West Coast Ocean Alliance

Regional Partnerships for Better Ocean Planning

Northwest Offshore Wind Conference

January 31, 2024

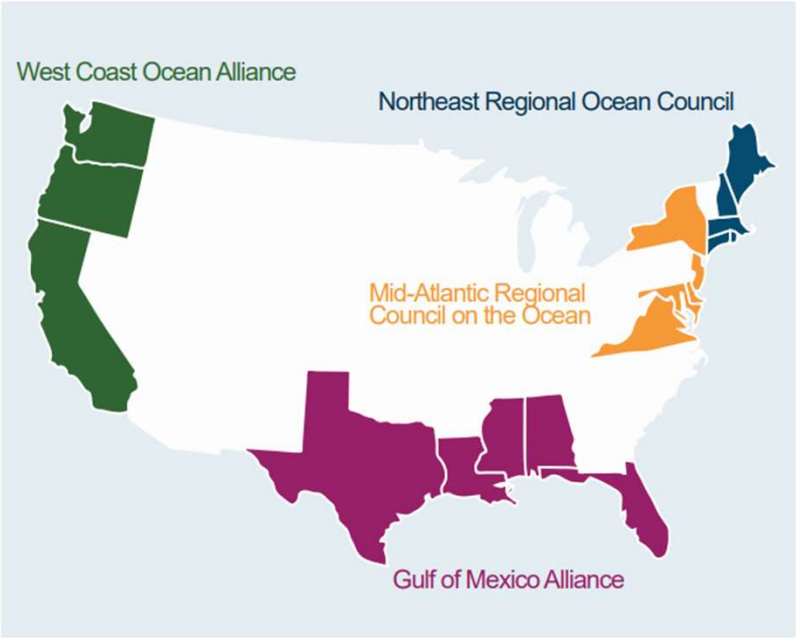
West Coast
OCEAN ALLIANCE

ROPs focus on **issues that are priorities for their region** (ROPs ensure activities are centered around the unique needs of their regional members regardless of national priorities).

They **are inclusive and provide a voice for a wide variety of government partners and stakeholders**, including state, federal and tribal governments, academia, non-governmental organizations, and business and industry.

ROPs provide **intentional and inclusive coordination and collaboration** (sustained collaboration among regional stakeholders does not happen without active facilitation).

They have the ability to **leverage public and private funding** to accomplish multi- agency common objectives for the priorities of that region.



West Coast Regional History

2006

Governors of California, Oregon, and Washington announce the West Coast Governors Agreement on Ocean Health.

2010

Executive Order 13547 establishes first U.S. National Ocean Policy and engages regions choosing to form Regional Planning Bodies (RPB) with federal support.

2014

The White House engages with West Coast Tribal governments about forming a West Coast RPB. NOAA coordinates federal agencies and outreach to state government partners.

2016

West Coast RPB is formally created with Tribal, State, and Federal partners.

2018

Executive Order 13840 replaces RPBs with voluntary Regional Ocean Partnerships (ROPs). Tribal, State, and Federal partners participating in ongoing coordination efforts launch a Regional Ocean Partnership via the new West Coast Ocean Alliance.

2022

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law dedicates funding for ROP activities.National Defense Authorization Act authorizes for ROPs as a federal program within NOAA.

WCOA GOALS

Over the course of **2018-2019** WCOA members developed a regional vision and 4 associated goals to help reach that vision. These goals help guide WCOA's actions and can help define our public presence and communications approach.

01.

Compatible and sustainable ocean uses

02.

Effective and transparent decision-making

03.

Comprehensive ocean and coastal data

04.

Increased understanding of and respect for Tribal rights, traditional knowledge, resources, and practices

WCOA Membership

States

California

- California Ocean Protection Council (Lead Agency)
- California State Lands Commission (Lead Agency)

Oregon

- Department of Land Conservation & Development (Lead Agency)
- Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (Lead Agency)

Washington

- Governor's Office
- Department of Natural Resources (Lead Agency)
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Ecology (Lead Agency)
- Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Department of Commerce

