic factors not covered very well; Coastal State Organization behind Nat'l Ocean Economics Program; have to be able to make case to feds about relationships to economic factors, need database transferable between states; must have solid understanding of economic factors;
- **J Hamilton:** example of salmon fishing in OR as economic issue; fishermen paid to survey habitat along coast; using fishermen knowledge as connected to DNA studies;
- **J Kildow, audience:** economic factors on different scale than scientific studies;

- ***Question: (Rod Fujita, Environmental Defense) are 3 states ready to take action on Klamath basin? Maybe joint letter on behalf of states to fed govt;**
- **J Hamilton:** CA and OR very 'gung ho' on getting relief, as well as solving problem; farmers raising money for fishermen, for ex; discussions on going between states;
- **K Drew:** both WA Senators believe in disaster relief for OR and CA, even if not as big an issue for WA;

- ***Question: (Yurok Tribe) Thanks to CA and OR for working on behalf of Klamath river basin; must make sure states are still working with tribes on coastal issues; look at tribes as '4th leg' of policy stool;**
- **K Drew:** WA State works with tribes as co-managers, people with long history and high interest in sustaining the resource; must include cultural heritage and knowledge of tribes regarding environmental resources; access data collected by tribes; possible models to involve tribes in west coast collaboration efforts;
- **B Dorous:** fed govt has extensive programs that work with tribes; OCNMS as working with tribes in WA State, U&A fishing grounds; knowledge that comes from living in one place for 3000 years is very powerful; must enhance that knowledge; OCNMS is signing Interagency Gov't Council that work between tribes, fed, state, stakeholders;
- **Chumash Rep:** working with Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary; inspired by NW Tribes in reviving traditions, Chumash crossed channel in 2001 to Santa Cruz Island; cant be 4th leg, must be 1st leg; must continue to work together;

- **Question: what is vision regarding global warming, as related to west coast agreement?**
- **K Drew:** also agreement on west coast regarding global warming; a lot happening regarding that issue; very closely related to ocean issues, sea level rise, etc., must be on agenda, but also must be careful not to duplicate efforts; impact of climate change on ocean, how to prepare and diminish impacts;
- **J Hamilton:** Oregon working strongly on ocean observation; dead zone off of Oregon coast; showed that wasn't linked to pollution, but could be sign of global warming; lessons learned in Oregon could be applied in other states;
- **K Ranker:** Mayor Nickels in Seattle moved ahead on looking at how Seattle could address global warming issues; took it to Nat'l Assoc. of Mayors and has 200+ cities signed up;
- **B Dorous:** data from ocean observation systems is invaluable in investigating these issues;

- ***Question: Shouldn't lump ocean zoning with bottoms-up approaches; zoning as tool to approach EBM; governance systems must be matched to ecosystems, and zoning could take place over smaller areas rather than larger, example of Morro Bay activity in CA, then up to Puget Sound, then up to entire coast, etc.; tribes understand place-based management;**
- **B Dorous:** experience with local planning; land is almost always zoned, shouldn't be inherent terror about zoning ocean; can approach zoning different areas of oceans at different scales; fundamental problem is that use to governing land; phenomenal opportunity to investigate these zoning possibilities;
- **M Hershman:** many examples of estuaries and marine areas are zoned into management units with preferred uses, etc. at local level; model already there, just no entity yet to apply those zoning ideas;

- ***Question: where does renewable energy stand with Governor's agreement?**
- **K Drew:** WA State received 26 permit applications regarding renewable energy in Puget Sound and NW Straits; how to link this with global warming; prospect of putting different types of renewable energy projects and what effect that has on marine areas; find areas where renewable energy projects are feasible; tradeoffs in most appropriate citing;
- **J Hamilton:** ideas about how to best link different approaches to renewable energies; Gov Kulongoski is open to better utilization of these technologies;

- ***Q (Tony McDonald) Worried about just list of problems; how will agreement avoid issue-by-issue tradeoff, that hasn't been successful in past? Approach a shared vision for entire west coast;**
- **Leah Akins:** really should avoid issue by issue approach, approach tribes and other entities to encompass many broad issues;
- **J Hamilton:** first steps were really "easy ones" to get all Governors to agree, must move to expand list and get bigger issues addressed;
- **K Drew:** ultimate vision is looking at sustainability and resiliency of communities;

look at best of ongoing efforts and collaborate, start with local communities and people on coast and work from there;



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West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health September 18, 2006

A Call to Action

Washington, Oregon, and California share a rich and diverse bounty of ocean and coastal resources that provide enormous economic, environmental, and social benefits to our states. Yet our citizens' continued use and enjoyment of coastal and ocean resources are at risk. Polluted waters, declining populations of fish and other marine life, degraded nearshore habitats, risks of severe storms and tsunamis, and impacts related to climate change are but a few examples of serious threats to the continued vitality of our ocean-dependent states. Recently, two national ocean commissions concluded that our oceans are in trouble and called for immediate, meaningful action at all levels of government to restore and maintain their health.

