

West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health Workshops on the Competitive NOAA Regional Ocean Partnership Funding Program

Workshop Overview

November 12, 2010 – San Francisco, CA

Prepared by Kearns & West

Introduction – Workshop Objectives, Structure and Participants

Objectives

The workshop was intended to inform the development of a proposal led by the West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health (WCGA) to pursue funding opportunities made available through a [Regional Ocean Partnership Funding Program](#) (ROPFP). The workshop was designed to:

- Provide an overview of the ROPFP;
- Identify ideas to advance West Coast regional coastal and marine spatial planning (CMSP) while supporting the full range of West Coast regional ocean priorities to facilitate a coordinated and robust application for funding under the ROPFP; and
- Confirm next steps moving forward.

Brian Baird, Assistant Secretary for Ocean and Coastal Policy for the California Natural Resources Agency, welcomed the participants and described the background leading to the ROPFP. In July 2010, President Obama signed an Executive Order establishing a National Policy for the Stewardship of the Ocean, Coasts, and Great Lakes (National Policy). 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 CMSP approaches around the United States. In September 2010, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced a competitive ROPFP 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 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. The total funding amount to be distributed among 10 regional ocean partnerships is \$20 million. The ROPFP has focused unprecedented dialogue and attention on ocean health and has brought the region together to look at this topic from a comprehensive ocean management point of view.

Structure

The California workshop was the first of three statewide public workshops held to facilitate public input toward the development of a proposal(s) in pursuit of the ROPFP opportunity. The other two

workshops were held in Newport, Oregon on November 15, and Olympia, Washington on November 16, 2010. The agendas for each workshop were identical. The California workshop was webcast (the archived video may be viewed at www.westcoastoceans.gov).

Each workshop proceeded according to the following basic structure:

- WCGA staff provided an overview of the context for the ROPFP. This included a review of the funding criteria and existing CMSP priorities as identified by the WCGA and other partnerships. Participants were provided with an opportunity to ask clarifying questions.
- Workshop participants were provided with an extended period of time, in both plenary and breakout settings, to share their views on priorities for CMSP along the West Coast.
- The workshop concluded with WCGA staff describing the next steps to develop the funding proposal and how public input can be submitted. Participants were again provided with the opportunity to ask clarifying questions.

A workshop agenda is included in Appendix 1.

Participants

Seventy-five participants attended the California workshop; the list of workshop participants is attached as Appendix 2. Together, the participants represented a broad variety of stakeholder interests, including California tribes, conservation groups, local, state, and federal agencies, commercial fishing interests, other ocean users, research institutions, and consulting organizations. Participants provided input during the workshop and on group report forms for consideration by the WCGA to develop a ROPFP proposal.

Brian Baird, Lisa DeBruyckere (WCGA Ocean Health Coordinator), and Eric Poncelet (Kearns & West Facilitator) convened the workshop.

Context for Regional Ocean Partnership Funding Program

Lisa DeBruyckere provided an overview of the ROPFP's funding criteria, existing CMSP priorities for the West Coast, and an outline of the WCGA's approach to responding to the ROPFP. NOAA's ROPFP emphasizes regional CMSP, the most comprehensive of the National Policy's nine priority objectives. With this in mind, WCGA staff developed a [scoping document](#) to encapsulate the existing efforts and priorities identified for the West Coast, summarize the funding criteria, and explain the proposal's development process. The scoping document is meant to bring structure and transparency to a complex process that needs to be completed in a short timeframe (for details, see the Next Steps section below).

Lisa explained that regional projects do not have to occur at the same level in all three states to be considered a regional priority. Lisa emphasized that NOAA will give highest priority to projects that advance comprehensive CMSP. She urged collaboration among workshop participants, stating that partnerships and cooperation will make the WCGA's proposal more competitive. She added that there are a limited number of projects that will be funded; the WCGA hopes to propose projects that both incorporate large themes and address a variety of smaller ideas from multiple participants.

