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Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski

Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Forum
December 1, 2008
WEST COAST GOVERNORS’ AGREEMENT on OCEAN HEALTH

California  Oregon  Washington

Theodore R. Kulongoski
Governor of Oregon

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor of California

Christine O. Gregoire
Governor of Washington
Seven Priority Areas

1. Ensuring **clean coastal waters** and beaches
2. Protecting and restoring **healthy ocean and coastal habitats**
3. Promoting the effective implementation of **ecosystem-based management** of our ocean and coastal resources
4. Reducing adverse impacts of **offshore development**
5. Increasing **ocean awareness** and literacy among our citizens
6. Expanding ocean and coastal scientific **information, research, and monitoring**
7. Fostering sustainable **economic development** throughout our diverse coastal communities
WCGA Executive Committee

**State Co-leads**
- Kathleen Drew, Washington
- Jessica Hamilton, Oregon
- Brian Baird, California

**Federal Co-leads**
- Usha Varanasi, DOC/NOAA
- Alexis Strauss, EPA Region IX
- Fred Piltz, DOI/MMS

WCGA staff

- Jennifer Hennessey, WA
- Amy Boone, CA
- Valerie Termini, CA

- Ephraim Leon–Guerrero, EPA
- Becky Smyth, DOC/NOAA
- Becky Pollock, DOC/NOAA
- Tom Hom, DOC/NOAA
Draft Action Plan released in October 2007
Open for public comment until December 2007
Final Plan released July 2008
26 Actions…

- Create a National-level Commitment to the Ocean
- Mitigate and Adapt to Climate Change
- Ensure Clean Coastal Waters and Beaches
- Improve Coastal Air Quality
- Protect Coastal Habitats
- Implement Ecosystem-based Management
- Reduce Impacts of Offshore Energy Development
- Promote Citizen Ocean Awareness and Literacy
- Expand Ocean and Coastal Scientific Information, Research, and Monitoring
- Work for Sustainable Coastal Communities
Action Coordination Teams

1. Climate change
2. Polluted runoff
3. Marine debris
4. Spartina eradication
5. Integrated ecosystem assessments (IEAs)
6. Renewable ocean energy
7. Ocean education
8. Sustainable communities
9. Regional research*
10. Seafloor mapping*

Additional existing work groups include:
- Ballast Water
- Oil Spills
- Community-based EBM

* These groups formed around the WCGA as it was being developed.
West Coast Governors’ Ocean Action Team Meeting

- October 27-28, 2008 in Seattle

- Targeted, working meeting to kick-off the efforts of the Action Teams
  - Face-to-face breakout sessions on work plans and timelines

- Teams’ progress will be tracked by the Executive Committee
Reflecting on Our First Two Years

• Benefits and Obstacles

• Priorities for the West Coast

• Reasons for Organizational Approach

• Resources Needed

• Engaging Partners
Benefits
• Extremely close relationships developed
• Fast coordination at high-levels of power on important topics
• Increases pace of accomplishing individual state actions on similar issues

Obstacles
• Resistance from agencies pursuing status quo
• Is this just the next ‘trendy’ thing? What will happen with changes in gubernatorial power?
• How much progress can be accomplished with existing resources?
Reflecting on Our First Two Years

Priorities for the West Coast?
• Chose to not prioritize our 26 actions
• Some have bubbled to the top for (seafloor mapping, climate change, alternative energy)

Collaborative Efforts on Top Issues
• Allows for effective sharing of information and technology
• Decreases repetition and competition for resources
• Builds momentum for critical issues
Reflecting on Our First Two Years

Reasons for Organizational Approach

- Threes states are "easy"
  - Very strong state principals
  - We are interested in all topics and want to track progress of all ACTs

- Structure may need to be adjusted along the way
  - POCs are overburdened
  - How can the Executive Committee keep diverse ACTs on-message and on-track?
Resources Needed

Thanks go to NOAA and California for existing staff support!

- Additional support for ACT coordinators (POCs) and chairs
- Increased web capacity for each ACT (ex: share working documents)
- Method for Executive Committee to prioritize “asks” from ACTs
Engaging Partners

- Strong west coast federal agency participation
- ACTs are required to be diverse
  - Members of ACTs are “connectors”
  - Encourage public engagement as ACTs develop products and implement actions

However …

- “Top heavy”
- Reliant upon existing players (ex: government)
- Have not fully engaged congressional offices