West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health

Discussion Paper Regarding the Seven Priority Areas

Assessment of Possible Actions

Draft developed by staff in California, Oregon, and Washington

March 15, 2007

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INTRODUCTION:

On September 18, 2006 the Governors of California, Oregon and Washington announced the "West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health" at the California and the World Ocean Conference in Long Beach California. The West Coast Governors' Agreement sets forth a new proactive approach for regional collaboration to protect and manage the ocean and coastal resources throughout the entire west coast. This agreement is in direct response to the recommendations of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and the Pew Oceans Commission. The West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health is included in its entirety in Appendix A of this discussion paper.

The agreement calls for four immediate actions to be complete within six months. Those actions include:

1. Send a joint message to the President and Congress reinforcing our opposition to oil and gas leasing, exploration and development off our coasts.
   Status: Letter was sent to the President and Congress on September 29, 2006. These letters are included in Appendix B of this discussion paper.

2. Call upon the President and Congress to provide secure funding to address threat of nonpoint source pollution along our coasts.
   Status: A letter is currently being drafted to fulfill this action.

3. Development of a regional research plan for the west coast in coordination with The National Sea Grant office, academia, and other research institutions.
   Status: The development of this plan is currently underway and public workshops are being held in all three states to receive input.

4. Request the White House Council on Environmental Quality to facilitate the implementation of the U.S. Ocean Action Plan, to assist the three states in requesting and receiving technical assistance from federal agencies to address issues of regional significance.
   Status: Letter to the White House Council on Environmental Quality is in process.

The Governors' Agreement also directed the development of a more extensive set of specific regional recommendations and initiatives for action by the fall of 2007 centered around seven priority areas. These initiatives are designed to be developed and implemented in conjunction with representatives of business, environmental, governmental, educational, and academic communities. The seven priority areas identified in the Governors' Agreement include:

1. Ensuring clean coastal waters and beaches;
2. Protecting and restoring healthy ocean and coastal habitats;
3. Promoting the effective implementation of ecosystem-based management of our ocean and coastal resources;
4. Reducing adverse impacts of offshore development;
5. Increasing ocean awareness and literacy among our citizens;
6. Expanding ocean and coastal scientific information, research, and monitoring; and

7. Fostering sustainable economic development throughout our diverse coastal communities.

This discussion paper is intended to guide public input to help determine the actions for consideration during development of the regional plan.

PROCESS FOR DEVELOPING THE REGIONAL ACTION PLAN

Using the seven priority action issues agreed upon by the Governors, the states seek to engage all stakeholders in the entire region on how to implement the regional action plan. This discussion paper provides one page summaries of the seven priority issues and possible actions that the Governors may consider for inclusion in the final action plan. The seven summaries are designed to stimulate discussion among user groups and stakeholders throughout the region to guide the creation of a robust and dynamic regional action plan.

The staffs from California, Oregon, and Washington held an initial meeting with the White House Council on Environmental Quality and other federal agency representatives on January 30, 2007 and another meeting is planned for March 19, 2007, in Monterey. Public outreach opportunities will include the following public workshops:

State of California:

- California Ocean Protection Council meeting, Monterey, California
    - April, 17, 2007 at 12:00 p.m.
        - Monterey Beach Resort
          2600 Sand Dunes Dr., Monterey, CA

State of Oregon:

- During the Coastal Zone Management Conference 2007, Portland, Oregon
    - July 22-26, 2007 (Specific time to be determined)
        - Hilton Portland and Executive Tower
          921 SW Sixth Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97204

State of Washington:

- To be determined

These workshops will provide a forum for public comment on the seven priority issues. In addition, we welcome written comments on the discussion paper. The written comments will be combined with verbal comments received at workshops to be held California, Oregon and Washington. All written comments or questions regarding this document or about participating in the workshops should be submitted to WCGAcomments@resources.ca.gov. Phone inquires should be directed to: Amy Boone at 916-653-9416 or Valerie Termini at 916-653-7895. Comments to be included in the packet of material distributed to the California Ocean Protection Council members at the first public workshop, must be received by April 5th. Comments received after that time will be distributed at the meeting, if possible. Similar procedures will be used for subsequent workshops in Oregon and Washington. Additional information will be distributed in advance of these workshops.

1. Ensure Clean Coastal Waters and Beaches

Vision: *Clean coastal waters and beaches where marine life thrives and where people can safely enjoy swimming, fishing and other activities without the detrimental effects of pollution and marine debris.*

Issue: Ocean water quality along the Pacific Coast is critical to both the health of marine and coastal ecosystems as well as human uses for recreation, food, and commerce. Recent human activities on land and in the marine environment increasingly jeopardize the quality of the Pacific Ocean. Invasive species, pollutants, sediments, and debris flushed by storm water from coastal landscapes as well as chemicals in treated waste are discharged into rivers, estuaries, and the ocean. Ocean currents can carry these pollutants and harmful species far from their sources.

