

# WEST COAST GOVERNORS ALLIANCE on OCEAN HEALTH

CALIFORNIA OREGON WASHINGTON

## West Coast Governors Alliance on Ocean Health announces work on Marine Debris Data Portal

The West Coast Governors Alliance on Ocean Health (WCGA) is pleased to announce that it has selected a contractor to begin work on developing data visualization and analysis tools to support the needs of the marine debris community on the West Coast. These needs involve visualizing the sources, sinks, and transport of marine debris in our coastal areas to monitor baseline debris accumulation, prioritize cleanup activities, and provide quantifiable evidence to advocate for policy actions. Marine debris is a global, as well as regional issue important to the West Coast that the WCGA has worked to address through coordination activities and the development of the Marine Debris Database.

Point 97, an Ecotrust company, delivers technology solutions and engagement strategies for coastal and marine planning in regions around the world. Working as a catalyst and partner in improving marine and coastal management practices, Point 97 provides solutions designed to help partners and clients better connect people with place, bridge differing perspectives, and implement management decisions in an inclusive and transparent way. The WCGA and West Coast communities have a strong history of working successfully with Ecotrust and the staff at Point 97 to develop innovative marine planning tools in a number of issue areas important to the WCGA. Learn more at [www.pointnineseven.com](http://www.pointnineseven.com).

“We are excited to start working with Point 97 on enhancing our understanding of marine debris data along the West Coast,” said Eben Schwartz, Marine Debris Program Manager for the California Coastal Commission and Chair of the WCGA Marine Debris Action Coordination Team. “The community working to address marine debris will benefit enormously from the ability to synthesize information about the issue. This technology will give us all a much clearer picture of what the problem is, where it is, and what are the most effective ways to solve it.”

The project is to begin this month, working with marine debris practitioners and experts to identify the specific questions and typical uses of such a system. If you wish to learn more, please contact Todd Hallenbeck at [Todd.r.hallenbeck@westcoastoceans.org](mailto:Todd.r.hallenbeck@westcoastoceans.org).



For more information about the West Coast Governors Alliance on Ocean Health or to subscribe to the WCGA Update, please visit our website at [westcoastoceans.org](http://westcoastoceans.org).

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