Charting a New Course

Washington, Oregon, and California recognize these challenges and are taking action to address the declining health of our shared ocean. Each of our three states has developed world class expertise in ocean sciences and academics, and established a track record of innovation and leadership on ocean and coastal issues domestically and internationally. Our growing understanding of our relationship with the marine environment and its living and nonliving natural resources is leading us to explore ecosystem-based approaches to managing our coasts and oceans. Washington's Puget Sound Partnership and Ocean Policy Working Group, Oregon's Ocean Policy Advisory Council, and California's Ocean Protection Council are forums where these important discussions are occurring today. Each of these bodies maintains an innovative framework in which government and tribal officials, managers, scientists, citizens, and other stakeholders employ an integrated approach to protecting and restoring our coastal watersheds, shorelines, estuaries, nearshore waters, and open ocean.

Just as ocean and coastal conservation strategies benefit from coordination between state and local governments, so too can they be enhanced by greater coordination among our three West Coast states, among our state, tribal, and federal governments, as well as with our sovereign neighbors to the north and south. We need look no further than the offshore California Current to illustrate this need, as it transcends political boundaries, sustaining marine wildlife populations, regulating climate, and providing myriad other ecosystem services relied on by our states, the nation, and the world.

Forging a West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health

As the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and the Pew Oceans Commission acknowledged in their reports on the status of the ocean, improved coordination among governing bodies is needed, and oceans should be managed on an ecosystem level. While there are numerous organizations striving to implement these and other recommendations of the two commissions, we believe that more can be done. Therefore, we, the Governors of Washington, Oregon, and California, are launching a coordinated West Coast ocean and

Agreement

coastal collaboration to address critical ocean and coastal protection and management issues facing all three states. With this agreement, we are directing our staffs to work together during the next year to identify measures to address these concerns at the West Coast regional level and to develop a coordinated set of actions in response. Through this agreement we seek to advance our mutual interests in the following priority areas:

- Ensuring clean coastal waters and beaches;
- Protecting and restoring healthy ocean and coastal habitats;
- Promoting the effective implementation of ecosystem-based management of our ocean and coastal resources;
- Reducing adverse impacts of offshore development;
- Increasing ocean awareness and literacy among our citizens;
- Expanding ocean and coastal scientific information, research, and monitoring; and
- Fostering sustainable economic development throughout our diverse coastal communities.

We anticipate that the opportunities for collaboration will include:

- Supporting and enhancing existing governance, management, and planning structures to address issues of regional significance where needed;
- Creating mechanisms to share lessons related to issues of regional significance learned from local, urban, county, and statewide conservation and restoration programs, as well as the work of non-governmental organizations;
- Expanding cooperative scientific and educational efforts to address issues of regional significance;
- Coordinating management strategies and approaches for those shared coastal and marine resources of regional significance; and
- Jointly engaging the federal executive and legislative branches on significant regional ocean and coastal issues that warrant national-level attention and support.

Within the six months of our collaborative effort, the three states will implement the following actions, at a minimum:

1. Call upon the President and Congress to provide sufficient funding to address the threat of nonpoint source pollution along our coasts, thought to be the number one water pollution control issue for coastal states. Successful implementation of the federal Coastal Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program by the states will require a commitment of federal dollars beyond current levels.
2. Send a joint message to the President and Congress reinforcing our opposition to oil and gas leasing, exploration, and development off our coasts.
3. Support development of a regional research plan for the West Coast in coordination with the National Sea Grant Office, academia, and other research institutions. Request funding and technical assistance to support key efforts, such as ocean observation programs, and sea floor and habitat mapping, which will be critical tools to address issues of regional significance.
4. Request the White House Council on Environmental Quality, in its role to facilitate the implementation of the U.S. Ocean Action Plan, to assist the three states in requesting and receiving technical assistance from federal agencies to address issues of regional significance.

We are directing our agencies and staffs to work throughout Fall 2006 with representatives of business, environmental, governmental, educational, and academic communities to develop further recommendations for enhanced regional collaboration on our shared priorities. We look forward to implementing the initial actions listed above within six months, and to announcing a more extensive set of specific regional recommendations and initiatives for action by Fall 2007, working in conjunction with our respective working groups, ocean councils, state legislatures, and the newly convened 110th Congress.



