

Summary of WCGA Executive Committee Meeting June 1-2, 2011

The West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health Executive Committee and Action Coordination Team (ACT) Chairs and Co-Chairs met June 1-2, 2011 at in Seattle, Washington to review the 2008 WCGA Action Plan and reaffirm key strategic action items for the near future, develop a process to improve communication with Action Coordination Teams throughout the region, and share perspectives with tribal representatives and the Pacific Fishery Management Council relative to proposed coastal and marine spatial planning (CMSP) regional planning bodies (RPB).

At the meeting, the WCGA Executive Committee made a series of recommendations it would share with its respective governor's offices in California, Oregon, and Washington. These include:

- Maintaining the current structure of the WCGA—a governor's partnership, with invited federal agencies.
- Reaffirming the WCGA, with a name change from "Agreement" to "Alliance" to better reflect that the WCGA is a functional entity to advance common goals, and not merely an agreement.
- Committing to exploring how to effectively engage and coordinate with interested tribal governments on the West Coast.
- Updating, streamlining, focusing, and prioritizing the 2008 WCGA Action Plan to better align actions with existing and potential resources as well as to consider incorporating important actions currently not included in the plan.
- Relative to CMSP, the Executive Committee proposed that the WCGA:
 - support CMSP as a tool to protect and manage coastal and ocean resources;
 - advocate to the National Ocean Council the importance of the Pacific Fishery Management Council being a member of the West Coast RPB;
 - collaborate with all federal agencies, tribes, and affected groups and stakeholders to address West Coast ocean and coastal health issues;
 - maintain a strong role in assisting the federal government in the creation and execution of the RPB; and
 - acknowledge that ACTs were formed to focus on actions from the WCGA work plan, and that they have limited capacity to staff RPBs.

Other significant actions the WCGA Executive Committee proposes advancing:

- Enhance communication regarding WCGA supported initiatives, such as the West Coast sea level rise study by the National Research Council, *Spartina* ACT outreach, and renewable ocean energy outcomes.
- Explore the development and adoption of a charter that addresses and formalizes key WCGA organizational, structural, and implementation issues.
- Assist the ACTs with membership selection and retention as it relates to key priorities.
- Release a new WCGA action plan in 2013.
- Take steps to develop a regional data portal for the West Coast.