Tribal Governments

- Blue Lake Rancheria
- Coastal Band of Chumash Nation
- Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians
- Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
- Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
- Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation
- Coquille Tribe
- Elk Valley Rancheria
- Hoh Tribe
- Kashia Band of Pomo Indians
- Makah Tribe
- Ohlone Costanoan-Esselen Nation
- Quileute Tribe
- Quinault Indian Nation
- Resighini Rancheria
- Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation
- Trinidad Rancheria
- Shoalwater Bay
- Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians of the Santa Ynez Reservation
- Yurok Tribe

Federal Agencies

- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Lead)
- Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (Lead)
- U.S. Coast Guard (District 11, District 13)
- U.S. Department of Defense
- U.S. Department of Energy
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement
- National Park Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Geological Survey
- U.S. Department of Transportation
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Region 9, Region 10)
- U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff

Revisiting Regional Priorities: 2024

- Holistic and Long-term Regional Ocean and Coastal Planning
- Inclusive, Strategic, and Collaborative Dialogue
- Equitable, Effective, and Transparent Decision-Making
- Comprehensive and Accessible Ocean and Coastal Data and Information
- Increased Understanding of and Respect for Tribal Rights, Traditional Knowledge, Resources and Practices

2023 WCOA Projects

www.westcoastoceanalliance.org/projects

- 5-year Strategic Plan
- WCOA Staff & Capacity
- Tribal Capacity & Support
- West Coast Fellowship Program
- Regional Ocean Summits
- West Coast Aquaculture Inventory
- Tribal Engagement Training Program
- Enhanced Regional Communications
- West Coast Ocean Health Dashboard
- West Coast Ocean Data Portal Upgrades

Priority Topics: Tribal Engagement

WCOA Tribal Caucus

- 20+ West Coast Tribal governments (federally-recognized and unrecognized)
- Full-time Tribal Engagement Manager
- Monthly Tribal Caucus Calls
- Annual Tribal Summit
- Unique forum for:
    - Tribe-to-Tribe dialog
    - Engagement with Federal & State Co-managers
    - Regular outreach and updates on region-wide planning issues

Priority Topics: Offshore Wind

- **Offshore Wind Working Group**
  - Regular monthly coordination on OSW planning, developments, opportunities for government-to-government engagement
- **2024 Offshore Wind Summit**
  - Annual convening of government representatives and stakeholders for regional OSW updates, sharing lessons learned, identify priorities
- **West Coast Regional Science Entity**
  - Ongoing engagement with government and NGO partners regarding development of West Coast OSW Science Entity
- **Regional Offshore Wind Strategic Planning**
  - Capture member input to identify how WCOA can support more effective OSW coordination and planning

West Coast Offshore Wind Science Entity

- **California Assembly Bill 80 (AB80)**
  - Would establish a non-profit West Coast Offshore Wind Science Entity within California Ocean Protection Council; funding TBD
  - Discussions ongoing between Legislature and CA state government
  - Outreach ongoing: Tribal governments, regional stakeholders, other governments
- **Ongoing…**
  - How can CA-led entity be regionally applicable?
  - How can sovereign Tribal governments help lead regional OSW science efforts?
  - How can East Coast models (RWSC) and lessons be exported to West Coast?
  - How to build on existing data, science and planning portals?

WCOA Member Regional Feedback

- **Support the creation of a science entity** co-led by Tribal Nations and federal governments in partnership with state governments.
- **Support effective coordination of gathering data** on existing regional ocean health indicators in the West Coast Ocean Health Dashboard, hosted by the West Coast Ocean Data Portal.
- Advocate for an **offshore wind energy cumulative impacts assessment and adaptive management approach.**
- Support Tribal, federal, and state **marine spatial planning efforts** and **decision-support tools.**
- Support Tribes in their efforts to ensure that **offshore wind energy does not diminish the rights held by Tribal Nations**.
- **Support capacity-building for and engagement with Tribes** related to ocean use compatibility.
- **Support a reimagination process of "consultation" moving toward mutual decision-making** among Tribal, federal, and state governments that is respectful, effective, and occurs within appropriate timeframes.
- **Support Tribal governments in coordination on data sovereignty and equitable access to data.**
- **Gather, curate, and disseminate relevant information** related to ocean health, planning, policy, and management to ensure a common understanding of the regional issues and recommendations by member governments.

Learn more: https://www.westcoastoceanalliance.org/summits-2023

Thank you!

www.westcoastoceanalliance.org

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