

Scoping Document: West Coast Workshops on the Regional Ocean Partnership Funding Program



Sponsored by the
West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health

California: November 12, 2010

Oregon: November 15, 2010

Washington: November 16, 2010

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The following individuals participated in the planning and implementation of the West Coast workshops on the Regional Ocean Partnership Funding Program

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HOW TO SUBMIT IDEAS

The WCGA invites the public to take advantage of multiple opportunities to help shape the West Coast proposal:

- Participate in the November workshops.
- Provide general comments or ideas regarding the proposal via the WCGA website www.westcoastoceans.gov anytime between **November 5 and December 3, 2010**.
- Submit specific project ideas for inclusion in the West Coast proposal starting the week of November 8 through November 19, 2010, online via the WCGA website at www.westcoastoceans.gov; see Appendix B of this scoping document to see a paper copy).

More detailed information about this process is in *Section 3 – Process and Logistics for Proposal Development*.

TIMELINE

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|--------------------|--|
| November 5 | WCGA posts scoping document and opens public comment via WCGA website. |
| November 8 | WCGA posts application for specific project ideas (online application tool and Microsoft Word document) to the WCGA website. |
| November 17 | All WCGA state workshops (CA 11/12; OR 11/15; WA 11/16) completed. |
| November 19 | Deadline for entities to provide detailed project ideas to WCGA. |
| November 23 | Summaries of each state workshop posted on WCGA website. |
| November 30 | WCGA holds post-workshop webinar summarizing input to date and describing intentions regarding proposal content. |
| December 3 | Public comment period closes. |
| December 10 | Submission of proposal to NOAA. Final proposal to be submitted to NOAA posted on the WCGA website. |

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Introduction

On July 19, 2010, President Obama signed an [Executive Order](#) establishing a National Policy for the Stewardship of the Ocean, Coasts, and Great Lakes. That Executive Order adopts the [Final Recommendations of the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force](#) and directs federal agencies to take appropriate steps to implement them. Among those steps is supporting Regional Ocean Partnerships (ROPs) and advancing regional coastal and marine spatial planning (CMSP) approaches around the United States.

On September 13, 2010, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced a competitive Regional Ocean Partnership Funding Program (ROPFP; see www.csc.noaa.gov/funding) to support ROPs generally and to encourage CMSP processes that lead to the development of a comprehensive, multi-objective, multi-sectoral regional plan within five years. The West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health (WCGA) is the federally recognized ROP for the West Coast. The ROPFP provides the WCGA and other ROPs throughout the nation with special authority to coordinate the development of a proposal or proposals to compete for this funding. Proposals are due to NOAA by December 10, 2010, with awards expected to be announced by June 1, 2011.

The WCGA is engaging tribes, government agencies, scientists and technical experts, and stakeholders in a process to identify regional CMSP priorities and needs that will support a coordinated regional proposal from the WCGA to NOAA in response to the ROPFP. The WCGA anticipates applying for funds in the two available categories, described as follows in the ROPFP notice and each with a separate amount of available funding; it is important to note that Congress has not yet appropriated this funding:

- [Focus Area 1](#) – Implementation of activities that meet both regional ocean governance priorities identified by ROPs in action plans and other public documents and the purposes and priorities of the national CMSP Framework; and
- [Focus Area 2](#) – Development and governance support for administration and operations of existing and new ROPs, including development of plans and management of ROP activities.

The West Coast is competing with ROPs throughout the country for a portion of the proposed \$20 million dollars. Most of this funding would go to Focus Area 1; up to \$3 million would be set aside for Focus Area 2. The announcement also notes that NOAA and other federal agencies may make an additional \$10 million available to fund proposals submitted for this competition contingent on Congressional appropriations, and that proposals may receive only partial funding. Focus Area 1 proposals must be implemented within two years. The WCGA anticipates applying for funding under both focus areas.

To help develop a coordinated West Coast proposal, the WCGA is convening a [workshop in each West Coast state](#) in November, 2010: November 12 in San Francisco, CA; November 15 in Newport, OR; and November 16 in Olympia, WA. These workshops complement separate conversations with West Coast tribes. Members of the public may also submit comments and ideas online beginning November 8 at <http://westcoastoseans.gov/>.

This scoping document is intended to provide participants with a common starting point for workshop discussions and provide guidance for formulating project ideas participants may wish to recommend for inclusion in the West Coast proposal to NOAA. The document consists of the following four sections and four appendices:

- Section 1 – Funding Criteria: This section summarizes NOAA’s requirements for funding proposals, and how those requirements must shape the West Coast’s proposal.
- Section 2 – Existing West Coast CMSP Efforts and Identified Priorities: This section describes the current West Coast context for regional-level CMSP activities that workshop participants can help ground truth, including those identified by several of the WCGA’s Action Coordination Teams (ACTs).
- Section 3 – Process and Logistics for Proposal Development: This section outlines the form WCGA anticipates the proposal will take, and sets forth a timeline and format for submitting project ideas and budgets. The WCGA’s preference is to submit a single proposal from the region comprising the region’s highest-priority projects.
- Section 4 – Next Steps: This section gives an overview of the path forward for advancing the West Coast’s Regional Ocean Partnership priorities and a regional coastal and marine spatial plan.
- Appendix A – Compilation of Federal and WCGA Criteria
- Appendix B – Application for Submitting Ideas for Advancing Regional CMSP
- Appendix C – Compilation of CMSP-Related Priorities of Selected WCGA Action Coordination Teams
- Appendix D – CMSP-Related Priorities of Other Initiatives Advancing WCGA Priorities

The WCGA welcomes the opportunity provided by the ROPFP to strengthen the WCGA’s ability to advance an ambitious vision for the health of our West Coast coastal and ocean resources and the communities that rely upon them, and to explore how CMSP can be a tool to achieve that vision.

The WCGA extends its profound appreciation to our many colleagues who are mobilizing quickly and under very short timelines to engage in this process and work together to deliver a strong proposal for federal funding. As discussed below in *Section 4 – Next Steps*, this response to the ROPFP is the first of many phases in furthering coordination and collaboration among the dedicated people and organizations seeking to protect and enhance our ocean and coastal resources for the benefit of current and future generations.

HOW TO SUBMIT IDEAS

The WCGA invites the public to take advantage of multiple opportunities to help shape the West Coast proposal:

- Participate in the November workshops.
- Provide general comments or ideas regarding the proposal via the WCGA website www.westcoastoceans.gov anytime between **November 5 and December 3, 2010**.
- Submit specific project ideas for inclusion in the West Coast proposal starting the week of **November 8 through November 19, 2010** via an online tool or electronic document (links to both available at www.westcoastoceans.gov; see Appendix B of this scoping document to see a paper copy).

More detailed information about this process is available below in *Section 3 – Process and Logistics for Proposal Development*.

Section 1 – Overview of Funding Criteria

The federal funding opportunity notice calls for proposals that meet the following criteria:

Are Regional in Scale – The adopted recommendations of the Ocean Policy Task Force defined regional planning areas that are roughly consistent with Large Marine Ecosystems. The West Coast regional planning area consists of state waters and the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (i.e., 200 miles offshore) off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California. To be included in the West Coast proposal, ideas must meet the regional criteria presented in the box at right.

Advance Regional Planning Consistent with “Guiding Principles” – To rank highly, proposals must implement regional planning processes or build capacity to undertake such processes; in either case, proposed activities must address relevant CMSP “Guiding Principles” articulated by the federal Ocean Policy Task Force.

Reflect “Essential Elements” of CMSP – Successful proposals will advance comprehensive CMSP by supporting progress toward “Essential Elements” of a CMSP, also identified by the Ocean Policy Task Force.

Address Priorities of the WCGA – The federal funding opportunity states that Focus Area 1

(implementation) proposals “that effectively articulate the connection between the proposed project, CMSP Guiding Principles and Essential Elements and the Areas of Special Emphasis, and *the priorities publicly identified by the relevant [regional ocean partnership]* will receive the highest rankings based upon NOAA's criteria” (emphasis added).

WCGA Criteria for Ideas That Advance Regional CMSP

1. Project idea is “region-wide” in scope.

- Project includes outcomes that advance CMSP across all three states; or
- Project outcomes advance CMSP in one or more West Coast states to complement similar work and outcomes achieved to date in one or more of the other West Coast states, filling a regional gap.

2. Project addresses a regionally specific conservation or socio-economic concern(s), achieved through a collaborative or multi-stakeholder process.