The following key points were made during the presentation:

- The ROPRP is a competitive process. The West Coast proposal will be strengthened to the extent it can demonstrate regional partnerships and linkages. Ideally, priorities for the proposal will advance CMSP across all three states or fill a gap to bring all three states to the same competency.
- The West Coast *region* is defined as the state waters and U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (i.e., 200 miles offshore) off the coasts of Washington, Oregon and California.
- The scoping document does not identify all the priorities identified so far, but rather provides an overview of efforts to date.
- This funding opportunity is interpreted as the first step in an ongoing process to achieve the goals of the National Ocean Policy. Priorities that can be implemented in phases or different scales might be more competitive than those that are more fixed.
- The WCGA intends to obtain a fiscal sponsor for the disbursement of funds, should the proposal be successful.

During the Q&A portion of this session, the following clarifications were made:

- The federal government has expressed that the best way to achieve coastal and ocean stewardship is through regional action. Acknowledging that this is a political process as well as a scientific one, the proposal will be developed based on ecosystem-based science.
- This is a competitive process as established by NOAA. The federal government is interested in seeing the most cost-efficient and effective actions as well as ideas that can be more readily implemented.
- Implementation, while not expressly highlighted, is an important factor. The WCGA is interested in articulating projects with outcomes that will advance regional ocean priorities.

Discussion of Regional CMSP Priorities

Plenary Discussion of Regional CMSP Priorities

Eric Poncelet led a plenary discussion of regional CMSP priorities. Reviewing the priorities as identified by the WCGA, workshop participants considered which should be included in the ROPFP proposal, what other priorities should also be included, how these ideas can leverage existing activities, and other suggestions to improve the proposal. Key priorities that received significant attention during the workshop included the following:

- *Information Expansion and Accessibility*: Science and information provide the foundation for improved understanding and decision making. The better and more complete the data, the better management decisions can be made. This includes having longer term data sets where possible. Making this information readily accessible and comprehensible to stakeholders is equally important. A data management consortium, as identified by one of the WCGA Action Coordination Teams, is a good resource that could benefit many other processes. Key data needs described included the following:
 - *Coastal and Ocean Mapping*: It is important to understand what the planning area physically looks like. For example, some areas of the ocean (i.e., “hot spots”) are known to contribute more to ocean health than others. These areas should be identified so that planning can occur with them in mind. Mapping of the seafloor should also be a priority. This will support understanding of habitats and spatial planning.

- *Socioeconomic data.* Socioeconomic data should be a core component of the information base. It is important to track how these data change over time.
- *Sustainable Coastal Communities:* The proposal should address how coastal communities are affected by and included in ocean planning. There is a link between the ocean environment and the communities that most interact with and are impacted by coastal and ocean health. The approach moving forward should be interdisciplinary and involve both social science and traditional science. Cooperative research between scientists, fishermen, and the local community should also be utilized.
- *Climate Change:* Climate change will have many impacts on the ocean and shoreline. Participants highlighted the importance of tracking sea level rise, but also mentioned impacts to fisheries and changes in upwelling. It is important to understand how climate change will impact the future to give context to other CMSP endeavors.
- *Tribal Science:* Tribal science should be utilized along with Western science. It brings a different perspective and approach to ecosystem management. It is a holistic approach that incorporates other factors that impact ocean health, including land management and air quality.
- *Implementation Planning:* Most of the identified priorities are subject matter based, but it is also important to ensure that there is state and/or regional capacity to achieve these priorities, coordinate action, and manage information. It is also important to consider how the limited amount of money in this ROPFP can be best leveraged for future CMSP opportunities.
- *Existing Collaboration:* There are many important CMSP-related programs and efforts already underway that this proposal should build from. Incorporating existing research is an effective way to meet identified priorities in a cost-efficient manner.

Lisa DeBruyckere clarified that the WCGA intends to submit two proposals: one regarding CMSP priorities (Focus Area 1) and the other for programmatic support (Focus Area 2). The latter will probably be an operational amount and was not included as a topic in this workshop so the focus could be on the CMSP priorities. However, interested participants could pursue this topic further in the breakout discussions.

Breakout Discussions of Regional CMSP Priorities

Based on the plenary discussion, the participants self-selected into six breakout groups to discuss additional ideas for consideration in the proposal. Each group was asked to develop recommendations and share themes, priorities and consensus ideas with others when the groups reconvened. Although each breakout group had a main focus, there were many overlaps in priorities and themes discussed. The section below highlights key points made during the reports back from the breakout groups to the plenary group.

