

**West Coast Governors Alliance on Ocean Health
FY2012 Regional Ocean Partnership Funding Program Focus Area 2 Funding Request**

**Strengthening and Sustaining Implementation of the
West Coast Governors Alliance on Ocean Health**



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Project Duration – 1 year

Proposed Cooperative Agreement between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for Strengthening and Sustaining Implementation of the West Coast Governors Alliance on Ocean Health

Amount of Funding Request (Focus Area 2) — \$248,270

**Strengthening and Sustaining Implementation of the
West Coast Governors Alliance on Ocean Health**

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Project Summary

i. Project Name/Title: Strengthening and Sustaining Implementation of the West Coast Governors Alliance on Ocean Health (WCGA).

ii. Primary Contact: Lisa A. DeBruyckere, WCGA Coordinator | 6159 Rosemeadow Lane NE | Salem, OR 97317 | (503) 704-2884 | lisad@createstrat.com

iii. Recipient Organization or Institution: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (WCGA fiscal sponsor)

iv. Other Investigators: Governor's offices of California (CA), Oregon (OR), and Washington (WA).

v. Brief Project Summary: This application requests consideration of \$248,270 in funding for the FY 12 Focus Area 2 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric (NOAA) Regional Ocean Partnership Funding Program (ROPFP) opportunity for the West Coast region. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) will serve as the fiscal sponsor for the WCGA. The funding instrument for this application is a cooperative agreement.

The WCGA will focus this funding on four tasks: (1) Convene a West Coast Ocean Summit with tribal sovereign nations; (2) Update the WCGA Action Plan and provide WCGA Action Coordination Teams (ACTs) with capacity to implement their work plans; (3) Provide overall support of WCGA operations and administration; and (4) Convene meeting with local governments in each West Coast state.

The WCGA 2008 Action Plan set in motion: (1) establishing partnerships for governance; (2) creating working groups (ACTs) to advance a range of operational activities and engage and convene partners and stakeholders; (3) securing support to accomplish WCGA goals; (4) communicating WCGA direction and actions; and (5) promoting ongoing coordination, cooperation, and collaboration.

The WCGA is pleased with the progress made to date in jointly advancing West Coast priorities in an era of extremely scarce resources, yet also recognizes that ongoing investments are needed to provide administration support and address organizational issues and other gaps.

This funding will allow the WCGA to further its development and impact in the following ways:

- Convene a West Coast Ocean Summit in 2013 with tribal sovereign nations and create mechanisms for ongoing dialogue and collaboration.
- Update the WCGA Action Plan to identify and reflect important changes, improve focus of regional priorities and structures, and support the administration and operations of ACTs to improve the capacity of ACTs to implement their work plans.
- Provide a stable source of funding for a WCGA coordinator, travel, planning, communications, and outreach to further develop and extend the impact of the WCGA.
- Convene meetings with local governments in each West Coast state and create mechanisms for ongoing dialogue and collaboration.

vi. Partners: Partners are the entities that comprise the WCGA (three state leads – CA, OR, and WA and the three federal leads – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Environmental Protection Agency, and Bureau of Ocean Energy Management) as well as the West Coast entities that comprise the WCGA ACTs, coastal communities, tribes, academic institutions, nongovernmental organizations, ocean-related consortiums, and other federal, state, and local governments.

vii. Proposed funding: The WCGA proposes funding for one year – \$248,270

Project Description

i. Goal and Objectives

Goal: Advance and sustain the capacity of the WCGA to address national and regional ocean priorities.

Task 1: Partner with West Coast Tribes on regional ocean governance issues by hosting a West Coast Ocean Summit with federal and state agencies and West Coast tribal leaders to communicate, develop a shared understanding, document issues of mutual importance, and create strategies for overcoming challenges and develop mechanisms for ongoing dialogue among federal and state agencies and tribes in the region. (This task builds on previously funded work to engage tribes—Focus Area 2 in FY11) (\$50,000).

