



Work Plan Priorities 2009-2010

*revised August 25, 2009

Goal of work plan revision

Identify successes and areas for the State Ocean Caucus to focus on over the coming year with the goal of revising work plan and projects for coming year.

Focus areas for 2009-2010

Most activities involve multiple agencies; the lead agency is generally noted in parentheses. Otherwise, the State Ocean Caucus is jointly working on the activity. The corresponding recommendation or recommendations from *Washington's Ocean Action Plan* are signified by italics. Please note, the work plan activities are not listed in priority order.

Ocean Energy

- Coordinate regional activities under West Coast Governors' Agreement
 - Combine and improve data and information on renewable energy technologies.
 - Develop understanding of regional siting criteria and a standard way to monitor pilot projects.
 - Conduct outreach and education on regulatory process.
- Assess feasibility of comprehensive planning for renewable ocean energy, examine marine spatial planning efforts by other states. Understand and seek the basic data would that would support planning by assessing marine resources and other uses.
 - Produce guidance on Ocean Resources Management Act (Ecology).
 - Outline key data needs and gaps by understanding information needs and examining existing databases and tools.
 - Generate options for mechanism and process for planning.
 - Determine funding needed, identify potential sources, and seek funds to address issues above. Potential funding sources include: 1) federal funds for pilots with existing budgets or grants NOAA, Dept. of Energy, Minerals Management Service; 2) foundation or grant sources; 3) West Coast Governors' Agreement; and 4) federal funds through reauthorized CZMA.
- Comment on Department of Interior's Outer Continental Shelf energy plan, including their "5-year program" for oil and gas (Ecology/Gov).

Education

- Catalogue existing efforts, clarify roles, assess education needs, link resources and activities, and identify opportunities and funding for advancing ocean education, including: *Recommendations 4-5, 4-6 and 4-7.*
 - Pacific Education Institute outer coast programs such as culminating projects, tribal partnership regarding "shadow of the salmon," and marine curriculum.
 - Interpretive centers and programs by local, state, federal, and tribal groups such as State Parks, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, and Ocean Shores Interpretive Center.
 - Education, Environment, and Economy (E3) regional process
 - Activities under the West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health

Marine Debris

- Assess current clean-up efforts and needs. Identify and scope potential projects such as need for large containers during coastal clean-up events. Examine funding opportunities such as stimulus bill, continuing federal and state grant programs, and other sources. Seek funding as appropriate.
- Examine efforts for clean-up and prevention, as well as education opportunities such as through state litter program and MARPOL.
- Develop and pursue options for establishing statewide derelict gear program depending on resource availability (DNR). *Recommendations 3-1 and 3-4.*
- Continue participation with the Washington Clean Coast Alliance on marine debris education and outreach program and beach cleanups at state parks (State Parks).
- Participate in regional activities under West Coast Governors' Agreement and BC-WA Coastal and Ocean Task Force.

Ocean Research

- Continue work on state strategy and refined inventory for seafloor mapping and participate in regional activities under West Coast Governors' Agreement. Assess state leadership proposal for state seafloor team.
- Identify other environmental and socio-economic information and research needed to assess ecosystem health and potentially support marine spatial planning. Pursue funding, as able, to fill data gaps.
- Track Doppler RADAR funding and development for outer coast and engage as needed to ensure completion. *Recommendation 4-3.*
- Expand other key ocean monitoring systems such as weather, and multi-sensor buoys by working with Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems (NANOOS), Congressional delegation, and others. *Recommendation 4-3.*

Climate Change

- Assessing coastal impacts and the necessary preparation and adaptation strategies by: advising efforts on climate change related to Governors executive order, partnering regionally through the West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health, and participating at national level through Coastal States Organization Climate Change Working Group (Ecology). *Recommendation 2-17.*

Coastal Hazards

- Convene another meeting of multi-agency hazards group to analyze status and next steps for coastal hazards, including DOT (EMD/Ecology). *Recommendations 2-1, 2-2, 2-3.*
- Examine opportunities for expanding hazards education, research and policy.

Sediment Management

- Evaluate status of science on physical (wave amplification) and biological issues related to sediment management with technical workshops. *Recommendations 2-9 and 2-11.*
- Continue to advance project to use sediment beneficially and advance understanding of sediment processes in Washington's nearshore with local, state, and federal partners. Aim

to conduct a large beneficial use and regional sediment management project at Benson Beach as soon as possible. *Recommendations 2-9, 2-10 and 2-11.*

- Participating in and representing state's interests in sediment issues in the Lower Columbia Solutions Group. Working to advance regional sediment management planning for the lower Columbia River (Ecology & Gov). *Recommendations 2-9, 2-10, 2-11, 2-12.*

Sustainable Communities

- Developing regional activities to improve sustainability of working waterfronts under the West Coast Governors' Agreement, including identifying pilot areas to direct infrastructure funding and other resources. *Recommendation 5-1.*
- Examine ways to advance Ocean Action Plan recommendations with broader input from other experts. For example, convene meeting to brainstorm ideas, opportunities, and partnerships (Commerce).
- Examine use of innovation zones and other tools to increase sustainability of coastal communities, including environmental, social and economic sustainability. *Recommendations 5-1, 5-2, 5-4.*

Offshore Aquaculture

- Organize briefing from NOAA's regional aquaculture staff.
- Monitor activity at federal level regarding offshore aquaculture bill.

Ecosystem-Based Management and Marine Spatial Planning

- Analyze marine spatial planning as tool for outer coast, including potential issues and regulatory framework. Participate in workshops and seek input from Ocean Policy Advisory Group. Develop core principles, information needs, and funding requirements. Convey policy recommendations as appropriate. *Recommendations 1-6 and 1-7*
- See also related activities under ocean energy and ocean research.

Partnerships

- Collaborate with outer coast Marine Resources Committees on ocean resource activities as they are established. *Recommendation 6-1.*
- Continue participating in ocean partnerships to advance recommendations and shared interests in ocean and coastal resources, including:
 - Olympic Coast Intergovernmental Policy Council
 - West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health
 - British Columbia-Washington Coastal and Ocean Task Force
 - Pacific Coast Collaborative

Other Topics

- Examine opportunities for additional work on human health related to ocean resources.
- Pursue updates from other related groups on their activities including invasive species, ballast water, and oil spills.