

PRELIMINARY STAFF REVIEW OF THE WEST COAST GOVERNORS'
AGREEMENT DRAFT ACTION PLAN

The West Coast Governors' Agreement (WCGA) draft Action Plan was released to the public on October 19, 2007. **The comment deadline is December 1, 2007.** Actions are expected to be completed within 18 months of the plan's release in 2008. In 2008, there will be a state/federal Implementation Summit, and in 2010 a Final Status Report.

The text below summarizes the key actions of the draft plan and their relation to Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) jurisdiction and responsibilities in an effort to facilitate Council discussion on possible comments to be submitted.

Governors' Priority 1 - Ensure Clean Coastal Waters and Beaches: *Appeal for national funding to address nonpoint source pollution and for continued funding of the West Coast Estuary Initiative (an estuary-focused water quality improvement fund).*

Council Authority: The Council is charged with commenting on actions that may affect salmon and groundfish essential fish habitat (EFH).

Possible Council Comments:

Governors' Priority 2 - Protect and Restore Ocean and Coastal Habitats: *Identify key habitats or "important ecological areas", such as rocky seafloor areas, location, health, and potential threats. Map habitats and overlapping human uses and use patterns to contribute to a comprehensive ecosystem and habitat protection strategy.*

Council Authority: The Council describes and identifies EFH for each managed species, including designating Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPC) through the Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP).

Possible Council Comments:

Governors' Priority 3 - Promote the Effective Implementation of Ecosystem-based Management: *Sustainable fisheries depend on healthy ecosystems. Fishery management must no longer be based on single-species approach but focus on the ecosystem as a whole. Ecosystem-based fishery management is hindered by data needs and a mismatch of species range and management boundaries. The action plan will facilitate the exchange of lessons learned, cultivate regional agency coordination, establish standards and indicators for ocean health, and strengthen coordination among the three state representatives on the Council.*

Council Authority: The Reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (RMSA) calls for the expansion of the application of ecosystem principals in fishery conservation and management activities.

Possible Council Comments:

Governors' Priority 4 - Reduce Adverse Impacts of Offshore Development: *Explore the feasibility and impact of alternative, environmentally-sustainable energy development. Hold a workshop in 2008 on offshore energy.*

Council Authority: The Council is charged with commenting on actions that may impact EFH or fishery management objectives of any of the Council fishery management plans.

Possible Council Comments:

Governors' Priority 6 - Expand Ocean and Coastal Scientific Information, Research and Monitoring: *Develop a plan for directing regional marine research, which may include cooperative research between fishermen and scientists.*

Council Authority: The Reauthorized RMSA requires the Council to specify research priorities for a 5-year period, updated as necessary.

Possible Council Comments:

Governors' Priority 7 - Foster Sustainable Economic Development in Coastal Communities: *Collaborate with NOAA and use data from the National Ocean Economies Program to complete a socio-economic baseline for coastal communities and identify future ocean economic trends. Share lessons learned on revitalizing working waterfronts and promoting sustainable fisheries. Promote opportunities for sustainable fishery certification (such as MSC cert.).*

Council Authority: MSA National Standard 8 requires that management measures shall provide for sustained participation of fishing communities.

Possible Council Comments:

PFMC
11/06/07