3. Project is ecosystem-based, reflecting the following aspects where relevant:

- integrates ecological, social, and economic goals;
- recognizes humans as key components of the ecosystem;
- considers ecological boundaries while acknowledging political borders;
- assesses cumulative impacts from various sources;
- strives to balance conflicting uses;
- accounts for complexity and uncertainty of natural processes and social systems;
- incorporates adaptive policies in the face of uncertainties;
- considers multiple factors.

4. Project advances CMSP capacity on the West Coast through regional planning processes or by addressing one or more of the 12 guiding principles described in the OPTF CMSP framework.

5. Data generated from the project will be regionally relevant and made publicly available.

6. Project outcomes demonstrate utility for either decision-support systems (data portals, e.g.) or West Coast decision-makers (resource managers, policy makers, e.g.).

7. Project engages multiple stakeholders to define problems, incorporate scientific, social, and economic understanding, set goals, and find solutions.

Demonstrate Regional Linkages and Partnerships – The funding announcement describes requirements that applicants represent or partner with the Regional Ocean Partnership or have alternative arrangements in place for coordinating region-wide efforts.

Appendix A provides a compilation of all these criteria, and Appendix C provides a checklist the WCGA will use to screen project ideas for inclusion in a coordinated West Coast regional proposal.

Background: Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning Definition Under the National Ocean Policy

Coastal and marine spatial planning (CMSP) is one of the nine priority objectives adopted by President Obama as part of the National Ocean Policy in the [Final Recommendations of the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force](#) of July 19, 2010. The national framework for CMSP as articulated by the OPTF:

- Provides a definition of CMSP;
- Identifies the reasons for engaging in CMSP;
- Describes its geographic scope;
- Articulates national CMSP goals and guiding principles that would be adhered to in CMSP efforts and the eventual development and implementation of coastal and marine spatial plans (CMS Plans); and
- Describes how CMSP and CMS Plans would be regional in scope and developed cooperatively among federal, state, tribal, local authorities, and regional governance structures, with substantial stakeholder and public input.

The OPTF defines CMSP as “a comprehensive, adaptive, integrated, ecosystem-based, and transparent spatial planning process, based on sound science, for analyzing current and anticipated uses of ocean and coastal areas. CMSP identifies areas most suitable for various types of activities to reduce conflicts among uses, reduce environmental impacts, facilitate compatible uses, and preserve critical ecosystem services to meet economic, environmental, security, and social objectives.”

Section 2 – WCGA Action Plan and CMSP-Related Priorities

The Governors of Washington, Oregon, and California identified seven common goals when they launched the West Coast Governors’ Agreement on Ocean Health (WCGA) in September of 2006. The priorities the Governors identified are as follows:

1. Ensure Clean Coastal Waters and Beaches
2. Protect and Restore Ocean and Coastal Habitats
3. Promote the Effective Implementation of Ecosystem-Based Management
4. Reduce Adverse Impacts of Offshore Energy Development
5. Increase Ocean Awareness and Literacy Among Citizens
6. Expand Ocean and Coastal Scientific Information, Research, and Monitoring
7. Foster Sustainable Economic Development in Coastal Communities

In July 2008, an Action Plan for addressing these seven priority areas was released by the three Governors after extensive public participation and close coordination with key federal agencies. The WCGA Action Plan identifies 26 critical actions that will benefit ocean health and the coastal economies of the West Coast. Diverse work groups known as [Action Coordination Teams](#) (ACT’s) were established to develop comprehensive work plans for tri-state coordination and communication for coast-wide implementation of

the WCGA Action Plan.

ACTs provide region-wide facilitation and coordination to inform and recommend how best to implement the actions presented in the Action Plan. They are responsible for crafting a work plan to implement the action(s) in a timely manner using the best available science. Team members are ambassadors of the WCGA Action Plan, communicating not only with each other but also with other interested individuals and entities across the states. The 10 ACTs are:

- Climate change
- Integrated ecosystem assessment
- Marine debris
- Ocean awareness and literacy
- Polluted runoff
- Renewable ocean energy
- Seafloor mapping
- Sediment management
- *Spartina* eradication, and
- Sustainable coastal communities.

In spring 2010, WCGA published an [Executive Overview of Action Coordination Teams' Final Work Plans](#) summarizing the adopted work plans of eight of the ACTs. The ACTs recently identified the top priorities from these work plans related to coastal and marine spatial planning. Those priorities are presented in detail in Appendix C.

In addition to the actions addressed through ACTs, the WCGA Action Plan contains several other important priorities, many being advanced by individual states and also by partnering regional organizations noted under the relevant action. Several of these priorities have CMSP-related components. Examples include:

Action 1.3: “Explore the development of predictive capabilities for alerting ocean users and resource managers of HAB [harmful algal bloom] and hypoxia events.” Specific locations along the West Coast seem to have more frequent occurrences of these events, a factor which should be considered in resource management decisions.

Action 1.5: “Ensure adequate oil spill prevention, preparedness, and response capabilities on the West Coast and enhance federal and state collaboration. Develop additional capacity for rescue and salvage operations.” The [Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force](#) advances this item.

Action 2.1: “Document, describe, and map marine and estuarine ecological communities throughout West Coast waters, characterize existing human uses of those areas, and establish measures to ensure effective habitat protection.” Each state is pursuing appropriate tools to achieve habitat protection goals.

Action 2.2: “Restore estuarine habitats, including coastal wetlands, to achieve a net increase in habitat and their function by at least 10% over the next 10 years.” In addition to an array of estuary plans and restoration initiatives, each state has a National Estuarine Research Reserve.

Action 2.3: “Prevent the future introduction of marine invasive species.” In addition to the work of the *Spartina* ACT, the [Pacific States Ballast Water Workgroup](#) advances this item.

Action 3.1: “Examine ongoing community-based efforts using ecosystem management principles in all three states and share lessons learned from these initiatives to encourage effective ecosystem-based management efforts across the West Coast.” The [West Coast EBM Network](#) advances this item (See Appendix D for more information)

Action 3.3: “Strengthen coordination among the three states and their representatives on the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC).” The [Pacific Fishery Management Council](#) plays an important role in fostering collaboration among fishermen, states, tribes, and the federal government in identifying areas important to fisheries, and is also implementing an [Ecosystem Based Fishery Management](#) program.

Action 6.1: “Develop a regional research agenda in partnerships with the four Sea Grant programs and seek federal support to fill marine research needs identified.” In 2009 the region’s Sea Grant programs issued the report [West Coast Regional Marine Research and Information Needs](#). The WCGA will work with Sea Grant in the coming months to further refine the top ocean research priorities for the West Coast.

Action 6.2: “Support the development of a West Coast-wide strategic approach by the ocean observing community to expand, update, and maintain observing systems operations, and encourage the development of an integrated information system that has comparable data and is easily accessible for scientists, resource users, and managers.” The West Coast Integrated Ocean Observing Systems provide timely ocean information for management decisions.

State Activities Relevant to Regional CMSP

Each of the three states is carrying out an array of activities whose components and products offer significant potential as building blocks for regional CMSP. Notable examples include [Washington State’s marine spatial planning law](#), [Oregon’s process](#) to establish marine reserves and site renewable ocean energy facilities under its Territorial Sea Plan, [California’s Marine Life Protection Act Initiative](#) establishing a network of marine protected areas in state waters, and the [California Ocean Protection Council’s 2009 resolution](#) to support interagency collaboration and management of geospatial information.

Section 3 – Process and Logistics for Proposal Development

This section outlines the WCGA’s preferred approach to developing a West Coast funding proposal in response to the ROPFP; this approach will be informed by input from stakeholders beginning with the November workshops. As noted above, there are three principle opportunities the public has to help shape the West Coast proposal:

- Participate in the November workshops.
- Provide general comments or ideas via the WCGA website www.westcoastoceans.gov anytime between **November 5 and December 3, 2010**.
- Submit specific project ideas for inclusion in the West Coast proposal starting the week of **November 8 through November 19, 2010** via an online tool or electronic document (links to both available at www.westcoastoceans.gov; see Appendix B of this scoping document to see a paper copy).

These and other aspects of the approach and process leading up to submission of a West Coast proposal to NOAA are discussed below.

Focus on Advancing Comprehensive Regional Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning

Although the federal funding opportunity announcement states that it is “intended to support a spectrum of regional ocean governance priorities including those that address national goals for CMSP,” it also states under Focus Area 1, proposals that advance comprehensive CMSP “will be given highest priority in the final evaluation.”