Connection to ROP Development and Governance: This task will help to:

- establish long term coordination for regional ocean governance with West Coast tribes;
- enhance dialogue with West Coast coastal tribes and develop strategies for addressing barriers;
- foster consensus building on regional priorities among the states and tribes for the entire California Current ecosystem; and
- help ensure participation across geopolitical lines.

Task 2: Update the WCGA Action Plan to identify and reflect important changes, improve focus of regional priorities and structures, and improve capacity of ACTs to advance their work plans and collaborate with West Coast entities (\$50,000).

Connection to ROP Development and Governance: This task provides WCGA with capacity and administrative support to: 1) update the WCGA Action Plan to identify and reflect important changes and improve focus and structure of the WCGA and 2) provide ACTs with administrative support to advance their work plans and collaborate with West Coast entities on regional ocean and coastal health initiatives. Specific tasks and methods include:

- participating in meetings to advance initiatives of mutual interest to the WCGA and other West Coast entities;
- convening with members of other regional ocean partnerships to share lessons learned;
- using a variety of techniques to obtain tribal, ACT, and stakeholder input on priorities;
- participating in teleconferences with regional and national entities; and
- other mechanisms that provide administrative support to ACTs to achieve the highest priority tasks in their work plans, such as hosting webinars, in-person meetings, or online forums.

Task 3: Further develop and extend the impact of the WCGA through efficient organization, planning, communication, and outreach, and provide funding for a WCGA coordinator (\$80,700).

Connection to ROP Development and Governance: This task supports the basic infrastructure needed to sustain the WCGA in the form of a WCGA Coordinator to staff the WCGA Executive Committee, and funding for a range of essential communication, outreach, and facilitation activities.

- Create an opportunity to engage with at least 2 other regional ocean planning bodies to leverage approaches and concepts to achieve regional ocean governance goals (\$8,000).
- Travel to convene WCGA ExComm at annual meeting (\$20,000).
- Funding to host WCGA website (\$700).
- Support for a WCGA Coordinator (\$50,000).
- *GoToMeeting* and *GoToWebinar* Corporate Subscription for the WCGA (\$2,000).

Task 4: Improve coordination among the WCGA and local governments. (\$45,000 for workshop costs and travel).

Connection to ROP Development and Governance: The WCGA Executive Committee will launch a process in July of 2012 to review the 2008 WCGA Action Plan, identify and reflect important changes, and improve the focus of regional priorities and structures. The highest priority regional ocean partnership initiatives as well as local government priorities will be shared, and a set of strategies will be developed to enhance coordination and implement initiatives of mutual concern. This task will enhance communication among the WCGA and local government representatives that will be needed to ensure effective implementation of both the WCGA Action Plan and the National Ocean Policy.

ii. Background

The West Coast Governors Alliance on Ocean Health (WCGA) was formed in 2006 as a proactive regional collaboration between the governors of California, Oregon, and Washington to protect and manage the ocean and coastal resources along the entire West Coast. An action plan¹ for the WCGA, released in 2008, identified 26 critical actions for the West Coast. Following that, a total of 11 region-wide work groups, known as Action Coordination Teams (ACTs), were established to develop comprehensive work plans² for tri-state coordination and communication for coast-wide implementation of the WCGA Action Plan.

The WCGA focuses on seven priority issues:

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

Three federal co-leads participate on the Executive Committee, and federal agencies participate in most ACTs. The role of federal partners includes continuing participation on the WCGA Executive Committee and on the ACTs. The federal partners represent the interests and priorities of federal agencies, provide funding and technical support, identify additional federal participants, and actively collaborate with partners.

The WCGA has established 11 ACTs to accomplish high priority tasks in the WCGA Action Plan. These ACTs are comprised of a diversity of tribal sovereign government representatives as well as stakeholders, including academia, nongovernmental organizations, industry, and local, state, and federal governments. A number of the ACTs have leveraged resources among partners to implement actions, but many require nominal capacity support to attend meetings and pay for teleconferencing to minimize travel. ACTs are charged with serving as a region-wide facilitation and coordination group to inform and recommend how to best implement the actions presented in the WCGA Action Plan. They neither dictate nor supersede agency authorities, but 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.