Local, state, and federal water quality monitoring programs along the west coast are not well coordinated; many are episodic rather than continuous, most are chronically under-funded, and can often be slow to report data and synthesize findings. Resource managers and public health officials often lack a clear and timely picture of water quality and other conditions as the basis for local, state, and federal actions to protect these resources and to protect human health.

Key Points:

- National water quality standards apply to the entire west coast but are implemented by separate programs in the three states.
- Region-scale monitoring programs conducted by federal agencies for west coast marine waters are sporadic and inconsistent.
- State coastal water monitoring efforts vary widely in scope, scale, and duration, and are not integrated at a regional scale.
- Marine debris reduction and removal programs are operated primarily at the state, local, and tribal levels and are not organized regionally.
- Opportunities exist for the states to collaborate with each other and with federal agencies to develop and carry out pollution reduction strategies, research, and environmental monitoring across the entire region, in order to minimize human health impacts.

Possible Actions:

1. Develop cooperative agreements among the three states and federal agencies to: 1) compile and publish a single report for the public and policy makers on the status and trends of coastal and marine water quality along the west coast; 2) to support and improve regional programs to monitor and improve coastal water quality; and 3) explore opportunities for collaboration on monitoring harmful algal blooms.
2. Secure adequate state and federal funding to support coastal water quality programs.
3. Establish region-wide goals for marine debris reduction in all marine waters.
4. Develop a regional plan to address aquatic invasive species transport by ocean vessels.

2. Protect and Restore Ocean and Coastal Habitats

Vision*: Estuarine, marine, and associated coastal habitats are ecologically healthy and allow for public enjoyment and sustainable use.*

Issue: The waters along the Pacific Coast contain many unique habitats, such as the rocky inter-tidal zone, estuaries, and near shore reefs, which support a diverse array of marine life. Populations that live in these important habitats are linked through the California Current. Features such as upwelling zones, freshwater plumes, off-shore jets, and circulation eddies all affect movement of the California Current.

These distinct marine features and habitats contribute to the overall resiliency of ocean ecosystems. Over the years, some of the marine habitats have provided high economic as well as ecological values. Human exploitation of these resources has often led to habitat and ecological degradation. These human impacts coupled with continually increasing human presence on the coast and in the ocean mean that coastal and marine habitats remain vulnerable to further degradation or loss. In addition, habitats are threatened by the spread of invasive, non-native marine species many of which thrive in degraded environments without natural limitations. Restoration and protection of coastal and marine habitats is essential to maintaining the ecological integrity and economic well being of the region.

Key Points:

- No comprehensive regional strategy exists to coordinate the restoration, protection, or management programs of the three states or to integrate state and federal efforts.
- No comprehensive region-scale inventory and assessment of coastal and marine habitats exists.
- Global warming is likely to have significant effects on habitat conditions across the entire region. Climate change could increase the spread of non-native marine species, alter the productivity of key habitats, create more acidic ocean environments, and change the abundance and distribution of key marine species.
- Several academic, federal, and non-governmental organizations (NGO) habitat research and monitoring programs exist at a regional scale that can provide a substantial basis for a regional assessments and action.

Possible Actions:

1. Assess existing state and federal restoration and management programs for coastal and marine habitats in the three states, and survey challenges and opportunities for region-scale approaches to habitat restoration and protection efforts, such as invasive species.
2. Identify mapping, information sharing, data synthesis, and other technical services that could enhance a region-wide ecosystem based management effort, and support widespread availability of such data.
3. Address beach erosion and sediment issues and restoration of littoral processes as a part of habitat restoration. Share common approaches to managing sediment and support regional sediment planning.
4. Identify important ecological areas within the California Current Large Marine Ecosystem, identify threats to those marine areas, and establish measures to ensure effective habitat protection.

3. Promote the Effective Implementation of Ecosystem-based Management

***Vision**: A healthy, thriving, and resilient marine and coastal ecosystem along the entire west coast that supports a range of human activities.*

Issue: Ecosystem-based management (EBM) is a process for: 1) integrating ecological, social, and economic goals; 2) recognizing humans as key components of the ecosystem; 3) considering ecological rather than political boundaries; 4) accounting for complexity and uncertainty of natural processes and social systems; and 5) using an adaptive management approach in the face of uncertainties. EBM requires engaging multiple stakeholders to define problems and goals as well as find solutions and to incorporate scientific understanding of ecosystem processes and responses to environmental changes into governmental actions.

Implementing EBM will be challenging on the west coast, which is dominated by the California Current Large Marine Ecosystem and is affected by large scale atmospheric and ocean conditions of the northeast Pacific Ocean. Transitioning to EBM is further complicated by the existing fragmented single-issue approach to ocean management, budget constraints on state and federal agencies, and a lack of timely connections between research and management needs. EBM will require a sustained effort to integrate numerous state and federal programs and authorities and to acquire information at an appropriate ecosystem scale for management decisions.