The seven breakout groups focused on the following topics:

1. Data Collection
2. Data Synthesis
3. Data Synthesis (with Emphasis in Climate Change)
4. Sustainable Coastal Communities

5. Tribal
6. Strategic Planning
7. Renewable Ocean Energy

Data Collection Breakout Group: Data to understand both seafloor and benthic habitat should be a priority, as well as the integration of marine and coastal information. Seafloor habitat is particularly important to map. Socioeconomic data is also important to collect. Tide gauges were also noted. Climate change was re-emphasized as having a strong impact on ocean and coastal health. All information should be useful in informing decision making for local communities and future CMSP approaches. This group also suggested that satellite data from NOAA could be valuable.

Data Synthesis Breakout Group: Data sharing and accessibility is the most important priority. One regional database across all three states should be developed with a broad audience in mind. This database should be accessible online and include functionality for users to both analyze data and to provide comments. This is also a tool that can be developed in a piecemeal fashion as funding is received. It is also important that data is collected throughout the region in a compatible way so it can be synthesized in a meaningful way for policy and decision making. The group suggested a workshop to identify existing data sets and prioritize among them.

Data Synthesis (with Emphasis in Climate Change) Breakout Group: The group identified sea level rise as a tractable and recognizable indicator for monitoring climate change. This kind of data collection can incorporate citizen science as well. A series of white papers on sea level rise impacts on different habitats would help prioritize responses. This priority should also include thinking on how humans will respond to these changes, both in the short- and long-term. The development of a regional post-disaster visioning and planning tool, incorporating maps and data, would be useful to prioritize responses.

Sustainable Coastal Communities Breakout Group: There is an overarching need for accessible information. This will give local communities the data and tools to help make management decisions; it also supports another priority to connect local and regional efforts. Existing stakeholders, particularly fishermen, should be engaged in this planning process; community engagement and buy-in is considered integral to a plan's success. Aquaculture was also identified as having an impact on local communities.

Tribal Breakout Group: This group suggested the formation of a tri-state tribal collaborative. This collaborative would provide education of cultural and traditional uses as well as ecosystem-based management. This group recommended increased use of co-management for ocean planning, and stressed the negative impacts of natural resource exploitation and takes as important to consider. The group also shared other key themes such as climate change, disaster planning, and accessibility of information.

Strategic Planning Breakout Group: The seven priorities identified by the WCGA do not encompass all the priorities that are important to consider. To make best use of limited resources, all priorities should be reconsidered and narrowed down. This should be done with consideration of jurisdictional abilities, human use, and ecological information. It is also important to establish a

regional planning body. The WCGA should also consider how to best leverage existing resources toward future projects.

Renewable Ocean Energy Breakout Group: There is a need to focus on data sharing and visualization, with an emphasis on functional needs first – and to be aware of the variety of audiences that exist so that appropriate tools can address their individual needs. The group highlighted three priorities: projects should be achievable within the financial constraints; think about what it takes to maintain the back end; and encourage flexibility, sustainability, and project work at the platform level. There was consensus to leverage lessons learned, including surveying current users to determine what is working today as well as an assessment of needs; to develop an interactive Coastal Atlas in all three states; to provide tools with feedback mechanisms, and to create a transparent process to edit data. The group further articulated a Phase 1, in which raw data is available, especially to those in need of accessing it.

During a plenary discussion that followed the reports back by the individual breakout groups, workshop participants posed the following clarifying questions:

Q: How will a regional planning body be established?

A: The intention is that the regional planning body will be built from the current framework of the WCGA. It will need to include tribes and existing fisheries management organizations.

Q: Why are fisheries excluded from this proposal?

A: The Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) is leading fisheries management along the West Coast, and this CMSP process needs to be careful not to overlap. While any future regional plan will not address fisheries directly, it will consider factors that influence the fisheries, such as habitat, water quality, and climate change.

