

# How seafloor mapping aligns with other regional and state initiatives.

Jennifer Hennessey  
Washington State  
Department of Ecology

# Outline

- Workshop purpose
- State and regional priorities for mapping
  - West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health
  - State Ocean Caucus
  - Puget Sound Partnership
- Summary

# Workshop Purpose

1. Highlight advanced technologies for imaging the seafloor and resulting products.
2. Foster discussion on the status of mapping and planned mapping efforts in Washington and other areas along the West Coast.
3. Determine data gaps and priorities for future mapping efforts.
4. Develop partnerships and next steps to advance mapping in Washington.



# WEST COAST GOVERNORS' AGREEMENT on OCEAN HEALTH

CALIFORNIA OREGON WASHINGTON

## Goal

Map the seafloor bathymetry and habitat of all state tidelands out to three miles by 2020.

## Draft Action 6.2

Complete a seafloor map of the bathymetry and habitat of all state tidelands and submerged lands out to three miles.

Final action plan due out in February or March 2008.

<http://westcoastoceans.gov>



# WEST COAST GOVERNORS' AGREEMENT on OCEAN HEALTH

CALIFORNIA OREGON WASHINGTON

Seafloor mapping supports other priorities for regional ocean health:

- Characterizing habitat and human uses to support habitat protection and restoration
- Developing ocean health indicators
- Understanding ecosystem status and managing as an ecosystem
- Responding to climate change impacts

# State Ocean Caucus

- A team of state agencies working to act on recommendations in **Washington's Ocean Action Plan** created by the Ocean Policy Work Group.

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/ocean/>

# Washington Ocean Action Plan Recommendations

- Collaborate on benthic habitat research efforts, including nearshore and shelf habitat characterization and mapping.

# Washington Ocean Action Plan Recommendations

- Assess coastal and ocean resources and trends to facilitate an ecosystem-based approach in management. Develop performance measures and key indicators to evaluate ecosystem health. (1-6)
- Advance baseline data and research on coastal hazards. (2-3)
- Establish better links among economy, ocean research, and education. (5-8)

# Puget Sound Partnership

- Mapping can aid Puget Sound recovery by:
  - Establishing environmental baselines
  - Understanding ecosystem processes
  - Modeling future scenarios: habitat restoration, sea level rise, sediment processes, circulation, and water quality

# Summary

## Seafloor Mapping:

- A priority of several state and regional initiatives.
- Assists resource managers in many ways.

This workshop will help us identify technologies and products, understand status of mapping efforts, and develop partnerships and next steps for advancing mapping.