

**California Coastal and Marine Geospatial Working Group
Project Charter and Work Plan
October 2010**

Project Identification	California Coastal and Marine Geospatial Working Group (CCMG-WG)
Problem Statement	Coastal and marine resource managers within California currently lack access to relevant geospatial data and tools, as well as data standards and policies, to support comprehensive coastal and marine spatial planning.
Mission Statement	The CCMG-WG seeks to facilitate the exchange and analysis of statewide geographic information to assist with the protection of coastal and marine resources, support environmental assessment efforts, and improve comprehensive planning in coastal and marine areas.
Vision Statement	Geospatial data and tools will become an integral component of coastal and marine spatial planning and decision-making in California. The CCMG-WG is a recognized resource for coastal and marine geospatial information and a valued member of the California GIS Council.
Authority	The CCMG-WG is empowered to assess and provide recommendations for the development of appropriate geospatial data and tools for coastal and marine resource planners with support from the members' respective agencies and direction from the California GIS Council. The CCMG-WG is further empowered to develop recommendations for policy leadership at the state level by the Office of the Chief Information Officer (CIO) through the GIS Council.
Ownership	Participant agencies possess a stake in the success of the CCMG-WG due to increasing internal data needs, GIS data management workloads, and complex agency mandates.

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<p>Participants</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Greg Benoit, California Coastal Commission (CCC) ▪ Tim Doherty, San Francisco Bay Development and Conservation Commission (BCDC) ▪ Paulo Serpa, California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) ▪ Eric Gillies, California State Lands Commission (SLC) ▪ Laura Engeman and Pam Rittelmeyer, California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) ▪ Peter Jarausch, State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) ▪ David Harris, California Environmental Resources Evaluation System (CERES) ▪ Christina Cairns, NOAA Coastal Services Center (CSC) ▪ Chad King, NOAA National Marine Sanctuaries (NMS) ▪ Matt Armsby, Center for Ocean Solutions (COS) ▪ TBD (Other state, federal agencies, ex-officio members)
<p>Success Indicators</p>	<p>Success occurs when the CCMG-WG has:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) made available all priority geospatial data sets identified by members and partners, in appropriate formats; 2) recommended appropriate tool(s) to help resource managers and other identified audiences to view and analyze data, assess coastal and marine activities, and conduct comprehensive coastal planning; 3) recommended or crafted one or more statewide policies and standards for data sharing; and 4) acquired sufficient partners and funding to achieve the objectives of the charter.
<p>Major Work Tasks</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify existing and future coastal and marine planning issues which may be solved through application of geospatial data and tools. 2. Identify audiences for data and conduct stakeholder/user outreach to help identify needs

