

West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health

Focus Area 2 Funding Request: Administration of the West Coast Regional Ocean Partnership



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Project Duration – 2 years

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' Agreement on Ocean Health

Amount of Funding Request (Focus Area 2) — \$495,000

**Administration of the West Coast Regional Ocean Partnership:
The West Coast Governors’ Agreement on Ocean Health (WCGA)**

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Regional Ocean Partnership Funding Proposal for Focus Area 2: Administration of the West Coast Regional Ocean Partnership

Project Summary

i. Project Name/Title: Administration of the West Coast Regional Ocean Partnership: The West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health (WCGA)

ii. Primary Contact: Lisa A. DeBruyckere, WCGA Coordinator | 6159 Rosemeadow Lane NE | Salem, OR 97317 | (503) 704-2884 | fax (503) 371-5939 | 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 \$495,000 in funding for 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 objectives: (1) Engaging West Coast tribes; (2) Defining WCGA implementation priorities; (3) Enhancing WCGA Action Coordination Team (ACT) capacity; and (4) Supporting WCGA operations and administration. Concurrent efforts to advance coastal and marine spatial planning (CMSP) will inform these goals.

The WCGA's 2008 Action Plan (Appendix A) set in motion: (1) establishing partnerships for governance; (2) creating working groups for priority setting, and a range of operational activities to engage and convene partners and stakeholders; (3) securing support from federal agencies and other partners 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 advancing regional ocean governance for the West Coast in an era of extremely scarce resources, yet also recognizes that moving the WCGA from startup to implementation mode requires investments to address organizational issues and other gaps.

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

- Working with the federal government, engage West Coast Tribes on how they will participate in the CMSP planning body and on how they will engage on coastwide and National Ocean Council-related issues, and provide support for tribal capacity for these purposes;
- Prioritize WCGA tasks that are identified in the 10 ACT implementation plans, or in the 2008 WCGA Action Plan;
- Provide ACTs with organizational development support to improve their effectiveness, particularly with respect to stakeholder engagement and integration of science into decision making; and
- Provide administrative support for a WCGA coordinator, travel for the WCGA Executive Committee, and tools to enhance WCGA communications and outreach

vi. Partners: Partners consist of 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, Regulation, and Enforcement]) as well as the West Coast entities that comprise the WCGA ACTs, coastal communities, tribes, academic institutions, non-governmental (NGOs) organizations, ocean-related consortiums, and others.

vii. Proposed funding: The WCGA proposes funding in Year 1: \$246,400; Year 2: \$248,600; Total \$495,000

Project Description

i. Goal and Objectives

Goal: Advance and sustain the capacity of the WCGA to address national and regional ocean priorities for West Coast coastal communities.

Objectives

OBJECTIVE 1: Working with the federal government, engage West Coast Tribes on how they will participate in the CMSP planning body and on how they will engage on coastwide and National Ocean Council-related issues, and provide support for tribal capacity for these purposes (\$150,000).

Connection to ROP Development and Governance: This objective addresses a need to develop a mechanism to coordinate and cooperate with West Coast tribal sovereign nations.

- a) Year 1: Discuss a formal mechanism for coordination and cooperation with West Coast Tribes on CMSP and on broader ocean-related issues.
- b) Year 2: Establish formal mechanism for tribal participation and engagement, and provide funds for this purpose.

OBJECTIVE 2: Prioritize WCGA tasks that are identified in the 10 ACT implementation plans, or in the 2008 WCGA Action Plan (\$25,000).

Connection to ROP Development and Governance: This objective will help the WCGA focus its financial, organizational, and human resources on implementing the highest value and most practicable measures to advance regional ocean priorities and CMSP Objectives.

- a) Year 1: Convene a meeting with ACTs and other stakeholders to articulate the highest priority action items for the West Coast, including objectives described in the WCGA Action Plan but not currently described in ACT work plans; describe the results of these efforts in an implementation schedule for the WCGA;

OBJECTIVE 3: Provide ACTs with organizational development support to improve their effectiveness, particularly with respect to stakeholder engagement and integration of science into decision making (\$150,000).

Connection to ROP Development and Governance: This objective addresses deficits in the WCGA's principle mechanism for identifying priorities and fostering collaboration across the three states and among the spectrum of stakeholders.