¹ http://www.westcoastoceans.org/media/WCGA_ActionPlan_lowest-resolution.pdf

² <http://www.westcoastoceans.org/index.cfm?content.display&pageID=68>

Advancing Regional Ocean Priorities—WCGA Coordination

Although California was able to hire a WCGA coordinator in 2010 using its allocated Coastal Impact Assistance Program funds, there is no funding beyond 2012 to support a WCGA Coordinator. This coordinator is critical to ensuring that the state and federal leads, who all have other state-focused duties, can fully engage with the WCGA and work toward advancing regional ocean priorities. The WCGA Coordinator's responsibilities include:

- Project management
- Staffing the Executive Committee (conference calls, general coordination, etc.)
- Updating content management for the WCGA website
- Research, writing, and materials development
- Fundraising
- Communication and outreach
- Conducting research leading to enlisting a fiscal sponsor for the WCGA
- Oversight of grant development and administration

The work described in this potential cooperating agreement would build on the work that has been conducted to date, and further advance regional ocean priorities and Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP) with West Coast tribes and stakeholders, particularly as it relates to coastal and ocean health and sustainable coastal communities, whose citizenry and leaders must be active participants in ocean management to ensure success. There has also been inadequate funding to engage with tribal governments and stakeholders relative to regional ocean governance issues. This funding will be imperative for the WCGA to engage with partners on regional ocean priorities and CMSP.

Tribal Engagement

In FY11, the WCGA received \$75,000 to work with the federal government and engage West Coast Tribes on their participation in the CMSP Regional Planning Body on the West Coast. The WCGA worked with the West Coast representatives on the Governance Coordinating Committee to produce a work plan (Appendix A) that is intended to build upon and strengthen relationships with tribes through increased partnerships and collaboration. The WCGA is currently working with tribal representatives to develop and implement a West Coast framework³ for Native and Tribal engagement. Increased outreach and coordination allows for tribes and tribal communities to provide policy guidance and support the advancement of West Coast and national ocean priorities and objectives. The WCGA plans to work with tribes and tribal communities within this developed framework to:

- Conduct tribal outreach, qualitative research to advance ecosystem-based management, and to inform decisions and improve understanding while enhancing tribal relations;
- Assess primary qualitative outreach collected, prepare findings, and report formal consultation process (if appropriate); and
- Develop a West Coast tribal outreach consultation process and identify next steps and future actions for tribal engagement to advance West Coast ocean priorities and the National Ocean Policy.

³ The use of the term "framework" is intentionally used to reference a comprehensive process of productive and respectful tribal engagement that includes relationship building, the establishment of a forum in which tribes can safely participate and express their knowledge and perspectives, and a clear understanding of the issues of importance to all involved.

The outcomes of implementing this framework will be used to inform the next steps associated with tribal engagement and will serve as a strong foundation for our proposal to co-host a West Coast Ocean Summit with tribal sovereign nations in 2013. The goal of the summit is to communicate, develop a shared understanding, identify challenges and barriers, and document issues of mutual importance to the states and West Coast tribes. The sheer number and breadth of interests among tribal sovereign nations makes a face-to-face meeting with key tribal leaders significant in advancing regional and national ocean priorities.

iii. Partnerships

As identified in the WCGA Action Plan and further emphasized in the 2003 and 2004 Pew Oceans Commission and US Commission on Ocean Policy reports, regional collaborations to support ocean and coastal management on an ecosystem level are integral for addressing interconnected coastal and ocean issues. Initiatives undertaken to implement the WCGA Action Plan are closely coordinated with the three states' coastal management programs and water, fish, and wildlife resource management agencies. Partners of the WCGA include tribal sovereign nations, local government agencies, state coastal programs and resource management agencies, the National Estuary Program, National Estuarine Research Reserves, National Marine Sanctuaries, ocean observing system regional associations and the Pacific Coast Ocean Observing System, nongovernmental organizations, universities and academia, public citizens and interested stakeholders, marine industries and businesses, and members of the private sectors. As members of the WCGA Executive Committee, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management are key partners in WCGA initiatives. Also, the 11 multi-stakeholder WCGA ACTs, which represent over 150 tribal, government, nonprofit, academic, and industry representatives along the West Coast, are key partners.