Unified Proposal

WCGA’s preference is to incorporate multiple initiatives into one proposal rather than have individual applicants submit individual proposals; we believe a unified submittal will ensure and underscore that progress toward developing a regional plan will proceed in a coordinated fashion. As noted earlier, we will be collaborating with tribes regarding the West Coast submittal.

Top Priorities

Both the amount of funding likely to be allocated to the West Coast and the limited number of projects that can credibly meet the criteria of advancing region-wide CMSP argue in favor of submitting a limited number of projects as part of the overall proposal. The WCGA is therefore seeking workshop participants’ input to identify projects that advance the region’s top ocean priorities related to CSMP and comport with NOAA’s selection criteria to develop a strong application from the region.

Scalability and Phasing of Projects

The funding announcement stipulates that NOAA may provide only partial funding of proposals from this pool of funding, and that other federal agencies may fund proposals depending on Congressional appropriations. For these reasons, it is in the region’s best interest to put forward projects that lend themselves to being funded in phases and/or at varying scales.

Sources for Project Ideas

The WCGA welcomes and encourages participants in the November workshops, and others who may submit recommendations via the website or other channels, to propose ideas that will further the regional priorities identified in the [WCGA Final Action Plan](#) and address national priorities by advancing CMSP for the West Coast. The WCGA anticipates that the work of the WCGA’s multi-stakeholder Action Coordination Teams (discussed above and in Appendix C) will be one source of ideas. Ideas that support or complement WCGA Action Plan CMSP-related priorities and gaps are especially encouraged. Regardless of their source, the WCGA will screen for those ideas that are most closely aligned with identified regional priorities and the criteria published in the ROPFP announcement (discussed above and in Appendix A).

Stakeholder Input and Review

The November workshops are the first and most important opportunity for the region’s stakeholders to shape the West Coast proposal for CMSP funding. However, the WCGA will also engage stakeholders using an internet-based presentation (“webinar”) on draft proposal ideas and public comment period via the [WCGA website](#). The November 30 webinar will synthesize the key issues and ideas heard across all three states, summarize the ideas submitted formally to the WCGA for consideration, and present the ideas the WCGA anticipates including in the West Coast ROPFP application. The public will then have through December 3, 2010 to comment on this information. A table under the “Timeline” heading below displays these and other key dates.

Funding Mechanism

The WCGA anticipates that funding will be channeled via a fiscal sponsor to organizations implementing funded projects.

Application for Submitting Detailed Project Ideas

Appendix B provides in hardcopy format the information requested from those wishing to submit detailed ideas to be considered for inclusion in the West Coast proposal. People developing project ideas are encouraged to submit their application via an online tool that will be made available the week of November 8. For those who wish, this application will also be made available as a Microsoft Word document; to access either of these options visit the [WCGA website](#).

Transparency

All ideas submitted to the WCGA for possible inclusion in the West Coast proposal for the ROPFP will be made public and posted to the WCGA website.

Timeline

The region is facing very tight deadlines to develop this proposal. The following reflects dates by which actions must be completed in order to meet NOAA’s December 10, 2010 deadline for submitting proposals:

WCGA posts scoping document and opens public comment via WCGA website.	November 5
WCGA posts application for specific project ideas (online application tool and Microsoft Word document) to the WCGA website.	November 8
All WCGA state workshops (CA 11/12; OR 11/15; WA 11/16) completed.	November 17
Deadline for entities to provide detailed project ideas to WCGA.	November 19
Summaries of each state workshop posted on WCGA website.	November 23
WCGA holds post-workshop webinar summarizing input to date and describing intentions regarding proposal content.	November 30
Public comment period on information delivered via Nov. 30 webinar (including WCGA’s intended proposal content) closes	December 3
Submission of proposal to NOAA. Final proposal to be submitted to NOAA posted on the WCGA website.	December 10

Section 4 – Next Steps

Advancing West Coast Regional Ocean Partnership Priorities and a Regional Coastal and Marine Spatial Plan

As noted in the introduction to this scoping document, President Obama’s adoption of the final recommendations of the Ocean Policy Task Force, in addition to establishing a National Ocean Policy, created the national framework for CMSP and laid the groundwork for this present NOAA funding opportunity. The WCGA is responding to this ROPFP in the belief that comprehensive CMSP on the West Coast will enhance the work being conducted through the WCGA Action Plan, the ACTs and many other entities along the West Coast. Comprehensive CMSP holds promise as a way to align efforts across jurisdictions to achieve improved outcomes for ocean and coastal resources while maximizing scarce financial and human resources. Each of the three West Coast states is are pursuing aspects of CMSP to address their

respective ocean and coastal management needs. However, there has been only limited coordination at a regional scale. CMSP can improve the planning for and management of the myriad of human uses taking place along the West Coast, at both the state and regional level, while protecting this shared large marine ecosystem.

The ROPFP response is the first phase of a multi-phased WCGA process to advance West Coast ROP priorities and develop CMSP as a tool to advance those priorities. The ROPFP has provided the catalyst for a collaborative process to identify initial regional CMSP priorities, efforts, capacities, and needs. This first phase will culminate in the submission to NOAA of a federal funding proposal for the West Coast region by December 10, 2010.

Pending receipt of federal funding, the WCGA anticipates joining with tribes, government agencies, scientists and technical experts, and stakeholders to launch a more deliberative multi-phase effort that will include activities such as assessing and developing CMSP data and tools, proposing a regional planning body for the West Coast region, developing a collaborative process to inform CMSP, creating a CMSP draft work plan, and furthering [implementation of WCGA ACT work plans](#) and other actions in the WCGA Action Plan. The establishment of a regional planning body would include a set of agreements and implementing processes among all the participants in a West Coast coastal and marine spatial planning initiative that aligns with the National Ocean Policy.

Appendix A: Compilation of Federal and WCGA Criteria

In order to assist workshop participants and others considering ideas for inclusion in the West Coast proposal for federal CMSP funding, this appendix summarizes and distills the NOAA criteria published in the federal register; those include inclusion by reference of the identified priorities

NOTE: Where there is a conflict between this summary and the text of the federal funding opportunity, the WCGA will rely upon the latter.

The West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health Priorities

The Governors of Washington, Oregon, and California identified seven common goals when they launched the West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health (WCGA) in September of 2006. The priorities the Governors identified are as follows:

1. Ensure Clean Coastal Waters and Beaches
2. Protect and Restore Ocean and Coastal Habitats
3. Promote the Effective Implementation of Ecosystem-Based Management
4. Reduce Adverse Impacts of Offshore Energy Development
5. Increase Ocean Awareness and Literacy Among Citizens
6. Expand Ocean and Coastal Scientific Information, Research, and Monitoring; and
7. Foster Sustainable Economic Development in Coastal Communities.

Many of these priorities have components that can be supported or advanced by CMSP; see discussion under *Section 2 – Existing West Coast CMSP Efforts and Identified Priorities* above.

WCGA Criteria for Regional CMSP

1. Project idea is “region-wide” in scope.
 - Project includes outcomes that advance CMSP across all three states; or
 - Project outcomes advance CMSP in one or more West Coast states to complement similar work and outcomes achieved to date in one or more of the other West Coast states, filling a regional gap.
2. Project addresses a regionally specific conservation or socio-economic concern(s), achieved through a collaborative or multi-stakeholder process.
3. Project is ecosystem-based, reflecting the following aspects where relevant:
 - integrates ecological, social, and economic goals;
 - recognizes humans as key components of the ecosystem;
 - considers ecological boundaries while acknowledging political borders;
 - assesses cumulative impacts from various sources;
 - strives to balance conflicting uses;
 - accounts for complexity and uncertainty of natural processes and social systems;
 - incorporates adaptive policies in the face of uncertainties; and
 - considers multiple factors.
4. Project advances CMSP capacity on the West Coast through regional planning processes or by addressing one or more of the 12 guiding principles described in the OPTF CMSP framework.

5. Data generated from the project will regionally relevant and be made publicly available.
6. Project outcomes demonstrate utility for either decision-support systems (data portals, e.g.) or West Coast decision-makers (resource managers, policy makers, e.g.).
7. Project engages multiple stakeholders to define problems, incorporate scientific, social, and economic understanding, set goals, and find solutions.

Summary of Guiding Principles for Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning

The federal Ocean Policy Taskforce CMSP Framework identified a set of Guiding Principles NOAA will use to evaluate proposals. The principles below are adapted from a longer, more detailed list published in the federal funding opportunity notice.