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	<p>for data and tools.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Catalog existing data and data gaps. Prioritize data development/acquisition needs as determined by identified planning issues. 4. Assess and recommend appropriate data-sharing solutions. 5. Recommend standards for effective management and sharing of geospatial information. 6. Provide recommendations and draft policies for state investment in geospatial information infrastructure and planning. 7. Identify and seek federal and/or private partnerships for knowledge-sharing and support. 8. Identify and seek funding to support efforts of Working Group.
Operational Plan	<p><i>Identify existing and future coastal planning issues which may be solved through application of geospatial data and tools.</i></p> <p>Members meet with agency managers and analysts to outline major issues, as well as priority uses for geospatial data, and report back <i>Identify users for agency data and conduct user outreach to help identify needs for data and tools.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compile a comprehensive list of agencies and other audiences who might want data. • Identify data needed to support users' activities and what types of tools they prefer. <p><i>Catalog and prioritize existing and needed geospatial data.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catalog data sets and information gaps critical to coastal and marine planning issues. • Verify the accuracy and characterize the spatial resolution and geographic extent of existing data sets. • Prioritize data acquisition by assessing the importance of the data in solving the planning issue. Other criteria to consider include the number of entities who have/need relevant data, as well as the feasibility, cost, and timeliness of the data. <p><i>Assess and recommend data-sharing solutions.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess data-sharing and decision support tool (DST) needs among users.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluate appropriate tools and share experiences (e.g. MarineMap, Multipurpose Marine Cadastre, etc.) through presentations/ webinars.• Recommend geospatial tools that serve users' needs. When feasible, extend agency products and data to the public domain.• Create a marine category in CalAtlas for open access to coastal and marine geospatial data. <p><i>Recommend effective standards for management and sharing of geospatial information.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adopt federal (FGDC) metadata standards and implement within each agency.• Adopt a common projection for base data layers.• Develop additional standards and criteria as needed for efficient data sharing.• Develop cooperative data-sharing agreements between agencies. <p><i>Provide recommendations and draft policies for state investment in geospatial information infrastructure and planning.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluate and recommend state geospatial policies to remove institutional barriers and improve data-sharing to state CIO.• Assess and compare relevant marine spatial planning frameworks with data management components in other jurisdictions (e.g. Massachusetts Ocean Plan, COWRIE data management framework for UK) and other policy frameworks for geospatial data management and sharing (e.g. National Spatial Data Infrastructure, EU INSPIRE program). <p><i>Identify and seek federal and/or private partnerships.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participate in and develop partnerships with data-sharing institutions, including: FGDC, NSDI, Google, 50 States Initiative, Academic or non-profit developers such as ICAN (OSU), MarineMap (UCSB), Center for Ocean Solutions (Stanford).• Participate in regional and federal data-sharing infrastructure development programs (Multipurpose Marine Cadastre, NSDI) and working groups (WCGA, Coastal Atlases, FGDC). <p><i>Identify and seek funding sources to support efforts of the Working Group, including development and</i></p>
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	<i>maintenance of appropriate GIS data layers, a portal for sharing data, and/or decision-support tools.</i>
Project Monitoring	The Working Group will assess inputs and products semi-annually to ensure goals are being met and resources are being used effectively.
Strengths	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Interagency coordination. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interagency coordination will allow us to coordinate statewide initiatives to improve communication and create efficiencies by reducing redundancies across agencies. 2. Sharing of data/workflows/products between relevant agencies/users. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing common datasets and sharing knowledge of processes and tools among relevant users will allow agencies to be more prepared for facing future issues and carrying out planning tasks. 3. One voice (contribution to CGIA, concerted support for the State). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a unified voice for coastal management GIS needs in the state will facilitate the interaction and solicitation of support from federal and regional councils.
Weaknesses	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Different GIS capabilities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GIS Tools: Agencies vary in the usage and availability of GIS tools in support of their management objectives. • Personnel: Agencies vary in their in-house GIS expertise and staff resources. • Training: Agencies vary in their policies and resources available for providing technical staff training. 2. Technology/infrastructure development and configuration. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate technologies must be either acquired or developed to meet the ultimate

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	<p>goals of the group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The state lacks a sound infrastructure for agency data sharing. Architecture must be developed and configured to allow secure storage and efficient transmittal of data within and between agencies. <p>3. Ongoing support and funding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Software: Support for software, upgrades and maintenance may be difficult to acquire under current financial conditions. • Training: Training will be needed to bring the members and their respective agencies to a level of knowledge that will support the goals and strategies of the group.
<p>Opportunities</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bring together GIS resources and knowledge to support more comprehensive coastal management and planning in California. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build a common framework that will allow the group to share useful products for the support of coastal management and planning. • Leverage existing GIS resources available to agencies and working group partners to save on costs and improve efficiency. 2. Develop initiatives that will establish precedents for others at the local, state and regional scale. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to develop a standard data-sharing process that will set a precedent for other local/state/regional initiatives. 3. Engage wider audience to bring attention and resources to support data management efforts for coastal and marine spatial planning in California (i.e. WCGA, BOEMRE, NMFS, California Ocean Science Trust, CENCOOS, SCOOS, etc.). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once established, the group will be able to integrate other federal and regional coastal management partners to tap their resources and collaborate on a larger scale. 4. Proliferate GIS usage in coastal management

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	<p>agencies and activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish GIS as a helpful tool that can be used for support of coastal management decision-making. • The investigation and recommendation of open-source tools for geospatial data management may help the state reduce costs.
<p>Threats</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lack of resources. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient funding and staff time will be key limitations to meeting the objectives of the group. 2. Limitations of marine data. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to its submerged environment, marine data is inherently more difficult to gather, and is therefore more expensive and less plentiful than terrestrial data. Research gaps will be harder to fill for coastal and marine information needs. 3. Attrition. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Losing key members, and thus institutional knowledge, of the group will slow its progress in achieving its objectives. 4. Ineffective data-sharing agreements. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data-sharing MOUs that lack buy-in or legal credibility will cripple the group's ability to share data throughout the state. 5. Lack of executive support within agencies and partners (Local, state, federal agencies, academic institutions, etc.). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absence of support from executive management at agencies and partners will limit the group's effectiveness.
<p>Contact</p>	<p>Pam Rittelmeyer, CA Ocean Protection Council prittelmeyer@opc.ca.gov</p> <p>Christina Cairns, NOAA Coastal Services Center christina.cairns@noaa.gov</p>

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Council Authorization	Presented to the California GIS Council on October 6, 2010.