The WCGA has created a solid foundation to further West Coast regional ocean priorities through the development of the WCGA Action Plan and 11 corresponding ACT work plans. These outcomes reflect a thorough, inclusive, and transparent public engagement process that was continued as the WCGA developed this proposal and the accompanying ROPFP Focus Area 1 \$741,400 proposal to implement Phase 2 of a Regional Data Framework.

A robust, active, and committed group of partners and collaborators exists and seeks to achieve coastal and ocean health and sustainable coastal communities along the West Coast. The three state and three federal leads of the WCGA Executive Committee serve a critical leadership role in advancing priorities and engaging with stakeholders and tribal governments to achieve both short- and long-term regional goals and actions that advance the National Ocean Policy. Additional resources will allow the WCGA to build on its foundation by further engaging with entities along the West Coast to address the challenging and complex issues relating to coastal and ocean economies, ecosystems, and communities.

This proposal also helps the WCGA to continue the tribal engagement work started in 2012 to enhance dialogue with the West Coast tribes with interests in coastal and ocean health issues. Enhanced regional collaboration with tribal sovereign nation will help to advance planning for existing and emerging uses of West Coast ocean ecosystems through the formation of the RPB and CMS planning activities.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation — The Fiscal Agent to the WCGA

The NFWF was established by Congress in 1984 as an independent not-for profit organization to be the vehicle for the USFWS to establish public-private partnerships. In the early 1990s, NOAA recognized the need to have a similar instrument and underwent a deliberative process to determine whether to create a new entity or to adopt the NFWF as their official foundation. Based on NFWF's success with the USFWS, and with NOAA's concurrence, Congress expanded NFWF's Charter to include NOAA's mission in 1994. Since

then, NFWF has been NOAA's foundation and has continued to develop strong partnerships with many different programs within NOAA. NFWF also has partnerships with 20 other federal agencies. NFWF will serve as the fiscal agent for the WCGA to provide all financial management, grant administration, related technical assistance services, and the reporting needed to support implementation of WCGA initiatives by the states of Oregon, Washington and California, and third party contractors. NFWF's excellence in financial management, combined with its extensive experience bringing experts, managers, industry and stakeholders to deliver marine and coastal management results, and its seasoned and competent staff make it the ideal fiscal agent for the WCGA's participation in NOAA ROPFP. NFWF consistently receives unqualified opinions, with no findings of significant or material weaknesses, on its annual financial and A-133 audits.

NFWF will:

- reach into diverse sectors of the grantee community;
- efficiently solicit proposals through an online application system and then administer grants;
- assist with generating/documenting grantee match;
- raise additional public and private funds through partnerships to leverage investments;
- develop grant contracts, track all expenditures and report on measureable outcomes; and
- coordinate across agencies to maximize the effectiveness of federal funds towards shared objectives.

NFWF will assist WCGA in leveraging funds with other public and private donors to expand the amount of funds available for coastal and marine conservation efforts in the West Coast region. As fiscal agent for the WCGA, NFWF will work, as needed and requested, by WCGA to manage funds raised, work with WCGA to help the grantee/partners to develop work plans and grant agreements, coordinate the reporting and account for the funds both programmatically and financially to donors/funding sources for West Coast initiatives.

iv. Audiences

Audiences for the work of the WCGA include the broad network of state, tribal, and federal coastal resource managers and elected officials who have decision-making authority and public trust responsibilities for conservation and management of the California Current Large Marine Ecosystem, public stakeholders, academic scientists, private industry, nongovernmental organizations, and those who live along, study, earn a living from, or advocate for ocean and coastal resources along the West Coast. The activities addressed in this proposal are intended to increase these audience members' participation in WCGA processes, keep them better informed of WCGA actions and products, and allow them to make decisions about ocean and coastal resources based on sound information about the threats and effective measures to protect and use those resources.