1. **Sustainability.** Promotes sustainable ocean and coastal uses through an ecosystem-based management approach that addresses cumulative effects of those uses.
2. **Compatibility of uses with ecosystems and among uses.** Manages existing and emerging uses to reduce conflict, enhance compatibility among uses and with sustained ecosystem functions and services, provides for public access, and increases certainty and predictability for economic investments.
3. **Engagement.** Broadly engages partners, the public, and stakeholders.
4. **Coordination.** Builds upon existing marine spatial planning efforts at all scales.
5. **Clarity.** States clear objectives for evaluating alternatives, tradeoffs, cumulative effects, and sustainable uses.
6. **Informed by knowledge.** Uses the best available natural and social science and relevant local and traditional knowledge.
7. **Precaution.** Is guided by the precautionary approach that states “Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation.”
8. **Flexibility.** Adapts to changing environmental conditions and impacts, new and emerging uses, advances in science and technology, and policy changes.
9. **Evaluation.** Is regularly evaluated, with public input, to ensure that desired outcomes are achieved.
10. **Consistency with laws and policies.** Is coordinated and compatible with important greater-than-regional strategies (e.g., national security energy, foreign policy, emergency response), customary international law and international agreements to which the United States is a party, and applicable federal and state laws, regulations, and executive orders.

Essential Elements of a Coastal and Marine Spatial Plan

1. Identify regional objectives.
2. Identify existing efforts that should help shape the plan.
3. Consult scientists and technical and other experts.
4. Analyze data, uses, services, and impacts.
5. Develop and evaluate alternative future spatial management scenarios and tradeoffs.

6. Prepare and release for public comment a draft CMS plan with supporting environmental impact analysis documentation.
7. Create a final CMS plan and submit for national ocean council (NOC) review.
8. Implement, monitor, evaluate, and modify (as needed) the NOC-certified CMS Plan.

Source: NOAA Regional Ocean Partnership Funding Program—FY2011 Funding Competition. Notice. Federal Register Vol. 75, No. 176. September 13, 2010. p. 55544.

Areas of Special Emphasis

1. **Resiliency and adaptation to climate change and ocean acidification.** Strengthen resiliency of coastal communities and marine and Great Lakes environments and their abilities to adapt to climate change impacts and ocean acidification.
2. **Regional ecosystem protection and restoration.** Establish and implement an integrated ecosystem protection and restoration strategy that is science-based and aligns conservation and restoration goals at the federal, state, tribal, local, and regional levels.
3. **Water quality and sustainable practices on land.** Enhance water quality in the ocean, along our coasts, and in the Great Lakes by promoting and implementing sustainable practices on land.
4. **Ocean, coastal, and great lakes observations, mapping and infrastructure.** Strengthen and integrate federal and non-federal ocean observing systems, sensors, data collection platforms, data management, and mapping capabilities into a national system and integrate that system into international observation efforts.

Adapted from: NOAA Regional Ocean Partnership Funding Program—FY2011 Funding Competition. Notice. Federal Register Vol. 75, No. 176. September 13, 2010. p. 55543.

Demonstrated Regional Linkages and Partnerships

Applicants or project proposals must meet one or more of these criteria:

1. Represent or directly partner with a member of an existing regional ocean governance partnership;
2. Possess the authority, proven capacity, and regional relationships to effectively coordinate the development of a regional ocean governance priorities that engages affected coastal states and territories and their management agencies, including the approved coastal zone management program;
3. Demonstrate formal commitments with existing regional ocean governance partnerships and coastal states or territories (including the approved coastal zone management program) to adopt the plan(s), product(s) or outcome(s) of a proposed project into regional or state ocean management planning processes or coastal and ocean resource management policies.

Source: NOAA Regional Ocean Partnership Funding Program—FY2011 Funding Competition. Notice. Federal Register Vol. 75, No. 176. September 13, 2010. p. 55545.

In addition, the federal funding opportunity notes as an essential element “the creation of new and innovative partnerships and broader stakeholder engagement beyond the existing governmental relationships of the [regional ocean partnerships] will be needed for successful planning and implementation of CMSP.”

Appendix B: Application for Submitting Ideas for Advancing Regional CMSP

The table below presents the information requested from individuals and organizations wishing to submit detailed ideas to be considered for inclusion in the West Coast proposal. People developing project ideas are encouraged to submit their application via an online tool that will be made available the week of November 8. For those who wish, this application will also be made available as a Microsoft Word document; to access either of these options visit the [WCGA website](#).

Note that all ideas submitted will be made public and posted to the [WCGA website](#).

Project Information Template

Question	Brief Answer
1. Idea Title:	
2. Brief summary of the idea:	
3. Primary Contact: (name, address, phone, fax, e-mail)	
4. Lead Implementer(s): (name, organization)	
5. Cooperating Implementer(s): (name, organization)	
6. Estimated funding needed: (Year 1 and Year 2)	
7. Goal and Objective(s). What goals and objectives would your idea advance, how do they relate to WCGA priorities and to CMSP, and how will you measure success?	
8. Background: Provide background information that helps us understand the significance of the idea for advancing regional coastal and ocean planning and management priorities, including:	
a. Problem to be addressed.	
b. Identified needs and the status of ongoing efforts to address them.	
c. How your idea relates to other ongoing or planned regional ocean governance efforts	
9. Partnerships: (Identify specific partners among local, state, tribal, and federal governments, non-governmental organizations, academia, and industry, as appropriate.)	
10. Audience: (Identify who would use results of this idea and how they would use the results.)	
11. Approach: Briefly describe the following:	
a. Anticipated tasks required to implement the idea.	
b. Technical steps (including quality assurance) needed to accomplish the tasks.	
c. Roles of partners and cooperators.	
d. Potential obstacles to achieving the goals and objectives.	
e. How end users would participate in the planning and design of a project to carry out this idea.	
f. Anticipated data management needs and the steps to achieve appropriate data access and archiving.	
g. Methods to ensure meaningful participation by all partners and appropriate stakeholders.	
h. Roles and responsibilities of the federal partners.	
12. Benefits:	
a. Benefits to users.	

b. Benefits to society as a whole.	
c. Document the valid user requirements guiding the proposed work.	
d. Describe how information or results would be delivered to users.	
13. Milestones and Schedule:	
a. Timeline of major tasks.	
b. Important intermediate and final products.	
c. Key outcomes.	

Criteria Checklist

Please use the following checklist to indicate which of the criteria below are relevant to your idea, and to provide a brief explanation of how your idea relates to a given relevant criterion.

Applicable? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CRITERIA	Brief Description of How Idea Relates to Criterion (no more than 3 bullets)
A. WCGA Priorities		
<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Ensure Clean Coastal Waters and Beaches	
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Protect and Restore Ocean and Coastal Habitats	
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Promote the Effective Implementation of Ecosystem-Based Management	
<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Reduce Adverse Impacts of Offshore Energy Development	
<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Increase Ocean Awareness and Literacy Among Citizens	
<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Expand Ocean and Coastal Scientific Information, Research, and Monitoring	
<input type="checkbox"/>	7. Foster Sustainable Economic Development in Coastal Communities	
B. WCGA Regional Criteria		
<input type="checkbox"/>	8. Project idea is “region-wide” in scope. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project includes outcomes that advance CMSP across all three states; or • Project outcomes advance CMSP in one or more West Coast states to complement similar work and outcomes achieved to date in one or more of the other West Coast states, filling a regional gap. 	
<input type="checkbox"/>	9. Project addresses a regionally specific conservation or socio-economic concern(s), achieved through a collaborative or multi-stakeholder process.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	10. Project is ecosystem-based, reflecting the following aspects where relevant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrates ecological, social, and economic goals; • Recognizes humans as key components of the ecosystem; • Considers ecological boundaries while acknowledging political borders; • Assesses cumulative impacts from various sources; • Strives to balance conflicting uses; • Accounts for complexity and uncertainty of natural processes 	