Key Points:

- There is no accepted strategy by the three states or federal agencies for promoting a comprehensive EBM program for the coastal and marine ecosystems of the Pacific Coast.
- Regional management mechanisms exist or are in development for resources or issues such as salmon restoration, tanker safety, and oil spill response but are not necessarily being implemented using EBM.
- State resource management agencies are substantially limited to the state they serve and the issues for which they are charged. Many agency authorities pre-date the concept of EBM and are not configured to address ecosystem-scale issues or resources. Financial constraints and lack of program capacity further complicate state implementation of EBM.
- Ecosystem-based management will require significant participation from all levels of government, NGOs, academia, industry, and the public.
- Ecosystem-based management will require a regional research and monitoring program to anticipate and support timely data collection and dissemination.

Possible Actions:

1. In cooperation with representatives from all levels of government, NGOs, academia, industry, and the public, adopt a strategy for implementing EBM for coastal and marine resources along the West Coast.
2. Identify barriers and consider proposals to support state participation in coastal and ocean EBM strategies.
3. Identify watersheds that influence marine ecosystem health, such as in the Klamath River and the Columbia River, and improve coordinate and management of those areas.

4. Reduce Adverse Impacts of Offshore Development

Vision: *No new offshore oil and gas leasing and development occur in state tidelands or within the federal Outer Continental Shelf. States and federal agencies work from a shared strategy to appropriately and safely develop the energy potential of wave and tidal currents in ocean waters along the west coast.*

Issue: The three states have determined that oil and gas development in ocean waters along their coasts is unacceptable due to the harmful impacts to the marine and coastal environment and local economies. The three states are committed to developing renewable energy sources, in an environmentally sustainable manner.

Recent advances in wave and tidal energy conversion technologies have improved the economic viability of these technologies. There is a high degree of interest within the private sector to develop electricity utilizing wave energy and tidal flow. Specific energy development proposals have been filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Agencies in all three states and federal government are working to develop effective regulatory and permitting frameworks. Currently, no coordinated effort exists among the three states to address this potential resource on a regional basis.

Key Points:

- A variety of wave and tidal energy conversion technologies exist or are in development; private sector interest is high for commercial deployment.
- Not all parts of the coast or nearshore environment meet commercial production requirements. Other areas are inappropriate because of conflicts with other users or resources.
- The cumulative effects on marine resources and other ocean users from multiple energy development facilities at a regional scale are not yet known.
- Wave energy conversion will likely involve sites that lie in both state and federal waters. The Minerals Management Service has authority under the Energy Policy Act of 2005 for renewable ocean energy resources in federal waters and thereby has a programmatic interest in assisting all three states in developing ocean energy resources. Tidal energy devices will likely involve sites within state waters, which fall under authority of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

Possible Actions:

1. Continue opposition to new oil and gas leasing, development, and production in ocean waters of the Pacific Coast.
2. Collaborate with the federal Department of the Interior Minerals Management Service and the Department of Energy in federal waters and FERC in state waters to provide a regional coordination mechanism and forum for renewable ocean energy development.

5. Increase Ocean Awareness and Literacy Among Citizens

Vision: *An informed and aware public that values ocean and coastal resources, processes, and ecosystems.*

Issue: The U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy noted that an interested and engaged public will be needed to successfully address complex coastal and ocean issues that balance use with conservation. However, the Commission pointed out that the American public does not understand the importance of the ocean to their lives or to our quality of life on Earth. The Commission also noted a national interest in promoting science literacy, particularly with respect to marine sciences.

Many marine science education and awareness programs exist on the west coast. Some, such as those operated by Sea Grant and other academic programs, involve curricula in the region's schools. Others are local interpretive programs that protect specific coastal sites such as at those at Año Nuevo in California and Haystack Rock in Oregon. A few programs, such as COASST (Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team) in Washington, train the public to collect and report data that add to an understanding of the marine environment. Visitor centers and aquariums provide focal points for public education. However, no overall state-level or regional strategy exists to link these programs into a strong network that can support stewardship and management objectives of various state and federal agencies.

Key Points:

- Many coastal and marine education and awareness programs operate with a high level of financial uncertainty and are therefore unable to achieve full potential or meet public needs.
- Coastal and marine education and awareness programs tend to operate independently rather than as a network of programs or educational opportunities.
- Coastal and marine education and science programs are needed to serve ethnic and inner-city or remote rural communities that do not have easy access to such programs.
- Significant untapped opportunities for partnerships exist among all levels of government, the private sector, public interest groups, and academia to coordinate programs, technical expertise, and fiscal resources. Broad marketing and advertising techniques, such as California's 'Thank You Ocean' campaign, can be used to increase public awareness on ocean issues.

