

# Washington's Coastal and Ocean Initiative

## *Mission*

To manage Washington's ocean resources in a manner that serves to protect and improve the health and sustainability of coastal and ocean ecosystems while maintaining cultural and social well-being and ensuring the economic viability of coastal communities and the state.

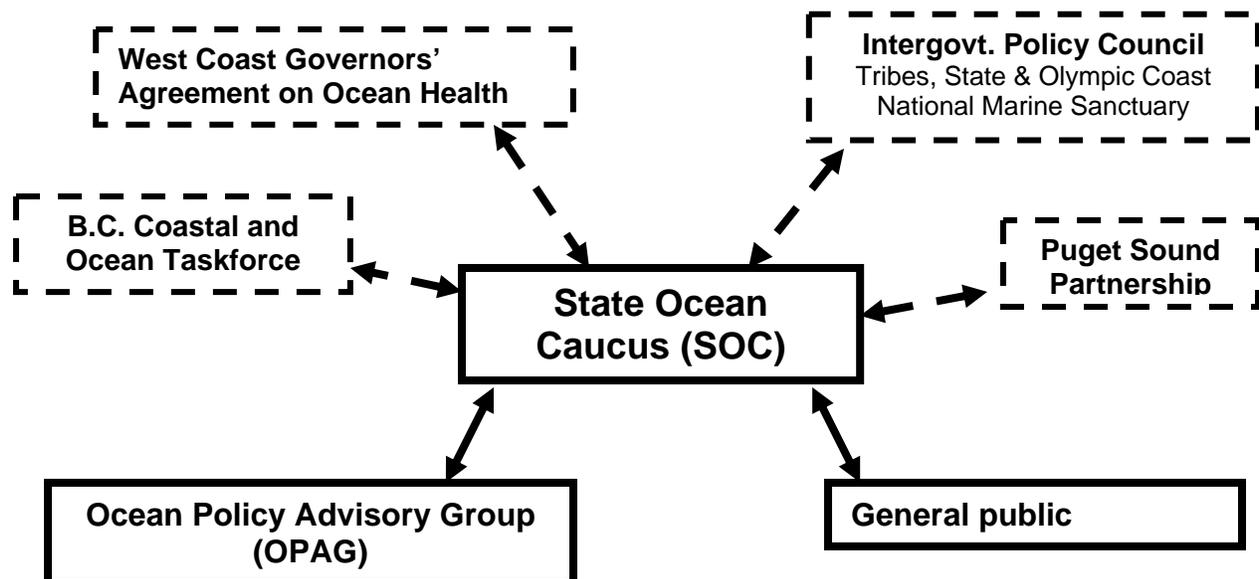
The state supports gathering and improving scientific, ecosystem, local and traditional knowledge to guide ocean resource management decisions. The state coordinates policy by organizing across state agencies, and consulting and collaborating with a broad array of governments and stakeholders including local, state, federal, international and tribal governments, and non-governmental, business, and industry sectors.

## *Goals*

1. **Manage the state's ocean and coastal areas to protect valuable marine resources and maintain ecosystem health while ensuring the vitality of coastal communities**, to include: effective, sustainable fisheries management; development of a state marine aquaculture policy; use of ecosystem-based management; and investigation of developing renewable ocean energy technologies.
2. **Protect the coastal environment and its communities from the threats of marine hazards**, such as storm surge and tsunamis, the effects of global climate change, and increased erosion, through improved research and management and increased planning efforts. Through state work, ensure continued coordination to **prevent and manage pollution and marine debris**.
3. **Enhance the sustainability and resiliency of outer coast communities** through appropriate economic development practices that honor the historical practices of the past, maintain present successes, and plan for future uses to maximize benefits to the state's residents.
4. **Increase state attention on ocean-related scientific research and observation practices** that satisfy coastal management needs while furthering integrated and coordinated scientific knowledge of the state's marine environment.
5. **Inform all state citizens of the vital importance of the state's ocean resources** by collaborating on ocean literacy programs in state K-12 education and expanding public outreach on ocean issues.
6. **Coordinate state policy and consult and collaborate with tribes, local government, ports and interested citizens through the state ocean caucus**.

## *Purpose of the State Ocean Caucus*

- Create strategy and work plan to implement Washington’s Ocean Action Plan.
- Coordinate ocean activities among state agencies.
- Foster collaboration and consultation with tribes, local and regional governments, federal agencies, academia, stakeholders and general public.
- Provide Intergovernmental collaboration with tribes, local organizations and communities, and other planning efforts such as the Puget Sound Partnership, NW Straits Commission, and Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary’s Intergovernmental Policy Council.
- Promote and enhance relationship between state-federal governments. Includes coordinating state response to federal actions and policies.
- Collaborate with the West Coast governments on ocean policy issues.
- Review laws and funding related to coastal and ocean activities.



Dashed arrows represent pathways for information sharing, outreach, input and collaboration with related efforts. This is achieved from representation through Governor’s office and staff support through the State Ocean Caucus.



Solid arrows represent pathways for information sharing, collaboration, outreach, and input to guide ocean policy work in Washington. This is achieved in two main ways:

- 1) Ocean Policy Advisory Group (OPAG): An informal stakeholder advisory group that meets 2 to 4 times per year. A standing email advisory list will also provide input between meetings.

2) General public:

- An established listserv will gather comments on larger policy issues.
- Open meetings on the outer coast will allow general public comments as well as specific input on issues.