Next Steps: Working Toward Achieving West Coast Regional Ocean Partnership Priorities and a Regional Coastal and Marine Spatial Plan

In developing a response to the ROPFP, the WCGA is aiming to be as transparent as possible. The public is invited to provide direct input on WCGA's response to the ROPFP as well as to share information with other stakeholders. This can be done in three ways:

1. *Attend a public workshop in one of the three West Coast states.* The webcast of California's workshop will be available online. Workshop summaries will be posted on the WCGA website (www.westcoastoceans.gov) by November 23rd.
2. *Submit a comment or idea* (500 words or less) at www.westcoastoceans.gov. All submitted comments are public and available for others to read. For consideration in the proposal, comments must be submitted by December 3, 2010.
3. *Submit a specific project idea* at www.westcoastoceans.gov. Ideas can be submitted via an online survey until November 19th. The survey contains 31 questions, but "N/A" can be submitted for any question without an applicable answer. [A word doc version is also available]

Lisa indicated that by the end of all three workshops, the WCGA Executive Committee will have collected project ideas, and will then package, consolidate, and coalesce them into a proposal for the ROPFP FFO. The Executive Committee will attempt to link people with similar ideas and provide

the opportunity for collaboration and synergy. She encouraged workshop participants to inform others if leveraging funds is possible.

All submitted ideas and proposals will be considered by the WCGA. On November 30th, the WCGA will host a post-workshop webinar to summarize input to date and describe the content of the draft proposal. The public can submit feedback on this proposal until December 3rd. The final proposal will be submitted to NOAA on December 10, 2010. A final decision from NOAA is anticipated in June 2011.

Meeting Summary and Acknowledgements

Eric Poncelet closed substantive discussion, thanked workshop participants for their efforts, and turned the workshop over to Brain Baird for a meeting summary and acknowledgements.

Brian commended workshop participants for their hard work and effort and thanked them for their willingness to engage in these important discussions.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.

This meeting summary respectfully submitted by Kearns & West.

Appendix 1: Workshop Agenda

WEST COAST GOVERNORS' AGREEMENT ON OCEAN HEALTH WORKSHOPS ON THE COMPETITIVE NOAA REGIONAL OCEAN PARTNERSHIP FUNDING PROGRAM

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2010; 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM

California Workshop
San Francisco Bay Conservation and
Development Commission
50 California Street, Suite 2600
San Francisco, California 94111
(415) 352-3600

PROPOSED AGENDA

Workshop Objectives:

- Provide overview of the Regional Ocean Partnership Funding Program (ROPFP);
- Identify ideas to advance West Coast regional coastal and marine spatial planning (CMSP) while supporting the full range of West Coast regional ocean priorities to facilitate a coordinated and robust application for funding under the ROPFP; and
- Confirm next steps moving forward.

11:00 – 11:30

Welcome, Introductions, Workshop Purpose and Agenda

- Welcome, introductions, workshop purpose – *Brian Baird, Assistant Secretary for Ocean and Coastal Policy, WCGA State Lead for California*
- Agenda review and workshop objectives – *Eric Poncelet, Kearns & West*

11:30 – 12:00

Context for the Regional Ocean Partnership Funding Program including Funding Criteria and Existing CMSP Priorities – *Lisa DeBruyckere, West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health Coordinator*

- Review of funding criteria as outlined in the ROPFP
- Overview of Existing West Coast CMSP Related Priorities
- Outline WCGA approach to responding to the ROPFP
- Question/Answer

12:00 – 4:30

Discussion of Regional CMSP Priorities (*lunch provided*)

- (~1.5 hours) Provide feedback on priorities identified in the Scoping Document, including identifying:
 - Which of these priorities, if any, do you agree should be included in the ROPFP proposal?
 - What other priorities should be included, if any?
 - How do these ideas leverage existing activities?
 - What else would you suggest to improve the proposal?
 - Others?

- (~1.5 hours) Break out groups over lunch to identify additional ideas for consideration:
 - Self-select into break out groups with charge to do an assessment of new ideas against selection criteria

- (~1.5 hours) Reconvene plenary to coalesce breakout group efforts; seek areas of alignment, identify and strive to recommend activities with greatest likelihood of ensuring the West Coast can maximize the financial resources it receives to support marine spatial planning that furthers regional priorities for a healthy ocean and vibrant coastal communities:
 - Any overarching themes?
 - Any priorities emerging and why?
 - Any consensus ideas?