Possible Actions:

1. Prepare an assessment of needs and opportunities for expanded education and awareness programs throughout the region.
2. Develop a regional strategic plan to link existing education and awareness programs and promote partnerships between major universities, public organizations, local, state and federal governments, education centers and communities.
3. Promote a coordinated network of coastal and marine interpretive centers along the Pacific coast, including existing centers as well as new ones, to expand opportunities for public awareness and appreciation, ocean education, and citizen science activities.

6. Expand Ocean and Coastal Scientific Information, Research, and Monitoring

Vision: *A long-term research and monitoring program for the entire west coast that provides timely information to support coastal and ocean management programs and that is financially supported by each coastal state and federal agencies.*

Issue: The West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health calls for the development of a long-term regional research plan. The Sea Grant programs in the three states are already working on the development of this plan and are collaborating with a variety of agencies and stakeholders.

Development of such a plan will be challenging for three basic reasons: 1) managers need information in the near term to make decisions, but the time required to provide research results can be substantial due to the traditional scientific research processes; 2) ecosystem-based management will inherently be complex and often will require information synthesized from many disciplines that traditionally have not been integrated; 3) management decisions require a high level of certainty from supporting information, while scientists are often unable or unwilling to ascribe the needed level of certainty to their results.

In addition, monitoring will be required to acquire long time-series data in order to detect changes over time. Scientists and mangers alike increasingly appreciate the value of long-term monitoring data. New monitoring programs are being deployed utilizing new technologies in computers, remote sensing, robotics, and communications. Linked through integrated ocean observing systems, these new monitoring techniques offer the capability to monitor dynamic ocean conditions in near real time.

Key Points:

- Marine research and monitoring programs are expensive and, to be effective, will require sustained financial support from state and federal agencies over many decades.
- The management issues identified by the governors will require an integrated, sustained, long-term research plan program to acquire needed scientific information.
- Ecosystem-based management will require monitoring programs sustained over the long term in order to detect and respond to ecosystem changes that operate over long durations and broad spatial scales.
- Over the past decade, significant progress has been made in understanding the dynamics and variability of the California Current Large Marine Ecosystem, its response to larger ocean and climate variability, and its influence on near-shore and estuarine conditions.

Possible Actions:

1. Develop and implement a regional research and monitoring plan for the entire west coast to provide a framework for addressing the key management issues raised by the governors' agreement.
2. Upon completion of the plan, the governors will seek partnerships with federal, tribal, academic, industry, and philanthropic interests to achieve the research goals included in the plan.
3. Establish science advisory bodies to enhance individual state efforts to address ocean health.

7. Foster Sustainable Economic Development

***Vision**: Economic activities along the west coast and offshore which are environmentally and economically sustainable.*

Issue: The economies of the three west coast states have significant sectors related to the ocean and coast. For many coastal communities, most of their economic base is directly related to the quality and sustainability of the coastal and ocean environment, whether through fishing, recreation, tourism, transportation and ports. Seaside communities have increasingly become desirable places for retirees and families to relocate. All of these economic sectors depend on the coast and ocean to continuously provide value over the long term.

A principal challenge to states and local communities lies in accommodating increased development in the coastal zone and uses of ocean and coastal areas without degrading, diminishing, or destroying the environmental goods and services offered by the coastal location. Of particular concern is accommodating increased demands for municipal water supply. Another challenge along many parts of the Pacific Coast is geographic isolation and the resulting critical reliance on highway transportation and port infrastructure to support the local economy.

Key points:

- The states need to provide critical transportation and other infrastructure for economic activity, while maintaining important ocean and coastal habitats.
- Many coastal communities lack resources and capacity to plan for or to identify and recruit economic activities that support sustainable uses of ocean and coastal resources.

Possible Actions:

1. Develop a regional assessment of the opportunities and constraints to foster sustainable economic development of coastal and ocean resources.
2. Identify and support new opportunities and strategies to maintain working waterfronts, small ports and support sustainable fisheries.
3. Explore new market-based approaches that enhance sustainable fisheries.

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Appendix A: West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health

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CHRISTINE GREGOIRE
Washington

THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI
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California

West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health
September 18, 2006

A Call to Action

Washington, Oregon, and California share a rich and diverse bounty of ocean and coastal resources that provide enormous economic, environmental, and social benefits to our states. Yet our citizens' continued use and enjoyment of coastal and ocean resources are at risk. Polluted waters, declining populations of fish and other marine life, degraded nearshore habitats, risks of severe storms and tsunamis, and impacts related to climate change are but a few examples of serious threats to the continued vitality of our ocean-dependent states. Recently, two national ocean commissions concluded that our oceans are in trouble and called for immediate, meaningful action at all levels of government to restore and maintain their health.