Governor of Washington



Governor of Oregon



Governor of California

Washington Highlights: Recent Accomplishments Related to Ocean and Coastal Health

The residents of Washington State have had close ties to the ocean for thousands of years. First nations continue to rely on the ocean and the marine waters of the Strait of Juan de Fuca and Puget Sound for transportation, food, and other resources. The deep protected waters of Puget Sound have attracted intensive urban development, while the outer coast has extensive beaches with limited natural harbors. As a result of this diversity, Washington has addressed its two coasts differently.

Ocean Policy Work Group

In mid-2005, the Governor's Office convened the Washington Ocean Policy Work Group with special funding earmarked by the legislature to review the recommendations of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, summarize the conditions of the state's ocean resources, and make recommendations, including those related to legislation and funding, to improve coordination among state and local jurisdictions, and to better protect and manage ocean resources.

The Work Group is drafting recommendations on: Coastal Economic Development; Marine Resource Stewardship; Coastal Hazards, Erosion and Climate Change; Ocean Research, Observation and Education; and Ocean Governance. The final report will be issued in December 2006. The University of Washington's School of Marine Affairs is providing supporting research. Additional information is available at: courses.washington.edu/oceangov/OPWG.html.

Puget Sound Initiative

In December 2005, Washington Governor Christine Gregoire announced a new initiative to protect and restore Puget Sound. The 2006 supplemental budget included over \$50 million for initial clean-up activities. The state legislature also passed two bills related to Puget Sound, including on-site sewage system management changes and provisions to prevent spills during oil transfers.

The Puget Sound Partnership, which consists of community and business leaders and four state legislators, will recommend a set of key actions to recover Puget Sound by 2020, engage stakeholders and the general public in increasing efforts to recover the Sound, recommend organizational structures and approaches to nurture the Sound back to health, review funding sources and set priorities for protection and restoration, and recommend how broad-based scientific knowledge should inform policies. The Partnership will present recommendations to the Governor this fall. Partnership materials are available at: www.pugetsoundpartnership.org.

Puget Sound Action Team

In 1985, Washington established the Puget Sound Water Quality Authority to develop and implement a comprehensive plan to protect and restore Puget Sound. The plan became part of the National Estuary Program under the Federal Clean Water Act and was later approved by the Environmental Protection Agency as the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for Puget Sound. In 1996, the Puget Sound Action Team was formed to maintain the management plan. It is governed by a Council, which includes federal, state, tribal, and community stakeholders. The Puget Sound Action Team coordinates state agency activities, manages a monitoring program, publishes periodic State of the Sound reports, co-hosts transboundary research conferences, and provides environmental education and technical assistance. More information is available at: www.psat.wa.gov.

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Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership

Washington is a participant in the Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership, the National Estuary Program under the Federal Clean Water Act for the Columbia River estuary. The Partnership has developed a comprehensive management plan for the estuary and coordinates a range of protection and restoration activities, including monitoring and education. Information on the program is available at: www.lcrep.org.

Northwest Straits Initiative

The Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative, authorized by Congress in 1998, works to protect and restore the marine resources of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, the Strait of Georgia, and northern Puget Sound. The Northwest Straits Commission supports and coordinates the work of seven Marine Resource Committees and consists of volunteers appointed by their county governments. State and federal agencies provide scientific and technical support. Information on the Initiative is available at: www.nwstraits.org.

Recovery of Endangered Species

Washington is home to a number of anadromous fish species listed as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act. To assist in the recovery of these stocks and coordinate local, state, and federal recovery efforts, the state has organized watershed and regional salmon recovery structures and has submitted several draft recovery plans to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Documents outlining the state's efforts on salmon recovery are available through the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office at: www.governor.wa.gov/gcro/.

Washington is also the home of the summer resident orca population that is listed as endangered by Washington, the United States, and Canada. Washington is actively engaged in planning for the recovery of the orca and recently designated the orca the official state marine mammal. Washington has also completed a recovery plan for sea otters.

