

Ocean Protection Council Strategic Plan Outline

Legislative Mandate: California Ocean Protection Act - Senate Bill 1319 (COPA)

The California Ocean Protection Act makes specific findings and declarations regarding the preservation of ecosystems and the tools necessary to achieve those protections. Principally, the Act establishes the Ocean Protection Council and charges it with the following duties:

- Coordinate activities of ocean-related state agencies to improve the effectiveness of state efforts to protect ocean resources within existing fiscal limitations.
- Establish policies to coordinate the collection and sharing of scientific data related to coast and ocean resources between agencies.
- Identify and recommend to the Legislature changes in law.
- Identify and recommend changes in federal law and policy to the Governor and Legislature
- Provide grants or loans to public agencies, nonprofits corporations, or private entities for, or direct expenditures on, projects or activities that improve the management and protection of ocean and coastal resources and ecosystems.

Ocean Protection Council Mission

The Council shall develop a five year strategy plan to improve the protection, management, and restoration of California's ocean and coastal ecosystems for their intrinsic value and for the benefit of current and future generations – Section 35505 (f) of COPA.

Strategic Approach

The approach to this strategic plan will follow three phases designed to implement the mandatory provisions of COPA and to achieve the mission of the California Ocean Protection Council. The key to this approach will be to identify and to respond to California ocean and coastal protection and management needs. The three phases include:

1. **Identify and prioritize** the most important ocean and coastal management and protection issues facing the state over the next 5 years.
2. **Identify and seek to implement** the most efficient and effective methods to address these issues using new and innovative approaches to achieve desired results, including recommendations for changes in state and federal law if necessary.
3. **Identify the funding and/or new governance approaches** necessary for the State of California to feasibly address the ocean and coastal management and protection issues identified in phases 1 and 2.

Organizing Framework

Meetings with constituents and public workshops will be held during phase 1 to identify and prioritize ocean and coastal management and protection issues. During phases 2 and 3 the team will evaluate each identified issue in the following five areas of inquiry:

- **Stewardship:** Identify and recommend necessary actions to address the management of a specific issue and to conserve, manage, or restore the resources at risk.
- **Governance:** Identify and recommend changes in governance, or improved coordination in existing governance, that would significantly advance California's approach to each identified issue.
- **Research, Education, and Technology Development:** Identify additional research, education programs, or new technology developments that would significantly improve California's ability to address each identified issue.
- **Economic Sustainability:** Identify the significant economic implications regarding new management action, or lack of such action, to the State of California regarding each identified issue.
- **Funding:** Identify the investment necessary to address each identified issue entirely, or by using a phased approach.

Issue Analysis (Likely Issues To Be Evaluated)

Living Marine Resource Management. Issues regarding invasive species, threatened, and endangered species should be evaluated.

- Living marine resource management
- Invasive species control and eradication
- Threatened and Endangered species protection

Habitat Management and Restoration. Issues with habitats from coastal watersheds to the deep ocean should be evaluated.

- Watershed protection and management
- Wetland protection and management
- Inter-tidal and sub-tidal habitat protection and management
- Deep water habitat protection and management

Water Quality Protection – Human and Ecosystem Health. Issues with water quality pollution effecting human and ecosystem health should be evaluated.

- Point source pollution control.
- Non-point source pollution control

- Marine debris reduction and management

Physical/Abiotic Processes. Issues with climate and natural and/or human induced alterations in coastal sediment movement.

- Climate change assessment and understanding
- Sediment management to address coastal erosion, hazards, and infrastructure.

Technology. Issues with technology development for new products, science, monitoring, and management.

- New innovations in energy, food production, or management.
- Ocean observations
- Seafloor mapping

Economic Uses of the Ocean and Coast. Issues regarding the benefits and impacts of the variety of coastal and ocean dependent uses along or offshore of the California coast.

- Commercial and Sport Fishing
- Aquaculture Production
- Ports, harbors, and maritime industries
- Offshore Oil and gas development
- Tourism and recreation
- Desalination
- Power plants

Summary: Strategic Plan Development for the Ocean Protection Council

Center for Collaborative Policy, CSU Sacramento,
December 12, 2005

The State Coastal Conservancy (Conservancy) requested assistance from the Center for Collaborative Policy (www.csus.edu/ccp), in developing a Strategic Plan for the State's Ocean Protection Council (OPC). A program of California State University Sacramento, the Center's express mission is to build the capacity of public agencies, stakeholder groups, and the public to use collaborative strategies to improve policy outcomes.

The Ocean Protection Council is tasked with the following responsibilities:

- Coordinate activities of ocean-related state agencies to improve the effectiveness of state efforts to protect ocean resources within existing fiscal limitations.
- Establish policies to coordinate the collection and sharing of scientific data related to coast and ocean resources between agencies.
- Identify and recommend to the Legislature changes in law.
- Identify and recommend changes in federal law and policy to the Governor and Legislature.

The purpose of this Strategic Plan will be to guide the Council in framing its overall mission and structure and in carrying out these tasks over the next five years.

Center staff Susan Sherry and Mary Selkirk met with Conservancy and Resources agency staff on December 2nd to help them outline a general framework and work plan for the Strategic Plan. In January and February of next year, Center staff will interview key stakeholder constituents, including OPC agency staff and other State agency staff, as well as Council members themselves, to elicit their perspectives on what should be the strategic priorities for the Council, given its legislative mandate, and its purpose as described in the Governor's action Plan.

Outcomes from these interviews will help to inform the early drafts of the Plan, which will be developed primarily by Neal Fishman and others on the Conservancy staff, in close collaboration with Assistant Secretary of Resources Brian Baird and his staff. Center staff will also coordinate a series of two public workshops in March for feedback on the draft Plan, which will be revised for discussion by the full Council at their April meeting. Following a follow-up round of interviews with Council members and their staff, as well as key constituents, the Center will assist in the preparation of the final draft Plan to be submitted to the council for their approval at their June meeting.

Attached is the draft timeline for the Strategic Plan development.

Timeline for Ocean Protection Council Strategic Plan Development
Center for Collaborative Policy
California State University, Sacramento

	January-06	February-06	March-06	April-06	May-06	June-06
Ocean Protection Council Meetings	January 13 <i>Review Strategic Plan Outline and approve CCP Work Plan</i>			Mid-April <i>Review and provide direction on Draft Strategic Plan</i>		June 8-9 <i>Approve Strategic Plan</i>
CCP Task/Milestone						
Task 1. Interview Council members, including Ex-Officio members	X	X		X	X	
Task 2. Interview key constituency stakeholders	X	X		X	X	
Task 3. Develop/review drafts of Strategic Plan	<i>Outline of Strategic Plan</i>	<i>1st Draft based on 1/13 Council direction, for Public Hearings</i>	<i>2nd Draft based on public & stakeholders feedback, for April Council meeting</i>	<i>3rd Draft based on April Council meeting</i>	<i>4th (and Final) Draft for June Council review and adoption</i>	<i>Review of any changes made at Council's June meeting</i>
Task 4. Prepare for and convene two public workshops		X	X			
Task 5. Prepare for and facilitate Strategic Plan discussions at Council meetings			X	X	X	X
Task 6. Project Management	X	X	X	X	X	X