Charting a New Course

Washington, Oregon, and California recognize these challenges and are taking action to address the declining health of our shared ocean. Each of our three states has developed world class expertise in ocean sciences and academics, and established a track record of innovation and leadership on ocean and coastal issues domestically and internationally. Our growing understanding of our relationship with the marine environment and its living and nonliving natural resources is leading us to explore ecosystem-based approaches to managing our coasts and oceans. Washington's Puget Sound Partnership and Ocean Policy Working Group, Oregon's Ocean Policy Advisory Council, and California's Ocean Protection Council are forums where these important discussions are occurring today. Each of these bodies maintains an innovative framework in which government and tribal officials, managers, scientists, citizens, and other stakeholders employ an integrated approach to protecting and restoring our coastal watersheds, shorelines, estuaries, nearshore waters, and open ocean.

Just as ocean and coastal conservation strategies benefit from coordination between state and local governments, so too can they be enhanced by greater coordination among our three West Coast states, among our state, tribal, and federal governments, as well as with our sovereign neighbors to the north and south. We need look no further than the offshore California Current to illustrate this need, as it transcends political boundaries, sustaining marine wildlife populations, regulating climate, and providing myriad other ecosystem services relied on by our states, the nation, and the world.

Forging a West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health

As the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and the Pew Oceans Commission acknowledged in their reports on the status of the ocean, improved coordination among governing bodies is needed, and oceans should be managed on an ecosystem level. While there are numerous organizations striving to implement these and other recommendations of the two commissions, we believe that more can be done. Therefore, we, the Governors of Washington, Oregon, and California, are launching a coordinated West Coast ocean and

coastal collaboration to address critical ocean and coastal protection and management issues facing all three states. With this agreement, we are directing our staffs to work together during the next year to identify measures to address these concerns at the West Coast regional level and to develop a coordinated set of actions in response. Through this agreement we seek to advance our mutual interests in the following priority areas:

- Ensuring clean coastal waters and beaches;
- Protecting and restoring healthy ocean and coastal habitats;
- Promoting the effective implementation of ecosystem-based management of our ocean and coastal resources;
- Reducing adverse impacts of offshore development;
- Increasing ocean awareness and literacy among our citizens;
- Expanding ocean and coastal scientific information, research, and monitoring; and
- Fostering sustainable economic development throughout our diverse coastal communities.

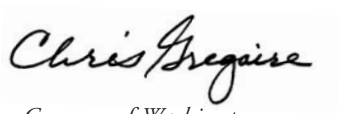
We anticipate that the opportunities for collaboration will include:

- Supporting and enhancing existing governance, management, and planning structures to address issues of regional significance where needed;
- Creating mechanisms to share lessons related to issues of regional significance learned from local, urban, county, and statewide conservation and restoration programs, as well as the work of non-governmental organizations;
- Expanding cooperative scientific and educational efforts to address issues of regional significance;
- Coordinating management strategies and approaches for those shared coastal and marine resources of regional significance; and
- Jointly engaging the federal executive and legislative branches on significant regional ocean and coastal issues that warrant national-level attention and support.

Within the six months of our collaborative effort, the three states will implement the following actions, at a minimum:

1. Call upon the President and Congress to provide sufficient funding to address the threat of nonpoint source pollution along our coasts, thought to be the number one water pollution control issue for coastal states. Successful implementation of the federal Coastal Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program by the states will require a commitment of federal dollars beyond current levels.
2. Send a joint message to the President and Congress reinforcing our opposition to oil and gas leasing, exploration, and development off our coasts.
3. Support development of a regional research plan for the West Coast in coordination with the National Sea Grant Office, academia, and other research institutions. Request funding and technical assistance to support key efforts, such as ocean observation programs, and sea floor and habitat mapping, which will be critical tools to address issues of regional significance.
4. Request the White House Council on Environmental Quality, in its role to facilitate the implementation of the U.S. Ocean Action Plan, to assist the three states in requesting and receiving technical assistance from federal agencies to address issues of regional significance.

We are directing our agencies and staffs to work throughout Fall 2006 with representatives of business, environmental, governmental, educational, and academic communities to develop further recommendations for enhanced regional collaboration on our shared priorities. We look forward to implementing the initial actions listed above within six months, and to announcing a more extensive set of specific regional recommendations and initiatives for action by Fall 2007, working in conjunction with our respective working groups, ocean councils, state legislatures, and the newly convened 110th Congress.



Govenor of Washington

Govenor of Oregon

Govenor of California

Washington Highlights: Recent Accomplishments Related to Ocean and Coastal Health

The residents of Washington State have had close ties to the ocean for thousands of years. First nations continue to rely on the ocean and the marine waters of the Strait of Juan de Fuca and Puget Sound for transportation, food, and other resources. The deep protected waters of Puget Sound have attracted intensive urban development, while the outer coast has extensive beaches with limited natural harbors. As a result of this diversity, Washington has addressed its two coasts differently.

Ocean Policy Work Group

In mid-2005, the Governor's Office convened the Washington Ocean Policy Work Group with special funding earmarked by the legislature to review the recommendations of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, summarize the conditions of the state's ocean resources, and make recommendations, including those related to legislation and funding, to improve coordination among state and local jurisdictions, and to better protect and manage ocean resources.