Other Washington Programs

- Washington manages coastal development through the state's Shoreline Management Act and Growth Management Act (GMA). Local governments manage development through a special permit system that encourages water-dependent uses, promotes public access, and protects natural resources. All coastal counties and cities adopt critical areas ordinances under the GMA to designate and protect those areas that frequently flood; are geologically hazardous; or include wetlands, aquifer recharge areas, and fish and wildlife habitat areas.
- Washington has a comprehensive state program to prevent and respond to spills of oil and hazardous substances. Recently, the state adopted a zero-spill strategy and works with the Oil Spills Advisory Council to implement it. The state also participates in the Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force.
- Washington has adopted legislation designed to prevent the introduction of invasive species from discharges of ballast water and currently has a ballast water work group reviewing options for ballast water control.
- Washington has an active program to prevent and control aquatic nuisance species that is backed by state legislation and the Washington State Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan.

Oregon Highlights: Recent Accomplishments Related to Ocean and Coastal Health

For over three decades, Oregon has been a national leader in managing its ocean resources for the benefit of future generations. The roots of Oregon's Ocean Resources Management Program reach back to the early 1970s, when concerns were raised over effects from potential drilling for oil and gas in federal waters and foreign fishing fleets working to within three miles of shore. In 1991, a council was created to give coordinated policy advice to the Governor, state agencies, and others and to prepare a plan for Oregon's Territorial Sea. This Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC) is comprised of ocean users, local governments, other interested parties, seven state agencies, Oregon Sea Grant, and other non-voting members, and continues to advise the Governor on numerous marine issues today.

Statewide Planning Goal 19, Ocean Resources

Oregon's vision for its ocean and coastal health was articulated in 1973 by Statewide Planning Goal 19, Ocean Resources, which is "conserve marine resources and ecological functions for the purpose of providing long-term ecological, economic, and social value and benefits to future generations."

Goal 19 requires that "all actions by local, state, and federal agencies that are likely to affect the ocean resources and uses of Oregon's territorial sea shall be developed and conducted to conserve marine resources and ecological functions for the purpose of providing long-term ecological, economic, and social values and benefits and to give higher priority to the protection of renewable marine resources, i.e., living marine organisms, than to the development of non-renewable ocean resources."

The goal also asserts that the "State of Oregon has interests in the conservation of ocean resources in an Ocean Stewardship Area, an ocean area where natural phenomena and human uses can affect uses and resources of Oregon's territorial sea." The 15,000 square mile Ocean Stewardship Area includes the state's territorial sea, the continental margin seaward to the toe of the continental slope, and adjacent ocean areas.

Ensuring Clean Coastal Waters and Beaches

The Oregon Beach Monitoring Program (OBMP) monitors selected Oregon coastal recreation waters for the presence of fecal bacteria, and reports elevated levels to the public. The OBMP is funded by a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency, is administered by the Department of Human Services, and collaborates with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

Protecting and Restoring Healthy Ocean and Coastal Habitats

Adopted in 1994, Oregon's Territorial Sea Plan (TSP) provides a framework for protecting rocky shore habitats, which include a diverse assemblage of habitats in rocky intertidal, submerged reef, and associated rocks and cliff sites. The TSP guides the activities of state, local, and federal agencies. A central objective of the TSP is to "implement a management program that allows for enjoyment and use of Oregon's rocky shores while protecting them from overuse, degradation, and loss."

Promoting Effective Implementation of Ecosystem-Based Management of Ocean and Coastal Resources

In 2006, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) adopted a Nearshore Marine Resources Management Strategy with a mission to "promote actions that will conserve ecological functions

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and nearshore marine resources to provide long-term ecological, economic, and social benefits for current and future generations of Oregonians.” The ODFW will implement the strategic plan through a variety of programs, including the Nearshore Habitat Project, to map and assess the distribution and ecological function of nearshore habitats.

Governor Ted Kulongoski asked OPAC to take two important steps toward managing ocean resources as an ecosystem. First, Governor Kulongoski directed OPAC to implement its 2002 recommendation that the state designate a limited network of marine reserves for ecological purposes. Second, the Governor asked that OPAC advise him regarding the establishment of a National Marine Sanctuary off Oregon’s coast to help coordinate state and federal management of the marine environment and uses such as fisheries, energy development, water quality, and recreation, and to increase Oregon’s competitive advantage for federal ocean research funds.

Increasing Ocean Awareness and Literacy among Citizens

Designated in 1974, the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve (South Slough NERR) is a 4,771 acre natural area on the south coast of Oregon. South Slough NERR is affiliated with both the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Oregon Department of State Lands. The reserve encompasses a mixture of open water channels, tidal and freshwater wetlands, riparian areas, and forested uplands. South Slough NERR actively supports and coordinates research, education, and stewardship programs that serve to enhance a scientific and public understanding of estuaries and contribute to improved estuarine management.