- a) Years 1–2: Convene individual ACTs to advance concepts and actions in each ACT work plan in a manner aligned with implementation plan (Objective 2). Provide administrative support to the ACTs to assist them with creating an effective structure to engage with tribes, stakeholders, and the scientific community.

OBJECTIVE 4: Provide administrative support for a WCGA coordinator, travel for the WCGA Executive Committee, and tools to enhance WCGA communications and outreach (\$125,000).

Connection to ROP Development and Governance: This objective 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 WCGA communication, outreach, and facilitation activities.

- a) Years 1–2: Two-year corporate subscription to GoToWebinar and GoToMeeting (\$12,000).
- b) Years 1–2: Travel for WCGA Executive Committee (\$20,000).
- c) Year 1: Support renovation of WCGA website and move to corporate server (\$33,000).
- d) Year 2: Provide six months of funding to support WCGA Coordinator (\$60,000).

ii. Background

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

In 2010, the WCGA received a \$500,000 Congressional appropriation to further achievement of objectives in ACT work plans. However, since the WCGA was formed, there has been no consistent dedicated funding to further the implementation of its action plan and corresponding ACT work plans. In addition, the WCGA hired a coordinator on contract in 2010, and has been able to advance many initiatives with this additional administrative support. However, there is no funding beyond 2012 to support a WCGA Coordinator, whose responsibilities include:

- Project management;
- Serving the Executive Committee (agenda setting, conference calls, minutes, etc.);
- Updating content management for the WCGA website;
- Research, Writing, and Materials Development;
- Fundraising;
- Communication and Outreach; and
- Conducting research leading to enlisting a fiscal sponsor for the WCGA.

There has also been inadequate funding to engage with tribal governments relative to ocean government issues and with stakeholders relative to regional ocean health issues.

The work described in this potential cooperating agreement would build on the work that has been conducted to date, and will further advance regional ocean priorities and CMSP with West Coast tribes and with 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.

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 and participants of the WCGA include tribal sovereign nations, coastal communities, local government agencies, state coastal programs and resource management agencies, the National Estuary Program, National Estuarine Research Reserves, National Marine Sanctuaries and other marine parks, reserves, and monuments, ocean observing system regional associations and the Pacific Coast Ocean Observing System, other NGOs,

universities and academia, public citizens and interested stakeholders, marine industries and businesses, and other members of the private sector. As members of the WCGA Executive Committee, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation, and Enforcement (BOEMRE) are important partners in WCGA initiatives. Also, the 10 multi-stakeholder WCGA Action Coordination Teams, which represent tribal, government, nonprofit, academic, and industry representatives along the West Coast, are key partners.

A solid foundation has been built to further West Coast regional ocean priorities through the development of the WCGA Action Plan and the corresponding 10 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 \$4 million proposal to achieve sustainable coastal communities.

There exists a robust, active, and committed group of partners and collaborators that seek 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 partners to achieve both short- and long-term goals. Additional resources will allow the WCGA to build on its foundation by further engaging with tribal sovereign governments and other entities along the West Coast to address the challenging and complex issues relating to coastal and ocean economic, environmental, and social issues.

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, as well as public stakeholders, academic scientists, private industry, and NGOs. The activities contemplated 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.

v. Approach

OBJECTIVE 1: Working with the federal government, engage West Coast Tribes on how they will participate in the CMSP planning body and on how they will engage on coastwide and National Ocean Council-related issues, and provide support for tribal capacity for these purposes.
Task A. Discuss a formal mechanism for coordination and cooperation with West Coast Tribes on CMSP and on broader ocean-related issues.
Task B. Establish formal mechanism for tribal participation and engagement, and provide funds for this purpose.
OBJECTIVE 2: Prioritize WCGA tasks that are identified in the 10 ACT implementation plans, or in the 2008 WCGA Action Plan.
Task C. Convene a meeting with ACTs and other stakeholders to articulate the highest priority action items for the West Coast, including objectives described in the WCGA Action Plan but not currently described in ACT work plans; describe the results of these efforts in an implementation schedule for the WCGA.

OBJECTIVE 3: Provide ACTs with organizational development support to improve their effectiveness, particularly with respect to stakeholder engagement and integration of science into decision making.

Task D. Convene individual ACTs to advance concepts and actions in each ACT work plan in a manner aligned with implementation plan (Objective 2). Provide administrative support to the ACTs to assist them with creating an effective structure to engage with tribes, stakeholders, and the scientific community.