The Work Group is drafting recommendations on: Coastal Economic Development; Marine Resource Stewardship; Coastal Hazards, Erosion and Climate Change; Ocean Research, Observation and Education; and Ocean Governance. The final report will be issued in December 2006. The University of Washington's School of Marine Affairs is providing supporting research. Additional information is available at: courses.washington.edu/oceangov/OPWG.html.

Puget Sound Initiative

In December 2005, Washington Governor Christine Gregoire announced a new initiative to protect and restore Puget Sound. The 2006 supplemental budget included over $50 million for initial clean-up activities. The state legislature also passed two bills related to Puget Sound, including on-site sewage system management changes and provisions to prevent spills during oil transfers.

The Puget Sound Partnership, which consists of community and business leaders and four state legislators, will recommend a set of key actions to recover Puget Sound by 2020, engage stakeholders and the general public in increasing efforts to recover the Sound, recommend organizational structures and approaches to nurture the Sound back to health, review funding sources and set priorities for protection and restoration, and recommend how broad-based scientific knowledge should inform policies. The Partnership will present recommendations to the Governor this fall. Partnership materials are available at: www.pugetsoundpartnership.org.

Puget Sound Action Team

In 1985, Washington established the Puget Sound Water Quality Authority to develop and implement a comprehensive plan to protect and restore Puget Sound. The plan became part of the National Estuary Program under the Federal Clean Water Act and was later approved by the Environmental Protection Agency as the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for Puget Sound. In 1996, the Puget Sound Action Team was formed to maintain the management plan. It is governed by a Council, which includes federal, state, tribal, and community stakeholders. The Puget Sound Action Team coordinates state agency activities, manages a monitoring program, publishes periodic State of the Sound reports, co-hosts transboundary research conferences, and provides environmental education and technical assistance. More information is available at: www.psat.wa.gov.

Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership

Washington is a participant in the Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership, the National Estuary Program under the Federal Clean Water Act for the Columbia River estuary. The Partnership has developed a comprehensive management plan for the estuary and coordinates a range of protection and restoration activities, including monitoring and education. Information on the program is available at: www.lcrep.org.

Northwest Straits Initiative

The Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative, authorized by Congress in 1998, works to protect and restore the marine resources of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, the Strait of Georgia, and northern Puget Sound. The Northwest Straits Commission supports and coordinates the work of seven Marine Resource Committees and consists of volunteers appointed by their county governments. State and federal agencies provide scientific and technical support. Information on the Initiative is available at: www.nwstraits.org.

Recovery of Endangered Species

Washington is home to a number of anadromous fish species listed as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act. To assist in the recovery of these stocks and coordinate local, state, and federal recovery efforts, the state has organized watershed and regional salmon recovery structures and has submitted several draft recovery plans to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Documents outlining the state's efforts on salmon recovery are available through the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office at: www.governor.wa.gov/gsro/.

Washington is also the home of the summer resident orca population that is listed as endangered by Washington, the United States, and Canada. Washington is actively engaged in planning for the recovery of the orca and recently designated the orca the official state marine mammal. Washington has also completed a recovery plan for sea otters.

Other Washington Programs

- Washington manages coastal development through the state's Shoreline Management Act and Growth Management Act (GMA). Local governments manage development through a special permit system that encourages water-dependent uses, promotes public access, and protects natural resources. All coastal counties and cities adopt critical areas ordinances under the GMA to designate and protect those areas that frequently flood; are geologically hazardous; or include wetlands, aquifer recharge areas, and fish and wildlife habitat areas.
- Washington has a comprehensive state program to prevent and respond to spills of oil and hazardous substances. Recently, the state adopted a zero-spill strategy and works with the Oil Spills Advisory Council to implement it. The state also participates in the Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force.
- Washington has adopted legislation designed to prevent the introduction of invasive species from discharges of ballast water and currently has a ballast water work group reviewing options for ballast water control.
- Washington has an active program to prevent and control aquatic nuisance species that is backed by state legislation and the Washington State Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan.

Oregon Highlights: Recent Accomplishments Related to Ocean and Coastal Health

For over three decades, Oregon has been a national leader in managing its ocean resources for the benefit of future generations. The roots of Oregon's Ocean Resources Management Program reach back to the early 1970s, when concerns were raised over effects from potential drilling for oil and gas in federal waters and foreign fishing fleets working to within three miles of shore. In 1991, a council was created to give coordinated policy advice to the Governor, state agencies, and others and to prepare a plan for Oregon's Territorial Sea. This Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC) is comprised of ocean users, local governments, other interested parties, seven state agencies, Oregon Sea Grant, and other non-voting members, and continues to advise the Governor on numerous marine issues today.