Expanding Ocean and Coastal Scientific Information, Research, and Monitoring

Oregon has the potential to be a global leader in developing viable technologies to convert ocean wave energy into electricity. Oregon State University and the Oregon Department of Energy are working with a broad coalition to create a center of excellence for ocean wave energy technology with demonstration sites on the Oregon coast. Oregon is also an active participant in the Northwest Area Network of Ocean Observation Systems, which will provide real-time information on waves, storm events, and multiple measures of ocean conditions.

Fostering Sustainable Economic Development throughout Our Diverse Coastal Communities

Oregon’s land use planning program, as carried out through the Coastal Zone Management Program, seeks to maintain and promote sustainable economic development in coastal communities. These actions are carried out primarily by cities, counties, and port districts with support from the Department of Land Conservation and Development and the Economic and Community Development Department.

California Highlights: Recent Accomplishments Related to Ocean and Coastal Health

Protecting the ocean and coast has long been a high priority for California. Californians showed their commitment when they passed the California Coastal Act in 1972 that established high standards for regulating coastal development. Other landmark laws include the California Ocean Resources Management Act, Marine Life Protection Act, Marine Life Management Act, and the California Ocean Protection Act. These laws require the state to implement ecosystem-based management using the best available scientific information. The work of the Pew Oceans Commission and the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy inspired a renewed dedication to ocean protection in California.

In response to the Commission reports, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger released his Ocean Action Plan in October 2004. The plan includes specific actions to enhance the protection and management of California's ocean and coastal resources. Significant progress has already been made in implementing the plan, which focuses on the four topic areas, summarized below.

Governance

California called on the federal government to implement the major recommendations of the U.S. and Pew Ocean Commission reports. California officials have sent letters and met with members of the White House Council on Environmental Quality and Congress. Priority issues include:

- Maintaining California's moratorium on offshore oil and gas leasing
- Ratification of the United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea
- Supporting California's ocean observing systems
- Reauthorizing a strong Coastal Zone Management Act
- Sponsoring the Western Governors Association Ocean Protection Resolution

Regional-level: California is working with Oregon and Washington to coordinate ocean management along the West Coast. Key actions include:

- Developing the West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health
- Coordinating ocean research priorities by developing a regional research plan with the West Coast Sea Grant programs

State-level: Governor Schwarzenegger signed a comprehensive package of ocean legislation into law, including:

- Establishing the California Ocean Protection Council
- Minimizing impacts of bottom trawling
- Reducing pollution from cruise ships
- Increasing water quality monitoring
- Establishing standards for offshore aquaculture

California Ocean Protection Council: The Ocean Protection Council, established by state law in 2005, is a cabinet-level body charged with improving the management of California's ocean and coastal resources. Major council actions include:

- Adopting policies to protect California's moratorium on offshore oil and gas leasing, promote research and monitoring, reduce environmental impacts of coastal power plants, and establish a marine protected area monitoring program

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- Approving \$17 million in projects that address coastal water quality, river restoration, research and monitoring, sea floor mapping, ecosystem-based management, derelict fishing gear, invasive species, and fisheries management

Research and Education

In September 2005, the California Ocean Protection Council adopted the *California Ocean and Coastal Information, Research and Outreach Strategy* that sets clear goals for California on research and education.

Key actions of the plan include:

- Committing \$1 million to ocean and coastal research
- Including state priorities in the national ocean research plan
- Launching a media campaign to educate the public about the ocean
- Organizing the California and the World Ocean '06 Conference to be held September 2006 in Long Beach, California

Stewardship

In September 2004, Governor Schwarzenegger launched the California Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Initiative to develop a network of marine protected areas off the coast of California. The MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force, composed of prominent state policy makers, was assembled to guide this Initiative. The Task Force has developed a Master Plan Framework for MLPA implementation statewide and has recommended several alternative packages of marine protected areas to the state.

The California Watershed Management Memorandum of Understanding was signed in November 2004. An action plan to protect priority watersheds is currently being implemented.

California is developing the Coastal Sediment Management Plan to address coastal erosion and port sediment management issues with a work group of federal and state government agencies. This plan will help the state more effectively manage coastal sediments by evaluating major sections of the coast and inland watersheds, instead of merely focusing on localized case-by-case issues.

Economics and Funding

The Schwarzenegger Administration has committed \$33.2 million in new state funds for ocean protection, which includes \$26.2 million for the California Ocean Protection Council and \$7 million for the California Ocean Currents Monitoring System.

California's Ocean Economy report, released in July 2005, identified nearly \$43 billion in ocean dependent revenues. In July 2005, the state held the first ever Ocean Economic Summit to examine the implications of the report for ocean protection and management.