Applicable? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CRITERIA	Brief Description of How Idea Relates to Criterion (no more than 3 bullets)
	and social systems; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporates adaptive policies in the face of uncertainties; • Considers multiple factors. 	
<input type="checkbox"/>	11. Project advances CMSP capacity on the West Coast through regional planning processes or by addressing one or more of the 12 guiding principles described in the OPTF CMSP framework.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	12. Project advances CMSP capacity on the West Coast through regional planning processes or by addressing one or more of the 12 guiding principles described in the OPTF CMSP framework.	
	13. Data generated from the project will regionally relevant and be made publicly available.	
	14. Project outcomes demonstrate utility for either decision-support systems (data portals, e.g.) or West Coast decision-makers (resource managers, policy makers, e.g.).	
	15. Project engages multiple stakeholders to define problems, incorporate scientific, social, and economic understanding, set goals, and find solutions.	
C. OPTF Guiding Principles for Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning		
<input type="checkbox"/>	16. <u>Sustainability</u> . Promotes sustainable ocean and coastal uses through an ecosystem-based management approach that addresses cumulative effects of those uses.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	17. <u>Compatibility of uses with ecosystems and among uses</u> . Manages existing and emerging uses to reduce conflict, enhance compatibility among uses and with sustained ecosystem functions and services, provides for public access, and increases certainty and predictability for economic investments.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	18. <u>Engagement</u> . Broadly engages partners, the public, and stakeholders.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	19. <u>Coordination</u> . Builds upon existing marine spatial planning efforts at all scales.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	20. <u>Clarity</u> . States clear objectives for evaluating alternatives, tradeoffs, cumulative effects, and sustainable uses.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	21. <u>Informed by knowledge</u> . Uses the best available natural and social science and relevant local and traditional knowledge.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	22. <u>Precaution</u> . Is guided by the precautionary approach that states “Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation.”	
<input type="checkbox"/>	23. <u>Flexibility</u> . Adapts to changing environmental conditions and impacts, new and emerging uses, advances in science and technology, and policy changes.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	24. <u>Evaluation</u> . Is regularly evaluated, with public input, to ensure that desired outcomes are achieved.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	25. <u>Consistency with laws and policies</u> . Is coordinated and	

Applicable? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CRITERIA	Brief Description of How Idea Relates to Criterion (no more than 3 bullets)
	compatible with important greater-than-regional strategies (e.g., national security energy, foreign policy, emergency response), customary international law and international agreements to which the United States is a party, and applicable federal and state laws, regulations, and executive orders.	
D. Essential Elements of a Coastal and Marine Spatial Plan		
<input type="checkbox"/>	26. Identify regional objectives.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	27. Identify existing efforts that should help shape the plan.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	28. Consult scientists and technical and other experts.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	29. Analyze data, uses, services, and impacts.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	30. Develop and evaluate alternative future spatial management scenarios and tradeoffs.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	31. Prepare and release for public comment a draft CMS plan with supporting environmental impact analysis documentation.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	32. Create a final CMS plan and submit for National Ocean Council (NOC) review.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	33. Implement, monitor, evaluate, and modify (as needed) the NOC-certified CMS Plan.	
E. Areas of Special Emphasis		
<input type="checkbox"/>	34. <u>Resiliency and adaptation to climate change and ocean acidification.</u> Strengthen resiliency of coastal communities and marine and Great Lakes environments and their abilities to adapt to climate change impacts and ocean acidification.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	35. <u>Regional ecosystem protection and restoration.</u> Establish and implement an integrated ecosystem protection and restoration strategy that is science-based and aligns conservation and restoration goals at the federal, state, tribal, local, and regional levels.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	36. <u>Water quality and sustainable practices on land.</u> Enhance water quality in the ocean, along our coasts, and in the Great Lakes by promoting and implementing sustainable practices on land.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	37. <u>Ocean, coastal, and great lakes observations, mapping and infrastructure.</u> Strengthen and integrate federal and non-federal ocean observing systems, sensors, data collection platforms, data management, and mapping capabilities into a national system and integrate that system into international observation efforts.	
F. Demonstrated Regional Linkages and Partnerships		
<input type="checkbox"/>	38. Is the idea or sponsor consistent with one or more of the following? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represents or directly partners with the WCGA; • Possesses the authority, proven capacity, and regional relationships to effectively coordinate the development of regional ocean governance priorities that engage affected coastal states and territories and their management agencies, including 	

Applicable? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CRITERIA	Brief Description of How Idea Relates to Criterion (no more than 3 bullets)
	the approved coastal zone management program; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates formal commitments with the WCGA and coastal states or territories (including the approved coastal zone management program) to adopt the plan(s), product(s) or outcome(s) of a proposed project into regional or state ocean management planning processes or coastal and ocean resource management policies. 	
<input type="checkbox"/>	39. Creates new and innovative partnerships and broader stakeholder engagement beyond the existing governmental relationships of the WCGA that will be needed for successful planning and implementation of CMSP.	

Possible Additional Information Needs

Note: Ideas selected for inclusion in the West Coast proposal will be required to elaborate on the above information, and also supply the following:

- Detailed budget.
- Resumes. (Maximum of two pages for each key investigator.)
- Information needed to satisfy National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements, including the following:
 - Question C1. Is the proposed activity going to be conducted in partnership with NOAA or would the proposed activity require NOAA's direct involvement, activity, or oversight? If yes, describe NOAA's involvement, activity, or oversight, including the name of the office or program that is involved.
 - Question C2. Would the proposed activity involve any other federal agency(ies) partnership, direct involvement, activity, or oversight? If yes, provide the name(s) of the agency(ies) and describe its involvement, activity, or oversight.
 - Question D1. Provide a brief description of the location of the proposed activity.
 - Question E1. List any federal, state, or local permits, authorizations, or waivers that would be required to complete the proposed activity. Provide the date the permit, authorization, or waiver was obtained or will be obtained. Provide copies of the permit, authorization, or waiver as appropriate. Was a NEPA analysis prepared for the permit, authorization, or waiver? If yes, state the title of the NEPA analysis and provide copies of the NEPA analysis.
 - Question F1. Is there the potential for the proposed activity to cause changes that would be different from normal ambient conditions (for example, temperature, light, turbidity, noise, other human activity levels, etc.)? If yes, describe the changes and the circumstances that would cause these changes.

Appendix C: Compilation of CMSP-Related Priorities of Selected WCGA ACTs

The following table presents the responses from seven of the WCGA ACTs who responded when ACTs were asked to identify their top 3-5 gaps, needs, or priorities that could advance, or be advanced by, CMSP. Responses are exactly as submitted. Note that the ACTs used the acronym “FFO” (federal funding opportunity) to refer to the Regional Ocean Partnerships Funding Program (referred to as ROPFP throughout the rest of this document).

ACT PRIORITY	RELEVANCE TO ROPFP
Integrated Ecosystem Assessment	
1. Finalize the workplan for development of West Coast Regional- Integrated Ecosystem Assessments (R-IEAs), to include strong collaboration with the West Coast EBM Network	R-IEAs directly address the FFO focus on Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning, including a particular emphasis on a synthesis of relevant science and use of an Ecosystem-Based Management Approach that addresses cumulative effects in coastal areas.
2. Convene the West Coast IEA Workshop to define the objectives, biogeographic scope, information needs, methodologies, outcomes, and performance measures for R-IEAs	Incorporate multiple existing uses and new emerging issues into a synthesis of relevant spatial data on ecosystem structure, function, services, and human uses on a regional scale; identify regional goals and objectives for appropriate uses of coastal areas; establish methods to evaluate tradeoffs, cumulative effects, and sustainable uses in a manner that can accommodate changing environmental conditions.
3. Establishment of West Coast R-IEA Leadership Team, Technical Steering Committees, and Regional Stakeholder Groups	Encourage the broad-based inclusive engagement of stakeholders in the planning process.
4. Identify and finalize the West Coast IEA Pilot Projects, including regional R-IEA implementation teams, and identification of regional coastal management needs to be addressed by R-IEAs; design R-IEAS to include the West Coast EBM network and the network of National Marine Sanctuaries, National Estuarine Research Reserves, National Wildlife Refuges, and state Marine Conservation Areas and Marine Reserves	Build upon existing marine spatial planning efforts.
5. Develop R-IEAs to include exploration of alternative coastal management scenarios and risk analyses	Application of decision support tools to help planners and stakeholders assess the implications of alternative ocean use scenarios throughout the region