OBJECTIVE 4: Provide administrative support for a WCGA coordinator, travel for the WCGA Executive Committee, and tools to enhance WCGA communications and outreach.

Task E. Two-year corporate subscription to GoToWebinar and GoToMeeting.

Task F. Travel for WCGA Executive Committee.

Task G. Support renovation of WCGA website and move to corporate server.

Task H. Provide six months of funding to support WCGA Coordinator.

vi. Benefits

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

- Initiate the development of a formal mechanism for cooperation among tribal, federal, and state governments related to regional ocean governance.
- Accelerate implementation activities by systematically distilling the highest priority and actionable recommendations from among the hundreds of potential measures identified in the work plans of the WCGA’s 10 ACTs.
- Provide ACTs with organizational development support to improve their effectiveness, particularly with respect to stakeholder engagement and integration of science into decision making.
- Provide a source of funding for a WCGA coordinator, travel, planning, communications and outreach to further develop and extend the impact of the WCGA.

vii. Milestone Schedule (Target milestones are dates when tasks will be completed)

Timeline for major tasks	Target milestones	Key project outcomes
Objective 1. Working with the federal government, engage West Coast Tribes on how they will participate in the CMSP planning body and on how they will engage on coastwide and National Ocean Council-related issues, and provide support for tribal capacity for these purposes.		
Task A. Discuss a formal mechanism for coordination and cooperation with West Coast Tribes on CMSP and on broader ocean-related issues.	December 2011	Identification of West Coast tribes interested in coordinating with WCGA on regional ocean and coastal issues
Task B. Establish formal mechanism for tribal participation and engagement, and provide funds for this purpose.	March 2012	A series of meetings that will lead to an agreement
Objective 2: Prioritize WCGA tasks that are identified in the 10 ACT implementation plans, or in the 2008 WCGA Action Plan.		

Timeline for major tasks	Target milestones	Key project outcomes
Task C. Convene a meeting with ACTs and other stakeholders to articulate the highest priority action items for the West Coast, including objectives described in the WCGA Action Plan but not currently described in ACT work plans; describe the results of these efforts in an implementation schedule for the WCGA	December 2011	A meeting with ACT teams that results in the articulation of WCGAs highest priorities
Objective 3: Provide ACTs with organizational development support to improve their effectiveness, particularly with respect to stakeholder engagement and integration of science into decision making.		
Task D. Convene individual ACTs to advance concepts and actions in each ACT work plan in a manner aligned with implementation plan (Objective 2). Provide administrative support to the ACTs to assist them with creating an effective structure to engage with tribes, stakeholders, and the scientific community.	July 2012	Agreement on a meeting plan for ACTs
Objective 4: Provide administrative support for a WCGA coordinator, travel for the WCGA Executive Committee, and tools to enhance WCGA communications and outreach.		
Task E. Two-year corporate subscription to GoToWebinar and GoToMeeting.	January 2013	Enhanced functionality of the WCGA
Task F. Travel for WCGA Executive Committee	January 2013	Enhanced communication among WCGA Executive Committee Enhance information sharing and networking among West Coast stakeholders
Task G. Support renovation of WCGA website and move to corporate server.	July 2012	Revamp WCGA website and move to a corporate server
Task H. Provide six months of funding to support WCGA Coordinator.	July 2012	Provide administrative support to WCGA Executive Committee

viii. Project Budget

	2011	2012
OBJECTIVE 1. Working with the federal government, engage West Coast Tribes on how they will participate in the CMSP planning body and on how they will engage on coastwide and National Ocean Council-related issues, and provide support for tribal capacity for these purposes.	\$75,000	\$75,000
OBJECTIVE 2: Prioritize WCGA tasks that are identified in the 10 ACT implementation plans, or in the 2008 WCGA Action Plan.	\$25,000	\$0
OBJECTIVE 3: Provide ACTs with organizational development support to improve their effectiveness, particularly with respect to stakeholder engagement and integration of science into decision making.	\$75,000	\$75,000
OBJECTIVE 4: Provide administrative support for a WCGA coordinator, travel for the WCGA Executive Committee, and tools to enhance WCGA communications and outreach.	\$49,000	\$76,000
SubTotal	\$224,000	\$226,000
Indirect Charges (NFWF)	\$22,400	\$22,600
	\$246,400	\$248,600
Total	\$495,000	