Statewide Planning Goal 19, Ocean Resources

Oregon's vision for its ocean and coastal health was articulated in 1973 by Statewide Planning Goal 19, Ocean Resources, which is "conserve marine resources and ecological functions for the purpose of providing long-term ecological, economic, and social value and benefits to future generations."

Goal 19 requires that "all actions by local, state, and federal agencies that are likely to affect the ocean resources and uses of Oregon's territorial sea shall be developed and conducted to conserve marine resources and ecological functions for the purpose of providing long-term ecological, economic, and social values and benefits and to give higher priority to the protection of renewable marine resources, i.e., living marine organisms, than to the development of non-renewable ocean resources."

The goal also asserts that the "State of Oregon has interests in the conservation of ocean resources in an Ocean Stewardship Area, an ocean area where natural phenomena and human uses can affect uses and resources of Oregon's territorial sea." The 15,000 square mile Ocean Stewardship Area includes the state's territorial sea, the continental margin seaward to the toe of the continental slope, and adjacent ocean areas.

Ensuring Clean Coastal Waters and Beaches

The Oregon Beach Monitoring Program (OBMP) monitors selected Oregon coastal recreation waters for the presence of fecal bacteria, and reports elevated levels to the public. The OBMP is funded by a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency, is administered by the Department of Human Services, and collaborates with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

Protecting and Restoring Healthy Ocean and Coastal Habitats

Adopted in 1994, Oregon's Territorial Sea Plan (TSP) provides a framework for protecting rocky shore habitats, which include a diverse assemblage of habitats in rocky intertidal, submerged reef, and associated rocks and cliff sites. The TSP guides the activities of state, local, and federal agencies. A central objective of the TSP is to "implement a management program that allows for enjoyment and use of Oregon's rocky shores while protecting them from overuse, degradation, and loss."

Promoting Effective Implementation of Ecosystem-Based Management of Ocean and Coastal Resources

In 2006, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) adopted a Nearshore Marine Resources Management Strategy with a mission to "promote actions that will conserve ecological functions

and nearshore marine resources to provide long-term ecological, economic, and social benefits for current and future generations of Oregonians." The ODFW will implement the strategic plan through a variety of programs, including the Nearshore Habitat Project, to map and assess the distribution and ecological function of nearshore habitats.

Governor Ted Kulongoski asked OPAC to take two important steps toward managing ocean resources as an ecosystem. First, Governor Kulongoski directed OPAC to implement its 2002 recommendation that the state designate a limited network of marine reserves for ecological purposes. Second, the Governor asked that OPAC advise him regarding the establishment of a National Marine Sanctuary off Oregon's coast to help coordinate state and federal management of the marine environment and uses such as fisheries, energy development, water quality, and recreation, and to increase Oregon's competitive advantage for federal ocean research funds.

Increasing Ocean Awareness and Literacy among Citizens

Designated in 1974, the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve (South Slough NERR) is a 4,771 acre natural area on the south coast of Oregon. South Slough NERR is affiliated with both the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Oregon Department of State Lands. The reserve encompasses a mixture of open water channels, tidal and freshwater wetlands, riparian areas, and forested uplands. South Slough NERR actively supports and coordinates research, education, and stewardship programs that serve to enhance a scientific and public understanding of estuaries and contribute to improved estuarine management.

Expanding Ocean and Coastal Scientific Information, Research, and Monitoring

Oregon has the potential to be a global leader in developing viable technologies to convert ocean wave energy into electricity. Oregon State University and the Oregon Department of Energy are working with a broad coalition to create a center of excellence for ocean wave energy technology with demonstration sites on the Oregon coast. Oregon is also an active participant in the Northwest Area Network of Ocean Observation Systems, which will provide real-time information on waves, storm events, and multiple measures of ocean conditions.

Fostering Sustainable Economic Development throughout Our Diverse Coastal Communities

Oregon's land use planning program, as carried out through the Coastal Zone Management Program, seeks to maintain and promote sustainable economic development in coastal communities. These actions are carried out primarily by cities, counties, and port districts with support from the Department of Land Conservation and Development and the Economic and Community Development Department.

California Highlights: Recent Accomplishments Related to Ocean and Coastal Health

Protecting the ocean and coast has long been a high priority for California. Californians showed their commitment when they passed the California Coastal Act in 1972 that established high standards for regulating coastal development. Other landmark laws include the California Ocean Resources Management Act, Marine Life Protection Act, Marine Life Management Act, and the California Ocean Protection Act. These laws require the state to implement ecosystem-based management using the best available scientific information. The work of the Pew Oceans Commission and the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy inspired a renewed dedication to ocean protection in California.

In response to the Commission reports, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger released his Ocean Action Plan in October 2004. The plan includes specific actions to enhance the protection and management of California's ocean and coastal resources. Significant progress has already been made in implementing the plan, which focuses on the four topic areas, summarized below.