Specific audiences include our key federal agency and tribal sovereign nation partners as well as:

- West Coast state agencies, including coastal zone management offices, and program specific offices (e.g., fisheries, nongame species programs, maritime resource programs, public utility commissions);
- Ocean user groups and commercial and private sector stakeholder sectors, including tourism and recreation groups, offshore energy, and renewable energy developers, commercial and recreational fishing groups, ports, shipping and navigation interests, and marine trades;
- The regional research community, including the Ocean Observing Systems, universities, and Sea Grant programs; and
- Stakeholders concerned with habitat protection and ocean conservation, including local government leaders, non-governmental organizations, fishermen, recreation, tourism interests, and other businesses dependent on healthy and resilient coastal and ocean ecosystems.

Approach

Task 1: Partner with West Coast Tribes on regional ocean governance issues by hosting a West Coast Ocean Summit with federal and state agencies and West Coast tribal leaders to communicate, develop a shared understanding, document issues of mutual importance, and create strategies for overcoming challenges and develop mechanisms for ongoing dialogue among federal and state agencies and tribes in the region. (This task builds on previously funded work to engage tribes—Focus Area 2 in FY11).

Actions:

- Action 1.1 – Develop an agenda for the Ocean Summit through a collaborative planning team. Key state and federal partners and key tribal sovereign nation leaders will build the agenda for the summit, which will have clear deliverables relative to how state and federal leads and tribal sovereign nation leaders can gather in an informal setting to discuss areas of mutual interest relative to ocean and coastal health and uses of the ocean and coasts.
- Action 1.2 – Provide administrative support and co-sponsorship (with the tribes) for convening the Ocean Summit. The WCGA would serve as the co-sponsor of the summit, and would work with the US Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution to hire a facilitator that would work with the WCGA and the tribes to conduct the summit.

Potential obstacles to achieving summit outcomes would be lack of participation by key partners and lack of funds or capacity to sustain the dialogue and progress after the summit. To overcome these obstacles, the WCGA will include key tribal liaisons on the team involved in planning the Ocean Summit and provide funds for this task to support travel of tribal leaders and staff. The US Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution will be supporting the summit by providing funding for a facilitator.

Measurable Outcomes:

The success of the summit will be evaluated based on:

- Strong, effective participation across tribal, federal and state leadership. Measures include:
 - The number of participants across these categories and from a broad geography.
 - An evaluation survey to gather feedback from participants about the effectiveness of the summit in advancing discussions and strategies for ocean and coastal issues along the West Coast.
- Identification and documentation of issues of mutual importance and options for ongoing collaboration. The measure is a written, summary report of the Ocean Summit that clearly describes the issues of mutual interest to tribal sovereign nations and the states as well as problem areas/concerns that require further dialogue, and summarizes strategies for addressing barriers.
- Identify options for ongoing collaboration. The measure will be the willingness and interest of invited participants to continue the dialogue about management and use of the ocean and coastal areas along the West Coast and creating mechanisms for fostering ongoing collaboration and dialogue.

Task 2: Update the WCGA Action Plan to identify and reflect important changes, improve focus of regional priorities and structures, and improve capacity of ACTs to advance their work plans and collaborate with West Coast entities (\$50,000).

Using FY11 ROPFP funding, the WCGA Executive Committee will convene in July of 2012 to review the 2008 WCGA Action Plan, revisit the vision, and identify an initial set of highest priority initiatives for the next several years. There have been several important changes both within the ROP and in national priorities for ocean health that necessitate an update to the regional action plan. Following this meeting, the WCGA will gather feedback from tribal sovereign nations, ACTs, partner organizations, stakeholders, and local governments on the renewed vision and priorities for the West Coast. This task will ensure the long-term sustainability of the WCGA as the West Coast Regional Ocean Partnership and its continued effectiveness in

implementing actions that accomplish regional and national goals, such as those outlined in the NOP implementation plan.

As outlined in the background section, the WCGA has 11 ACTs that implement work plans on priority issues. These teams have a diverse array of members and require administrative capacity to achieve continued progress.

Actions:

- Action 2.1 – Gather input from a diverse array of interests on updating the 2008 WCGA Action Plan. Using the initial priorities identified in the July 2012 Executive Committee meeting, develop and conduct an outreach and communication strategy to gather feedback from ACTs, stakeholders, local and tribal governments and others. The outreach strategy will identify appropriate outreach mechanisms (e.g. meetings, surveys, comment periods, webinars, etc.).
- Action 2.2 – Review and update the 2008 WCGA action plan based on current regional and national priorities and input received from outreach efforts. Disseminate the revised work plan to partners.
- Action 2.3 – Evaluate the structure of the WCGA and ACTs to ensure it aligns with current capacity and priorities. Develop agreements with West Coast entities that leverage resources and advance mutual priorities (e.g., Marine Debris Alliance).
- Action 2.4 – Provide administrative support to ACTs to ensure active engagement and coordination to accomplish their work plans.

Potential obstacles to success include lack of participation and response, changing political climate, and diverging regional priorities. The WCGA will address these barriers through the development and implementation of an outreach strategy that reaches major audiences, key groups and decision-makers. The WCGA will also use a consensus-building approach to refining regional priorities.

Measurable Outcomes:

- An updated WCGA work plan to be released in 2013 that reflects national, state, and regional priorities in ocean health and provides a clear mechanism for achieving short and long-term goals.
- Capacity is commensurate with resources and priorities. Measures of progress on WCGA priorities include frequency of meetings and level of participation of ACT members and timely completion of work plan tasks.
- Stakeholders and interested parties informed of the work of the WCGA and the actions outlined in the updated work plan. Measures include number of groups briefed, number of comments received on action plan, listserv activity, and website visits.

Task 3: Further develop and extend the impact of the WCGA through efficient organization, planning, communication, and outreach, and provide funding for a WCGA coordinator.

This task supports the basic infrastructure needed to sustain the WCGA in the form of a WCGA Coordinator to staff the WCGA Executive Committee, and funding for a range of essential communication, outreach, and facilitation activities. Specifically, administrative support to the WCGA will accomplish the following actions:

Actions:

- Action 3.1 - Engage with at least 2 other regional ocean partnerships to learn new approaches and concepts to achieve regional ocean governance goals through in-person meetings.
- Action 3.2 - Convene WCGA Executive Committee and their staff to provide leadership on implementation of the action plan. Executive Committee will hold regular conference calls with the coordinator and will meet once annually to discuss issues and chart progress.

- Action 3.3 – Maintain and enhance the WCGA website.
- Action 3.4 - Administer funding for *GoToWebinar* and *GoToMeeting* Corporate Subscription to minimize travel costs and allow the ACTs and others that implement the Action Plan and their Work Plans to share information and progress with West Coast stakeholders.

Measurable Outcomes:

- Improved collaboration with other regional ocean partnerships. Measured by number of meetings with other regional ocean partnerships.
- Clearly tracked progress on work plan implementation by the WCGA Executive Committee and ACT chairs. Measured by participation of ACT chairs in Executive Committee meetings and completion of regular progress and grant reports.
- A user-friendly and up-to-date website to maintain visibility and engage stakeholders on current events and progress. Measured by website visits and feedback received on website.

Task 4: Improve coordination among the WCGA and local governments.

Local governments are at the forefront of dealing with a variety of coastal issues. Given the importance of this role, the WCGA Executive Committee will take steps to build new partnerships with city and county elected officials and staff. This new collaboration will result in the development of shared priorities for ocean and coastal health and a set of strategies to ensure lasting communication between local entities and the WCGA.

Actions:

- Action 4.1 – Host three workshops, one in each state, based on a collaboratively designed agenda between local government partners and WCGA Executive Committee.
- Action 4.2 – Incorporate information from workshops into WCGA action plan update process.
- Action 4.3 – Formalize a mechanism of communication between local government entities and the WCGA.

Potential obstacles include obtaining active participation from busy local staff and officials and the expansive and diverse geography of the West Coast. To address these concerns, the WCGA will conduct workshops in each state under the advisement of the state leads and collaboratively plan and schedule workshops with local government partners.

Measurable Outcomes:

- Document workshop outcomes in a synthesis report that identifies state and regionally significant issues of concern and a set of strategies for addressing them.
- A clearly identified mechanism for ongoing communication between WCGA and local governments.
- A WCGA Action Plan update that integrates shared local government concerns and priorities.

Benefits

The funding described in this proposal will help the WCGA to further its development and impact by:

- Continuing the development of a formal mechanism for cooperation among tribal, federal, and state governments related to regional ocean governance.
- Providing WCGA ACTs with resources/travel support to improve their effectiveness, particularly with respect to stakeholder engagement.
- Providing a source of funding for a WCGA coordinator, travel, planning, communications and outreach to further develop and extend the impact of the WCGA.

- Establishing a stronger connection and communication among the WCGA and local government representatives.

These funds would help to sustain the WCGA Action Plan and the progress made since its adoption. It would directly advance the National Ocean Policy, CMSP objectives, Areas of Special Emphasis, and the President’s Executive Order 13175 focused on consultation and coordination with tribal sovereign nations.

Milestone Schedule

Timeline for major tasks	Target mile-stones	Key project outcomes
<p>Task 1: Partner with West Coast Tribes on regional ocean governance issues by hosting a West Coast Ocean Summit with federal and state agencies and West Coast tribal leaders to communicate, develop a shared understanding, document issues of mutual importance, and create strategies for overcoming challenges and develop mechanisms for ongoing dialogue among federal and state agencies and tribes in the region. (This task builds on previously funded work to engage tribes—Focus Area 2 in FY11) (\$50,000).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$40,000 travel support for tribal sovereign leaders, state representatives, and others ▪ \$10,000 Supplies and other costs associated with summit <p><i>[Note: The US Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution will be contributing to the summit by providing funding for facilitation and in-kind support for summit planning]</i></p>	<p>July 2013</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strong, effective participation across tribal, federal and state leadership. Measures include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The number of participants across these categories and from a broad geography. ▪ An evaluation survey to gather feedback from participants about the effectiveness of the summit in advancing discussions and strategies for ocean and coastal issues along the West Coast. ▪ Identification and documentation of issues of mutual importance and options for ongoing collaboration. The measure is a written, summary report of the Ocean Summit that clearly describes the issues of mutual interest to tribal sovereign nations and the states as well as problem areas/concerns that require further dialogue, and summarizes strategies for addressing barriers. ▪ Identify options for ongoing collaboration. The measure will be the willingness and interest of invited participants to continue the dialogue about management and use of the ocean and coastal areas along the West Coast and creating mechanisms for fostering ongoing collaboration and dialogue.