ACT PRIORITY	RELEVANCE TO ROPFP
Marine Debris	
1. West Coast Marine Debris Database	Database can be used to ascertain areas of high debris accumulation, or “hot spots” along and offshore the west coast. This can help identify increased risks to marine mammals and navigation. (FFO Project Component #1)
2. West Coast Marine Debris Database	Information gathered in the database can also be used by planners and stakeholders to minimize fishing gear loss; for example, gear loss is 4 times higher in areas of active shipping. (FFO Project Component #2)
3. Formation of West Coast Marine Debris Alliance	Stakeholder involvement will result in broader discussion of appropriate and sustainable ocean and coastal uses and minimizing conflict through increased cooperation. (FFO Project Component #3)
4. Formation of the West Coast Marine Debris Alliance	The Alliance will serve to broaden stakeholder participation in planning and actions around marine debris issues by bringing together NGOs, Government agencies, and industry to collaborate on these issues. Ongoing efforts will engage more people over time. (FFO Project Component #4)
Ocean Awareness and Literacy	
<p>Action 5.2, Task 3 from ACT Workplan: “Develop shared messaging and content on the California Current Large Marine Ecosystem (LME), and other ocean and coastal topics common to the west coast region.”</p> <p>This open-ended task serves to produce needed educational material for the public or specific audiences on priority coastal and marine topics related to the LME. In the context of this FFO, this task could serve to raise awareness and engagement on the priority topic of Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning.</p>	<p>FFO Requirement: This task addresses one of the goals of CMSP “Enhance interagency, intergovernmental, and international communication and collaboration” as well as guiding principle #3: “CMSP development and implementation would ensure frequent and transparent broad-based, inclusive engagement of partners, the public, and stakeholders, including those impacted (or potentially impacted) by the planning process and with underserved communities.”</p> <p>How this ACT task addresses this FFO requirement: Discussions about CMSP often note that many members of the public, decision-makers, and various stakeholders do not understand what CMSP is or means. By developing a shared messaging and outreach strategy, the ACT could help align all parties to understand the needs, the science, and the process of CMSP. By developing a shared messaging and outreach strategy, the ACT could help align all parties to understand the needs, the science, and the process of CMSP. The ACT would bring various parties who are working on education and training about CMSP (e.g. the Center for Ocean Solutions and COMPASS), together with entities who could serve to implement public education efforts (e.g. self-directed learning institutions,</p>

ACT PRIORITY	RELEVANCE TO ROPFP
	<p>environmental groups) to form a working group with the goal of developing ways to effectively raise awareness, enlist support, and engage the public and stakeholders in CMSP.</p> <p>This effort would also result in “the creation of new and innovative partnerships and broader stakeholder engagement beyond the existing governmental relationships of the ROPs”, which is a requirement of the FFO (page 55544 of the Federal Register, para.4).</p>
<p>2. Action 5.2, Task 7 from ACT Workplan “Conduct training and outreach to target audiences.”</p> <p>This task would serve to help deliver the CMSP messages and content developed under Task 3, above, to target audiences.</p>	<p>FFO Requirement: This task also addresses the identified goal: “Enhance interagency, intergovernmental, and international communication and collaboration” as well as guiding principle #3: “CMSP development and implementation would ensure frequent and transparent broad-based, inclusive engagement of partners, the public, and stakeholders, including those impacted (or potentially impacted) by the planning process and with underserved communities.”</p> <p>How this ACT task addresses this FFO requirement: The ACT could serve to help implement the shared outreach strategy developed through the workshops and partnerships. Implementation of the shared strategy, with common themes and messages, by the various entities involved, would raise public, decision-maker, and stakeholder awareness and engagement in CMSP.</p> <p>The ACT can also help pull together resources that result from WCGA actions (either via ACTs or elsewhere). By building on the products/outcomes of various efforts, it helps to align and strengthen the messaging and understanding of CMSP.</p>
Renewable Ocean Energy	
<p>1. Create a West Coast Marine Data Management and Information Consortium that will provide a free-standing mechanism for federal and state agencies, researchers and consultant contractors to access and share commonly used spatial data useful for renewable energy planning. Work with existing state coastal and marine data portal managers to display data. This is a combination of tasks 1 and 4 of the ReACT Work Plan, updated to account for projects</p>	<p>This task will help achieve the following program priorities under focus area 1:</p> <p>4) CMSP would take into account and build upon the existing marine spatial planning efforts at the regional, State, tribal, and local level.</p> <p>5) CMS Plans and the standards and methods used to evaluate alternatives, tradeoffs, cumulative effects, and sustainable uses in the planning process would be based on clearly stated objectives.</p>

ACT PRIORITY	RELEVANCE TO ROPFP
<p>that have recently been completed or are in progress. It is also designed to build on task 2 of the ReACT Work Plan, using the regional data assessment developed as part of the guidebook as a foundation. The initial step in the development of this system is a workshop involving regional, state, and federal data managers, Oregon and Washington coastal atlas application managers, and data collectors and data users from all three states to discuss issues related to data availability, sharing, acquisition, storage and display. The workshop would also focus on the use of other geospatial analytical and data management tools such as the Multipurpose Marine Cadastre, MarineMap, RADMAPP, PACOOS, etc.</p>	<p>6) Development, implementation, and evaluation of CMS Plans would be informed by sound science and the best available information, including the natural and social sciences, and relevant local and traditional knowledge.</p>
<p>2. Enhance and expand efforts to 1) add additional marine and coastal spatial data to existing state marine and coastal data systems (Washington and Oregon Coastal Atlases and California’s marine and coastal data systems) 2) connect the state’s data systems to allow for sharing and display of data across state borders in the West Coast region and beyond state water boundaries. This effort is the next step in implementing task 4 of the ReACT Work Plan (the creation of a data management and mapping portal). The objective is to strengthen state data systems and then to begin integrating state systems, the regional ocean observing systems, and federal marine and coastal data to allow interoperability and joint data display among applications.</p>	<p>In addition to those priorities listed above, this task will meet the priorities listed under the Areas of Special Emphasis (5) Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes Observations, Mapping and Infrastructure: Strengthen and integrate federal and non-federal ocean observing systems, sensors, data collection platforms, data management, and mapping capabilities into a national system and integrate that system into international observation efforts. Specifically this task will provide tools and information identified as an ROP priority that are also critical for regional CMSP. Specifically, this task will engender comprehensive regional CMSP by allowing easy access to and display of relevant spatial data across the region and will help planners and stakeholders to visualize the physical, biological, and human environment to support informed decision making.</p>
<p>3. Expand web-based data mapping, analytical, and collection tools that integrate content and output from state, regional and federal data sources and projects. This effort is the following step in implementing task 4 of the ReACT Work Plan. Web-based data mapping and analysis tools can be used by resource managers, scientists, stakeholders and the public to conduct spatial planning processes in the marine environment, such as renewable energy siting. The project will strengthen efforts to develop regional web-based data mapping and analysis tools with the goal of developing a West Coast “toolbox” for informing renewable energy planning and other CMSP planning processes. This set of tools will provide users with web-based access to data and analytical tools needed to evaluate renewable energy projects in the context of the other various uses and activities within the marine environment of the West</p>	<p>In addition to those priorities listed above, this task will meet the priorities listed under the Areas of Special Emphasis (5) Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes Observations, Mapping and Infrastructure: Strengthen and integrate federal and non-federal ocean observing systems, sensors, data collection platforms, data management, and mapping capabilities into a national system and integrate that system into international observation efforts. Specifically this task will provide tools and information identified as an ROP priority that are also critical for regional CMSP. The task will engender comprehensive regional CMSP across multiple sectors and jurisdictions by: synthesizing relevant spatial data on ecosystem structure, function, services and human uses on a regional scale; and developing a decision-support tool to help planners and stakeholders assess the</p>

ACT PRIORITY	RELEVANCE TO ROPFP
<p>Coast and to see the comprehensive picture of these activities in both state and federal waters. These tools will be also be designed to integrate data from various disciplines and various ecological regions to better inform planning and management decisions.</p>	<p>implications of alternative ocean use scenarios throughout the region.</p>
<p>4. Develop a detailed communication, education and outreach plan to respond to the need of specific audiences, networks and stakeholder groups, so that those persons are better informed and engaged in the planning and regulatory stages for renewable energy development and marine spatial planning. This is an updated version of task 7 in the ReACT Work Plan. This may include providing support for existing local or community planning initiatives, or providing support for the creation of local advisory bodies that will provide support and feedback on the development of state and regional spatial planning efforts.</p>	<p>This task will fulfill the priorities set forth in Focus Area 2, Development and Governance Support, to help support administration and operations for existing ROPs, and support development for regions that are initiating ROP activities. Specifically this task will provide staff support to coordinate and facilitate stakeholder engagement; hold stakeholder engagement meetings; identify, develop and/or manage the implementation of priority activities in the region; developing annual reports and other outreach materials to demonstrate the importance of broad support for regional ocean governance.</p> <p>In addition this task will support the following program priorities under focus area 1: 3) CMSP development and implementation would ensure frequent and transparent broad-based, inclusive engagement of partners, the public, and stakeholders, including with those most impacted (or potentially impacted) by the planning process and with underserved communities.</p>
<p>Seafloor Mapping</p>	
<p>1. Task 1- Data Collection and processing. The seafloor mapping ACT, and all three states are committed to, and have been actively conducting mapping and data processing— The goal is high-resolution bathymetry with backscatter – in all State waters from ~10 m isobath to 3-mile limit, and in priority areas from 10m to the shoreline. Task 1 item 6 includes groundtruth data to support all bathymetric data collection, including video, sampling, subsurface imaging.</p>	<p>Seafloor and habitat maps are the basis for virtually all CMSP efforts, regulatory actions by State and federal agencies, ecosystem-based management, and the decision process for alternative energy and other marine activities. Mapping is understood to include groundtruth data collection that would provide the critical, essential, fundamental, and foundational data (basemaps, habitats, geology) that the rest of CMSP will be built.</p> <p>Seafloor mapping in the California Current LME includes both state and federal waters, and this ACT recognizes that marine CMSP efforts must span State and federal boundaries. Because these data are foundational, this task addresses Guiding Principles 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10 of Priority Area 1 of the FFO.</p>
<p>2. Seafloor Mapping ACT Task 3, subtask 6, Develop new products and identify creative applications for mapping data. Develop a comprehensive GIS and Web interface for viewing and dissemination of seafloor mapping data that has extensible capability</p>	<p>This task supports the synthesis of relevant spatial data on ecosystem structure, function, services and human uses on a regional scale, addressing principles 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8. It also builds upon national Area of Special Interest 5 - Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes Observations, Mapping and</p>

ACT PRIORITY	RELEVANCE TO ROPFP
<p>to integrate with or link to decision support systems.</p>	<p>Infrastructure. This task also builds upon CMSP guiding principles relating to response to climate change adaptation and mitigation, new technologies and uses of oceans, hazard preparedness for both manmade and natural hazards.</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Seafloor Mapping ACT Task 3, subtask 6, Develop new products and identify creative applications for mapping data. Develop a comprehensive GIS and Web interface for seafloor mapping data. (We again use this subtask to refer to additional capabilities, i.e, extensible capability of a database system to broaden into and integrated decision support system). 2. Task 2- Data management – 4. Develop dynamic systems to allow easy incorporation of new mapping data and upgrades of data-storage technology. 	<p>Decision Support Systems are critical to a wide range of applications of marine spatial data. A regional system needs to not only be able to synthesize large quantities of data, but also to account for uncertainties, manage disparate datasets including multidimensional databases and subjective data, and determine which data require improvement in order to make a given decision robust.</p> <p>This task is directly called for in the FFO: “The development or application of decision-support tools to help planners and stakeholders assess the implications of alternative ocean use scenarios throughout the region” which also cites the Ocean Policy Task Force report calling for an “integrated, comprehensive, ecosystem-based, flexible, and proactive approach to planning and managing these uses and activities”.</p> <p>Such a system directly addresses essentially all 12 of the guiding principles of the FFO, with emphasis on “an ecosystem-based management approach that addresses cumulative effects to ensure the protection, integrity, maintenance, resilience, and restoration of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems, while promoting multiple sustainable uses” (1); and to “evaluate alternatives, tradeoffs, cumulative effects, and sustainable uses in the planning process” (5).</p>
<p>Spartina</p>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a GIS-based Spartina habitat suitability model for the West Coast from Alaska to California (Task ED-1). The model would expand on a model already developed for Alaska, British Columbia, and Washington. The proposed work will cover the entire coast and add habitat usage and climate change information not previously considered. The model will provide focus to early detection survey activities and incorporate spatial data on vectors for Spartina dispersal, such as dredging (Task P-4) and recreational boating (Task P-6), as well as high-value wetlands that should be targeted for protection from Spartina invasion. Areas where Spartina has been eradicated will also be mapped to begin development of a spatial planning for restoration of degraded systems (Task R-2). 	<p>The proposed activity addresses multiple Areas of Special Emphasis in the FFO. It will strengthen and integrate mapping capabilities to support international observation efforts. It will also permit the establishment and implementation of an integrated ecosystem protection and restoration strategy that is science-based and aligns conservation and restoration goals at the federal, state, tribal, local, and regional levels.</p>

ACT PRIORITY	RELEVANCE TO ROPFP
Sustainable Coastal Communities	
<p>1. A common theme across all of the SCC ACT action areas is a need for more and better data on coastal community port and marina infrastructure presence, quality and needs. This project would support four graduate-level research assistantships or post-graduate fellowships (one apiece in Washington and Oregon, two in California) to assemble geographic information system (GIS) data on the following coastal community port infrastructure issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dredged depth and port’s distance to open ocean; • Number and size range of useable vessel berths, indicating whether and what percent of berths are reserved for commercial cargo vessels, commercial fishing vessels, recreational fishing vessels, recreational non-consumptive vessels; • Number, size, and location of marine aquaculture farms, pens, and associated facilities; • Access to within-port fuel supply, fish processing plants, ice and freezer storage facilities, and public hoists, buying stations, indicating whether facilities are accessible by sea and from land; • Number and capacity of vessel maintenance and repair facilities; • Quality and availability of non-consumptive tourism access to docks, ramps, and waterways, and accessibility to natural capital zones (national, state, and local parks and preserves). • Connectivity to and adequacy of landside infrastructure 	<p>The WCGA SCC ACT’s draft work plan is divided into six action areas: West Coast planning and economic development, sustainable fisheries, sustainable aquaculture, non-consumptive recreation and tourism, green ports, and clean marina programs. Gathering baseline data on marine industries infrastructure conditions and needs in West Coast ports would provide the WCGA with the information it needs to better address two of the national Ocean Policy Task Force’s areas of special interest: resiliency and adaptation to climate change and ocean acidification; and, ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes observations, mapping and infrastructure. There is a significant and pressing need for a collection of coastal community socio-economic data to support coastal and marine spatial planning processes, and this project would respond to some of that need.</p>
<p>2. Map marine locations of importance to West Coast fishery participants, so as to avoid conflicts with other types of offshore development or uses (this has already been done in some states and could be replicated in WCGA states for CMSP purposes).</p>	<p>One of the guiding principles of the CMSP Framework is to manage existing and emerging uses of the offshore area to reduce conflict, enhance compatibility among uses, and with sustained ecosystem function and services, to provide for public access, and increase certainty and predictability for economic investments. Fishery participants use a broad swath of marine territory and rely on long-term sustainability of their target species. This project would facilitate CMSP by providing much-needed data on ocean zones of importance for fisheries. Fishermen contributing to this effort will bring decades of experience working on and with the ocean. Collecting data on traditional fishing grounds will provide opportunities for decision-makers to minimize impact to coastal communities while managing multiple uses.</p>

ACT PRIORITY	RELEVANCE TO ROPFP
<p>3. Promote water quality strategies at industrial ports.</p>	<p>The Sustainable Coastal Communities Action Coordination Team (SCC ACT) has identified a priority of promoting water quality strategies at industrial ports through soliciting West Coast ports for a list of priority funding needs to implement water quality control measures. Industrial ports on the West Coast have made great strides in recent years towards improving water quality in their harbors. At the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles, a water quality and sediment management plan, Water Resources Action Plan (WRAP) has been established, which seeks to improve water and sediment quality through scientific management of these resources on a watershed scale.</p> <p>By promoting water quality initiatives at industrial ports such as the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles' WRAP, the SCC ACT is working to advance several guiding principles identified in the Ocean Policy Task Force's (OPTF) Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CSMP) Framework. These guiding principles include using an ecosystem-based management approach, reducing conflict between multiple uses, and the use of sound science. By supporting watershed-scale approaches to water quality management by local port authorities, the SCC ACT is encouraging industrial ports to manage their harbor waters and sediments using a holistic, system-wide, integrated approach consistent with ecosystem-based management. Port strategies to improve water quality help foster compatibility among the multiple users as improved water quality in the harbor allows for more beneficial uses of harbor waters and sediments. Comprehensive efforts like the WRAP are based on sound science and include detailed hydrodynamic modeling to provide information on harbor circulation. The products of these modeling efforts can be used by other users of harbor waters and can help inform decision-making. Empowering ports to manage their own water resources also helps to ensure the Framework's principle of adaptive and flexible management to accommodate changing environmental conditions and impacts.</p> <p>The SCC ACT's priority of promoting water quality at ports aligns with three of the Framework's Areas of Special Emphasis: Regional Ecosystem Protection and Restoration, Water Quality and Sustainable</p>

ACT PRIORITY	RELEVANCE TO ROPFP
	<p>Practices on Land. Industrial ports work through their water quality initiatives to address the impacts of past, present, and future port operations, and to prevent port operations from degrading existing water and sediment quality. Some of the most degraded water and sediment quality on the West Coast exists in industrial harbors that have a history of heavy industrial use. Promoting the restoration of such highly degraded areas is in alignment with the Framework's focus on regional ecosystem restoration. Port water quality strategies promote sustainable practices on land by working with terminal operators and local and regional partners to reduce land-based runoff and direct discharge into harbor water. By reducing non-climatic stressors such as pollution, ports increase the resiliency of harbor waters to projected climate change impacts such as higher water temperatures and ocean acidification.</p>
<p>4. Generate an inventory of non-consumptive recreation and tourism uses; map locations where they occur in each state. Integrate into state coastal atlas and/or other CMSP database(s) where appropriate.</p>	<p>The collection of this data is imperative to understand current uses and plan investments and improvements in non-consumptive tourism and recreation infrastructure and activities. Establishing this baseline data and quantifying and profiling multiple and emerging non-consumptive recreation and tourism uses advances the following CMSP objectives established by the Ocean Policy Task Force: 1) use an ecosystem based management approach and promote sustainable uses; 2) manage existing uses in a manner that reduces conflict and provides for public access; 3) ensure engagement of non-consumptive tourism and recreation stakeholders; 8) accommodate new and emerging uses; and 9) evaluate priorities in a regular and systematic manner to ensure desired environmental, economic, and social outcomes.</p> <p>Ultimately this data will afford us the knowledge and opportunity to create and expand cross-sector partnerships (called for by the FFO) among a broader base of stakeholder groups to support the needs of a coastal economy that is flexible, adaptable and resilient through its diversification of sustainable economic sectors.</p>
<p>5. Conduct a three-day workshop to address the SCC ACT work plan's Overarching Recommendation #1, <i>Convene a tri-state task force to provide support and</i></p>	<p>This task is intended to address the FFO's Focus Area 2, <i>Development and governance support for administration and operations of existing and new ROPs,</i></p>

ACT PRIORITY	RELEVANCE TO ROPFP
<p><i>momentum for implementing the recommendations put forth in the Sustainable Coastal Communities action strategy. The task force may include members from this ACT, but may expand to include delegates from ocean caucuses, as well as state, federal, local, and tribal governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and industry to develop strategies to implement the action strategy and facilitate its execution.</i></p>	<p><i>including development of plans and management of ROP activities. Workshop delegates would include knowledgeable stakeholders representing the ACT’s six major action areas: West Coast planning and economic development, sustainable fisheries, sustainable aquaculture, non-consumptive recreation and tourism, green ports, and clean marina programs. The workshop would develop implementation plans for the ACT Work Plan’s recommendations, prioritizing those recommendations that would benefit multiple action areas, and those that emphasize the linkages between coastal community priorities and needs and the action recommendations from other WCGA action coordination teams.</i></p>

Appendix D: CMSP-Related Priorities of the West Coast EBM Network

On its own initiative the West Coast Ecosystem Based Management Network used the template used by ACTs to identify its own set of priorities. The group has been identified as helping to advance WCGA Action 3.1 (see Section 2 of this scoping document, above).

WCEBM NETWORK PRIORITY	RELEVANCE TO ROPFP
West Coast Ecosystem Based Management Network	
<p>1. Initiate subregional-scale Integrated Ecosystem Assessments (IEAs) that build on existing community-supported ecosystem-based management (EBM) efforts to pursue regional management objectives.</p> <p>The West Coast EBM Network (Network) has member initiatives that have been identified as potential pilot study sites for Regional-IEAs by the WCGA IEA ACT, and the Network is also exploring a link to ongoing NOAA-led California Current IEA efforts.</p> <p>Linking to one or both of these efforts to undertake subregional IEAs will provide the foundation for implementation of a CMSP approach for the West Coast region, while also establishing regional ecosystem health indicators that tie directly to real-world management priorities.</p>	<p>Performing smaller-scale IEAs in discrete West Coast communities will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -help to identify regional objectives along West Coast; -build on existing efforts to help shape planning process; -engage stakeholders; -develop and evaluate management scenarios; -help create West Coast CMS Plan that is grounded in established local priorities; -create infrastructure to implement, monitor and evaluate CMS Plan.
<p>2. Build on Action 3.1 of WCGA Action Plan to expand successful EBM approaches throughout the West Coast, and build capacity to link community-driven ecosystem-based approaches to establishment of a CMSP framework.</p> <p>The West Coast EBM Network, working with the WCGA and/or new West Coast Regional Planning Body (RPB) is positioned to be the model for linking local community-based management priorities throughout a region to the broader goals of CMSP. Presently, there is no direct connection between national planning priorities (to be implemented regionally) and the local coastal communities they are meant to impact. By establishing a link between regional planning efforts carried out by the RPB and West Coast EBM Network sites as “local nodes,”</p>	<p>Using West Coast EBM Network as the infrastructure to establish “Community Ecosystem Teams” as local nodes along West Coast region, this task will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -help to identify regional objectives along West Coast; -build on existing efforts to help shape planning process; -engage stakeholders; -develop and evaluate management scenarios; -consult with local scientists and technical experts familiar with local priorities and connection to regional-scale issues; -help create West Coast CMS Plan that is grounded in established local priorities; -create infrastructure to implement, monitor and evaluate CMS Plan.

WCEBM NETWORK PRIORITY	RELEVANCE TO ROPFP
<p>the West Coast region will be able to demonstrate the link between CMSP, EBM, and tangible benefits to management approaches and outcomes related to a suite of pressing coastal issues.</p> <p>This would be carried out through three tasks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Outreach from RPB to Network community sites to define the link between an EBM approach and CMSP implementation, and tasks associated with linking approaches; 2. Build capacity (through in-house staff, outreach meetings, tool development/application) in each applicable Network initiative to demonstrate role of pilot sites as West Coast “Community Ecosystem Teams” that will serve as a regional network of local implementers of regional priorities and demonstrate real-world link between CMSP approach, EBM, and local management outcomes; also demonstrate link between West Coast communities and regional planning body and national ocean policy objectives. 3. Over time, expand capacity of West Coast communities throughout the region to establish themselves as “Community Ecosystem Teams;” this task will be carried out through workshops and outreach in West Coast subregions (Puget Sound, WA coast, Oregon coast, Northern/Central/Southern CA) towards eventual establishment of multiple sites in all three states. The goal of this task is to allow West Coast to provide the national model for linking new federal policy and management approaches, with RPB leadership, to tangible community benefits at the local scale. 	
<p>3. Expand capacity of West Coast EBM Network member sites (to be classified as “Community Ecosystem Teams” for RPB; see Task 2 above) to interact with WCGA Action Coordination Teams on issue-by-issue basis, including issues within designated Areas of Special</p>	<p>Enhancing link between Network sites and WCGA ACT's will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -build on existing efforts to help shape planning process; -engage stakeholders; -analyze Data, Uses, Services, and Impacts -help create West Coast CMS Plan that is grounded

WCEBM NETWORK PRIORITY	RELEVANCE TO ROPFP
<p>Emphasis.</p> <p>Many of the Network member initiatives have addressed priority issues within their local EBM approaches that link to ACT focus areas, such as climate change, sustainable communities, and polluted runoff, among others.</p> <p>Increased capacity to bring together Network sites and ACTs will serve to highlight opportunities to address ACT work plan priorities through place-based management approaches at the local scale and leverage common approaches and goals. Capacity can be added through Community Ecosystem Team Fellows program that will work with WCGA Sea Grant fellows and other team members to enhance regional collaboration.</p>	<p>in established local priorities; -create infrastructure to implement, monitor and evaluate CMS Plan on topical basis.</p> <p>In addition, this task will expand efforts in the Areas of Special Emphasis: -Resiliency and Adaptation to Climate Change -Ecosystem Protection and Restoration -Water Quality and Sustainable Practices on Land</p>