

# WEST COAST GOVERNORS ALLIANCE on OCEAN HEALTH

CALIFORNIA OREGON WASHINGTON

## Questions from the West Coast Governors Alliance on Ocean Health to the National Ocean Council Relative to CMSP, the Regional Planning Body, and National Ocean Policy Priorities

### CMSP Plan/Criteria/Process

1. I understand that the regions will be given flexibility to determine how they will undertake CMSP in a way that is responsive to the unique needs of each region. It would be helpful to have more information on the criteria that NOC will consider in determining whether a particular project meets the stated objectives of regionally-based marine planning.
2. Once the CMS Plan is certified by the NOC (as outlined on page 92 of the draft implementation plan), does that CMS plan automatically become part of the state's coastal zone management plan? Or is there a separate process for the CMS plan to become part of the state's coastal zone management plan?
3. Given that the three West Coast states will proceed with a bottom up approach to ocean planning, the ultimate regional plan will most likely be made up of sub regional plans that reflect the individual states values, with coordination through the regional planning body. Is this approach consistent with the current framework?
4. Will there be additional resources, guidance, or recommendations about mechanisms/timelines to engage stakeholders who will not be on the RPB (i.e. local elected officials)?
5. What benefits will accrue for a state that has an approved CMSP plan? (e.g., streamlining of federal regulatory processes in states with approved plans . . .)

### Regional Planning Body

6. Support—Representatives on the RPB may need to expend considerable time and travel significant distances (including out of state) to participate in the RPB. Neither the states, tribes, PFMC, nor local agencies have resources to support the RPB – will there be federal funding to support the needs of the RPB, including any resources for regional data collection priorities?

7. Guidance—The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan refers to a “Handbook for Regional Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning.” When will that be made available to the public?
8. Parity—It is important to have parity between the RPB members with respect to voting but as currently envisioned, the West Coast RPB would include nine federal agencies and only 6 state representatives (in addition to an unknown number of tribal participants, a representative of the Pacific Fishery Management Council, and local government). Without enlarging the RPB to an unmanageable size, how can parity of votes be ensured?
9. Focus—Could the RPBs broaden their focus to other ocean management issues or are they intended primarily to address CMSP?
10. Composition—We understand there has been some discussion about local government involvement in the RPB. Could you explain if/how they will be involved?
11. Composition—We have heard that the CMSP Handbook will not be released until September and that the final version will not have many templates (e.g., RPB Charter) because it is not intended to be prescriptive. We assume that the West Coast RPB can begin to organize itself and begin working before the release of the Handbook, using their best judgment in the absence of “prescriptive” guidance. Is that approach acceptable?
12. Composition—What has the response been from the tribal invite letters? Is there a timeline for the consultation/ representation plan?

### **Relationship between the Regional Planning Body and the Regional Ocean Partnership**

13. Does the NOC have a vision for the relationship between the WCGA and the RPB, bearing in mind that marine planning is not one of the WCGA’s Action Coordination Teams (unlike the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast)?
14. What relationship are other ROPs proposing with their RPB?
15. How might the WCGA be integrated into the CMSP effort (and other NOC efforts)? What can be dovetailed and how?

### **National Ocean Policy Priorities**

16. In addition to the issue of CMSP, the WCGA may have suggestions with respect to dovetailing WCGA and NOC priorities regarding: How might the Alliance participate in other priorities?