4:30 – 5:00

Working Toward Achieving West Coast Regional Ocean Partnership Priorities and a Regional Coastal and Marine Spatial Plan – *Lisa DeBruyckere, West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health Coordinator*

- Describe process and logistics for proposal development: brief overview and Q&A about grant application structure and guidance for submitting ideas
- Outline key next steps including:
 - Meeting summaries
 - Webinar
 - Public comment opportunities,
 - ROPFP proposal development schedule until December 10, and
 - Confirm ways to continue engaging with stakeholders as efforts progress beyond December
- Acknowledgements and concluding remarks

5:00

Adjourn

Appendix 2: California Workshop Attendees

Name	Affiliation
Matt Armsby	Center for Ocean Solutions
Brian Baird	California Natural Resources Agency
Joan Barminski	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement
Sarah Bates	California Salmon Council
Ashley Blacow	OCEANA
Christina Cairns	NOAA Coastal Services Center
Meg Caldwell	Center for Ocean Solutions
Ian Caliendo	PG&E
Richard Campbell	Coyote Valley Tribe
Tia Chullakorn	Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of the Stewarts Point Rancheria
Chris Cohen	Southern California Ocean Observing Systems
Robert Columbro	Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians
Roberta Cordero	Coastal Band of Chumash
Aimee David	Monterey Bay Aquarium
Lisa DeBruyckere	WCGA Coordinator
Alison Dettmer	California Coastal Commission
Mimi D'Torio	NOAA's Marine Protected Areas Center
Richard Dugdale	Romberg Tiburon Center, San Francisco State University
Rikki Dunsmore	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Charlie Endris	Tombolo/Center for Habitat Studies
John Feliz, Jr.	Coyote Valley Tribe
John Feliz, Sr.	Coyote Valley Tribe
Peter Flournoy	International Law Offices of San Diego
Toby Garfield	Romberg Tiburon Center, San Francisco State University
Rebecca Gentry	California Ocean Science Trust
Doug George	ESA PWA Environmental Hydrology
Peter Grenell	San Mateo County Harbor District
Susan Hansch	California Coastal Commission
John Hansen	West Coast EBM Network
Jim Haussener	California Marine Affairs and Navigation Conference
Ellen Hines	Marine & Coastal Conservation and Spatial Planning Center, San Francisco State University
Sam Johnson	U.S. Geological Survey
Jaime Kooser	San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, SFSU
Andrew Lee	California Ships to Reefs, Inc.
Ephraim Leon-Guerrero	U.S. EPA Region IX
Christine Lim	Kearns & West (facilitation)
Melissa Locke	San Luis Obispo Science & Ecosystem Alliance
Holly Lopez	Fugro West, Inc.
Amber Mace	California Ocean Protection Council
Sarah Maxwell	Marine Conservation Biology Institute, University of California Santa Cruz

Erinn McKell	California Natural Resources Agency
Toni Mizerek	Communication Partnership for Science and the Sea, Ocean Education ACT Point of Contact
Toni Moran	San Francisco Recreation and Park Department
Danielle Murray	Department of Environment, City & County of San Francisco
Sarah Newkirk	California Coastal/Marine Program The Nature Conservancy
Kathleen Nitta	Region IX Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance, Department of the Interior
Lorraine Palmer	Sea Scavenger
Jay Patton	Active Tectonics and Seafloor Mapping Laboratory, Oregon State University
Eric Poncelet	Kearns & West (facilitation)
Lia Protopapadakis	Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission
David Revell	ESA PWA Environmental Hydrology
Dean Rewerts	California Ships to Reefs, Inc.
Eleanore Rewerts	California Ships to Reefs, Inc.
Pam Rittelmeyer	California Ocean Protection Council
Dirk Rosen	Marine Applied Research and Exploration
Teri Rowles	National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of Protected Resources
Emily Saarman	Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans
Susan Schlosser	California Sea Grant
Gordon Seitz	California Geological Survey
Linda Sheehan	California Coastkeeper Alliance
Charles Steinback	Ecotrust
Atta P. Stevenson	Inter-Tribal Water Commission
Alexis Strauss	U.S. EPA Region IX
Cassidy Teufel	California Coastal Commission
Julia Townsend	NOAA National Marine Protected Areas Center
Sara Townsend	ESA PWA Environmental Hydrology
Dilip Trivedi	Moffatt & Nichol
Amy Vierra	California Natural Resources Agency
Shanti Warlick	Inter-Tribal Water Commission of California
Michelle Whitman	Region IX Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance Department of the Interior
Frances Wilkerson	Romberg Tiburon Center, San Francisco State University
Krystyna Wolniakowski	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Randy Yonemura	California Indian Heritage Council, Inter-Tribal Water Commission
Vanessa Young	Region IX Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance Department of the Interior
Sam Ziegler	U.S. EPA Region IX