<p>Task 2: Update the WCGA Action Plan to identify and reflect important changes, improve focus of regional priorities and structures, and improve capacity of ACTs to advance their work plans and collaborate with West Coast entities (\$50,000).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Capacity to revise the WCGA Action Plan (\$15,000) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hire a facilitator/contractor to guide the process to update the WCGA Action Plan (\$10,500) ○ Layout and design of new Plan (\$2,500) ○ Printing of new plan (\$2,000) ▪ Provide travel and administrative support to ACTs (\$35,000) 	<p>October 2013</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An updated WCGA work plan to be released in 2013 that reflects national, state, and regional priorities in ocean health and provides a clear mechanism for achieving short and long-term goals. ▪ Capacity is commensurate with resources and priorities. Measures of progress on WCGA priorities include frequency of meetings and level of participation of ACT members and timely completion of work plan tasks. ▪ Stakeholders and interested parties informed of the work of the WCGA and the actions outlined in the updated work plan. Measures include number of groups briefed, number of comments received on action plan, listserv activity, and website visits.
<p>Task 3: Further develop and extend the impact of the WCGA through efficient organization, planning, communication, and outreach, and provide funding for a WCGA coordinator.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create an opportunity to engage with at least 2 other regional ocean planning bodies to leverage approaches and concepts to achieve regional ocean governance goals (\$8,000) ▪ Travel to convene WCGA ExComm (\$20,000) ▪ Funding to host WCGA website (\$700) ▪ Support a WCGA Coordinator (\$50,000) ▪ Funding for <i>GoToWebinar</i> and <i>GoToMeeting</i> (\$2,000) 	<p>October 2013</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improved collaboration with other regional ocean partnerships. Measured by number of meetings with other regional ocean partnerships. ▪ Clearly tracked progress on work plan implementation by the WCGA Executive Committee and ACT chairs. Measured by participation of ACT chairs in Executive Committee meetings and completion of regular progress and grant reports. ▪ A user-friendly and up-to-date website to maintain visibility and engage stakeholders on current events and progress. Measured by website visits and feedback received on website.
<p>Task 4: Improve coordination among the WCGA and local governments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Costs to convene three workshops, including travel support for attendees (\$45,000) 	<p>October 2013</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Document workshop outcomes in a synthesis report that identifies state and regionally significant issues of concern and a set of strategies for addressing them. ▪ A clearly identified mechanism for ongoing communication between WCGA and local governments. ▪ A WCGA Action Plan update that integrates shared local government concerns and priorities.

Project Budget

Tasks	Year 1	Purpose for Funding
TASK 1: Partner with West Coast Tribes on regional ocean governance issues by hosting a West Coast Ocean Summit with federal and state agencies and West Coast tribal leaders to communicate, develop a shared understanding, document issues of mutual importance, and create strategies for overcoming challenges and develop mechanisms for ongoing dialogue among federal and state agencies and tribes in the region. (This task builds on previously funded work to engage tribes—Focus Area 2 in FY11).	\$50,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$40,000 travel support for tribal sovereign leaders, state representatives, and others ▪ \$10,000 Supplies and other costs associated with summit <p><i>[Note: The US Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution will be contributing to the summit by providing funding for facilitation and in-kind support for summit planning]</i></p>
TASK 2. Update the WCGA Action Plan to identify and reflect important changes, improve focus of regional priorities and structures, and improve capacity of ACTs to advance their work plans and collaborate with West Coast entities (\$50,000).	\$50,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Capacity to revise the WCGA Action Plan (\$15,000) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hire a facilitator to guide the process to update the WCGA Action Plan (\$10,500) ○ Layout and design of new Plan (\$2,500) ○ Printing of new plan (\$2,000) ▪ Provide travel and administrative support to ACTs (\$35,000)
TASK 3. Further develop and extend the impact of the WCGA through efficient organization, planning, communication, and outreach, and provide funding for a WCGA coordinator.	\$80,700	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create an opportunity to engage with at least 2 other regional ocean planning bodies to leverage approaches and concepts to achieve regional ocean governance goals (travel)(\$8,000) ▪ Travel to convene WCGA ExComm (\$20,000) ▪ Funding to host WCGA website (\$700) ▪ Support a WCGA Coordinator (\$50,000) ▪ Funding for <i>GoToWebinar</i> and <i>GoToMeeting</i> Corporate Subscription (\$2,000)
Task 4: Improve coordination among the WCGA and local governments.	\$45,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Workshops in California, Oregon, and Washington (one in each state) that includes WCGA Executive Committee members and local government representatives (\$15,000/workshop)
Subtotal	\$225,700	
Overhead cost (10%)	\$22,570	
TOTAL	\$248,270	