Governance

California called on the federal government to implement the major recommendations of the U.S. and Pew Ocean Commission reports. California officials have sent letters and met with members of the White House Council on Environmental Quality and Congress. Priority issues include:

- Maintaining California's moratorium on offshore oil and gas leasing
- Ratification of the United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea
- Supporting California's ocean observing systems
- Reauthorizing a strong Coastal Zone Management Act
- Sponsoring the Western Governors Association Ocean Protection Resolution

Regional-level: California is working with Oregon and Washington to coordinate ocean management along the West Coast. Key actions include:

- Developing the West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health
- Coordinating ocean research priorities by developing a regional research plan with the West Coast Sea Grant programs

State-level: Governor Schwarzenegger signed a comprehensive package of ocean legislation into law, including:

- Establishing the California Ocean Protection Council
- Minimizing impacts of bottom trawling
- Reducing pollution from cruise ships
- Increasing water quality monitoring
- Establishing standards for offshore aquaculture

California Ocean Protection Council: The Ocean Protection Council, established by state law in 2005, is a cabinet-level body charged with improving the management of California's ocean and coastal resources. Major council actions include:

- Adopting policies to protect California's moratorium on offshore oil and gas leasing, promote research and monitoring, reduce environmental impacts of coastal power plants, and establish a marine protected area monitoring program

- Approving $17 million in projects that address coastal water quality, river restoration, research and monitoring, sea floor mapping, ecosystem-based management, derelict fishing gear, invasive species, and fisheries management

Research and Education

In September 2005, the California Ocean Protection Council adopted the *California Ocean and Coastal Information, Research and Outreach Strategy* that sets clear goals for California on research and education.

Key actions of the plan include:

- Committing $1 million to ocean and coastal research
- Including state priorities in the national ocean research plan
- Launching a media campaign to educate the public about the ocean
- Organizing the California and the World Ocean '06 Conference to be held September 2006 in Long Beach, California

Stewardship

In September 2004, Governor Schwarzenegger launched the California Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Initiative to develop a network of marine protected areas off the coast of California. The MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force, composed of prominent state policy makers, was assembled to guide this Initiative. The Task Force has developed a Master Plan Framework for MLPA implementation statewide and has recommended several alternative packages of marine protected areas to the state.

The California Watershed Management Memorandum of Understanding was signed in November 2004. An action plan to protect priority watersheds is currently being implemented.

California is developing the Coastal Sediment Management Plan to address coastal erosion and port sediment management issues with a work group of federal and state government agencies. This plan will help the state more effectively manage coastal sediments by evaluating major sections of the coast and inland watersheds, instead of merely focusing on localized case-by-case issues.

Economics and Funding

The Schwarzenegger Administration has committed $33.2 million in new state funds for ocean protection, which includes $26.2 million for the California Ocean Protection Council and $7 million for the California Ocean Currents Monitoring System.

California's Ocean Economy report, released in July 2005, identified nearly $43 billion in ocean dependent revenues. In July 2005, the state held the first ever Ocean Economic Summit to examine the implications of the report for ocean protection and management.

Appendix B: Letters to the President and Congress opposing offshore oil and gas development

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OFFICES OF THE GOVERNORS

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
CALIFORNIA

THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI
OREGON

CHRISTINE O. GREGOIRE
WASHINGTON

September 29, 2006

The Honorable George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As Governors of California, Oregon and Washington, we continue to oppose any actions by the federal government that would weaken the national oil and gas leasing moratorium off our shores. For the last 25 years, Congress has protected our coasts with the moratorium and we believe it should remain in place in perpetuity.

On September 18, 2006 our three states entered into an historic partnership to address critical ocean and coastal protection and management issues. The "West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health" represents our commitment to work together to reduce offshore energy impacts, ensure clean coastal waters, restore ocean and coastal habitats, promote ecosystem-based management, increase ocean awareness, expand scientific information and foster sustainable economic development throughout our diverse coastal communities. This letter is the first of many actions we will be taking, not only to implement this joint agreement, but to demonstrate that this is a partnership with purpose. We stand united to protect our ocean and coasts.

Our states have committed to alternative energy sources instead of increasing our dependence on fossil fuels. We also continue to take significant steps to increase energy efficiency to help meet the energy needs of our states and the nation. These commitments are critical to protecting our quality of life for future generations.

We are dedicated to working with you and Congress to develop positive solutions to our energy needs that do not involve the unacceptable impacts of offshore drilling. We would be happy to meet with you to discuss our position and propose positive actions to move forward.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor of California

Theodore R. Kulongoski
Governor of Oregon

Christine O. Gregoire
Governor of Washington

TRK:jh:ab
c: Chairman James L. Connaughton

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ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
CALIFORNIA

THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI
OREGON

CHRISTINE O. GREGOIRE
WASHINGTON

September 29, 2006

California, Oregon and Washington Congressional Delegations
United States Congress
Washington, DC

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TRK:jh:ab
c: Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist
Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid
Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert
House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi