

WEST COAST GOVERNORS'
AGREEMENT on OCEAN HEALTH
CALIFORNIA OREGON WASHINGTON

August 22, 2011

Mrs. Mary Payne
NOAA Center for Sponsored Coastal Ocean Research
1305 East-West Highway, SSMC4, Mail Station 8218, 8th floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Mrs. Payne:

The state leads of the Executive Committee of the West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health (WCGA) support the Pacific Shellfish Institute's (PSI) proposed project, "Enhancing HAB rapid response and data access by integrating West Coast regional Integrated Ocean Observing Systems (IOOS) and local monitoring information and products."

The proposed project will:

- incorporate the tools and capabilities of IOOS and its West Coast regional associations (NANOOS, CeNCOOS, and SCCOOS) with existing monitoring efforts;
- provide training for citizen monitors, shellfish growers, and resource managers on the use of IOOS tools and data management capabilities for harmful algal bloom (HAB) monitoring and response;
- fulfill several critical HAB management needs along the U.S. West Coast;
- enable NOAA Northwest Fisheries Science Center to consolidate HAB regional data streams;
- facilitate forecasting capabilities by increasing access to data sets and visualization tools; and
- help to ensure that data and visualization tools will be maintained and available for decision-makers, researchers, and the general public.

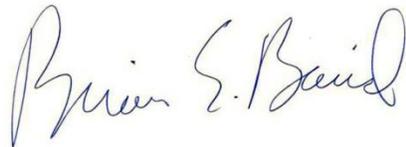
This project addresses several WCGA goals, including expanding ocean and coastal scientific information, increasing awareness among regional citizens, and exchanging information on management tools and techniques to promote predictive capabilities of harmful algal blooms and hypoxia.

Additionally, this project meets the call for a coast-wide monitoring network that improves response to HAB events through predictive capacity outlined at the West Coast Regional Harmful Algal Bloom Summit in 2009 held in collaboration with the WCGA.

The state leads of the Executive Committee of the WCGA support this project, and will work with PSI and project partners to communicate and coordinate the results of this project with the broader management and stakeholder community on the West Coast through our capacity as the West Coast regional ocean partnership.

Thank you for your consideration of our support for this important project to advance West Coast ocean and coastal health.

Sincerely,



Brian Baird
Assistant Secretary for Ocean
and Coastal Policy, California



Bob Bailey
Manager, Oregon Coastal
Management Program



Brian Lynn
Coastal/Shorelands Section
Manager, Washington
Department of Ecology