

**CALIFORNIA OCEAN AND COASTAL  
INFORMATION, RESEARCH, AND OUTREACH STRATEGY**

**DRAFT WORK PROGRAM**

**Introduction**

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's ocean action plan, *Protecting our Ocean: California's Action Strategy*, calls on the California Ocean Protection Council to develop a state-wide ocean and coastal information, research, and outreach strategy (Action 4). In response, council staff is taking immediate action to develop the *California Ocean and Coastal Information, Research, and Outreach Strategy* by the end of 2005. The goal of the strategy is to improve the protection of California's ocean and coastal resources by identifying the most critical information, research, and outreach needs and developing an implementation plan to harness the efforts of government, academia, the private sector, and the public to fill these needs. To facilitate state-wide implementation of the strategy, it will be developed in an open and collaborative fashion by engaging partners, advisory groups, and the public in its development.

**Objectives**

- Identify the most critical information, research, and outreach needs to better manage California's ocean and coastal resources
- Develop an implementation plan to harness the efforts of government, academia, the private sector, and the public to fill these needs
- Develop immediate actions that can be achieved with enhanced collaboration, coordination, and with modifications to existing infrastructure
- Develop long-term actions that may require more substantial changes to existing infrastructure and/or funding support

**Tasks**

**1. Identify partners in developing the strategy.**

The California Sea Grant College Program, the University of California Marine Council (UCMC), and the California Ocean Science Trust (CalOST) are working with the Ocean Protection Council staff to help develop the strategy. Collaboration with these, and other, organizations will be essential for the council to achieve its objectives.

**2. Convene a workshop to identify California's ocean and coastal information, research, and outreach needs.**

In collaboration with California Sea Grant, UCMC, and CalOST, council staff hosted the *California Ocean and Coastal Information, Research, and Outreach Needs Workshop* in Santa Cruz in November 2004. Over 60 participants from academia, government

agencies, non-governmental organizations, and industry attended. The workshop focused on identifying the essential information, research, and outreach priorities to improving management of California's ocean and coastal resources. The findings of the workshop will provide a starting point to developing the strategy.

**3. Release the final workshop summary report for public comment.**

A summary report of the workshop was prepared and distributed for review by workshop participants. The final workshop summary report is being released at the council's March 21 meeting. The council staff will solicit written public comments on the workshop findings for 45 days following this meeting (deadline: May 5, 2005). The focus of this review will be to determine if the public supports the workshop findings and identify additional areas of inquiry for developing the strategy.

**4. Seek advice from existing advisory groups.**

The council staff will seek guidance from several existing advisory groups in developing the strategy. Advisory groups include, but are not limited to, California Sea Grant, Resources Agency Sea Grant Advisory Panel, CalOST, and UCMC. These advisory groups will be asked to help develop the strategy's implementation plan by determining how to best harness the efforts of government, academia, the private sector, and the public to fill the needs identified in the strategy. Council staff will also seek recommendations from advisory groups on outreach needs, as outreach was not covered extensively in the workshop.

**5. Release a draft strategy for public comment.**

Council staff will draft the strategy based on the workshop findings and input from advisory groups and the public. A draft strategy will be released for public comment and presented to the council at their summer 2005 meeting. Council staff will receive public comment on the draft strategy for 45 days following the council's summer 2005 meeting. The council staff will keep the public informed of all developments with an email list server and web site. Public comment will be received at council meetings and via e-mail, regular mail, and fax. See <http://resources.ca.gov/ocean/> for details.

**6. Adopt final strategy.**

Council staff will revise the draft strategy based on comments from council members and the public. A draft final strategy will be presented to council members at their fall 2005 meeting to be considered for adoption.

**7. Implement the strategy.**

Following adoption of the strategy, the council will immediately begin the process of implementation.

## Strategy Outline

The strategy will contain three main sections: i). Information and research needs; ii) Outreach needs, and iii). Implementation plan.

- ❖ Introduction
- ❖ Information and research needs
  - Coastal natural hazards; beach and coastline issues
  - Invasive species; endangered species
  - Ecosystem health; habitat restoration and management
  - Fisheries management; marine protected areas; aquaculture
  - Coastal Pollution; water and sediment quality
- ❖ Outreach needs
  - Between scientists and managers
  - Public education
- ❖ Implementation Plan
  - Immediate and long-term actions
  - Collaborations
  - Funding
- ❖ Conclusion

<b>Strategy Development Timeline</b>	
Held the California Ocean and Coastal Information, Research, and Outreach Needs Workshop	Nov. 2004
Release final workshop summary report for public comment Present strategy work program for council consideration	March 21, 2005
Deadline for public comment on workshop findings	May 5, 2005
Present draft strategy for council consideration and public comment	Summer 2005
Deadline for public comment on draft strategy	45 days after release
Present draft final strategy to council to consider adoption	Fall 2005