

SUMMARY OF WEST COAST REGIONAL PLANNING BODY 2016 ANNUAL MEETING

The West Coast Regional Planning Body (RPB) was established as part of the National Ocean Council's emphasis on marine planning, which is a comprehensive, science-based planning process for addressing current and future challenges in ocean and coastal areas. The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) is a voting member of the RPB, and the Council approved signing on to the RPB's charter in April 2016. Caren Braby (ODFW) attended the RPB on behalf of the Council.

The first annual meeting of the RPB occurred on October 26-27, 2016, in Portland, Oregon. The purpose was to recap RPB activities from 2013 to present, provide an update from a National Ocean Council representative, review and discuss a draft work plan, consider and discuss sub-regional approaches, and discuss future structural and functional issues. An agenda and meeting materials are appended below. Some highlights of the meeting include:

West Coast Ocean Data Portal

The West Coast Data Portal is a project of the West Coast Ocean Partnership (previously organized under the name the West Coast Governor's Alliance on Ocean Health), and draws from multiple sources of spatial data to present important information relevant to researchers, stakeholders, and decisions makers. The Portal could be an essential part of the RPB planning and decision-making process, however, the Portal does not have a long-term, stable source of support and funding. There was discussion on how to achieve stable funding through joint efforts.

Draft Work Plan Framework

The draft work plan describes a framework for potential ways to coordinate among stakeholders, tribes, and Federal/state agencies. It includes a focus on sub-regional planning to identify and bring forward issues to the full RPB.

Sub-Regional Work Plans

The Washington Pacific Coast sub-regional Work Plan Outline was presented and discussed at the meeting. That plan contains a structure for addressing ocean and coastal issues and bringing them forward to the full RPB for consideration as appropriate. As planning products are developed, they will be forwarded to the RPB and to the U.S. National Ocean Council for approval. As yet, no other sub-regions have been defined, however, there was discussion about inter-jurisdictional areas (e.g. Columbia River area) being unsuited to planning along state lines.

Draft Communications and Engagement Plan

A draft communications and engagement plan was discussed at the RPB meeting, and sent to attendees on October 28, 2016, with the intent of finalizing the plan by the end of the calendar year. Comments are due on November 23.

Federal Transition

The RPB discussed the pending transition in Presidential administration, and what that could mean for the NOC and the RPB, as the U.S. ticks toward a new year and Administration.

The Council is currently scheduled to hear an update on Marine Planning at its April 2017 meeting in Sacramento, California. Relevant meeting materials are appended in the following pages.

West Coast
Regional
Planning Body

2016 ANNUAL MEETING

October 26 & October 27 // Portland, Oregon

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MEETING
MATERIALS

West Coast Regional Planning Body
2016 Annual Meeting

AGENDA

October 26-27, 2016

The Leftbank Annex
101 N Weidler St
Portland, Oregon

Day 1- Wednesday October 26

	<i>TOPIC</i>	<i>Presenter(s)</i>	<i>Agenda Item #</i>
9:00am	Meeting Opening & Welcome • Tribal Blessing • RPB Member Welcome • Agenda & Logistics Review		(1)
9:30am	RPB Activities 2013-2016: Review • Recap of RPB Activities 2013 - Present	RPB Staff	(2)
9:45am	National Ocean Council Update	Deerin Babb-Brott, NOC Director	(3)
10:00am	RPB Draft Work Plan • RPB Core Functions: Draft Review • RPB Member Q&A	RPB Staff & RPB Members	(4)
10:30am	<i>BREAK</i>		
10:45am	PUBLIC COMMENT		
11:15am	RPB Draft Work Plan (Cont.) • RPB Member Open Discussion	RPB Staff & RPB Members	(4)

For more information & meeting materials: www.westcoastmarineplanning.org/16meeting

11:45am

LUNCH BREAK

- RPB Members: Optional Caucusing
- All attendees: Lunch on own (Map of nearby eateries will be provided)

12:40pm

Optional Viewing: East Coast Ocean Planning Film

- Film presentation by Green Fire Productions

1:00pm

West Coast Ocean Data Portal Update

- WCODP - RPB 2016 Tasks
- WCODP Needs & Next Steps
- Open Discussion

Andy Lanier, OR DLCD / WCODP (5)

Steve Steinberg, SCCWRP / WCODP

Allison Bailey, SoundGIS

2:00pm

West Coast Ocean Assessment Update

- Ocean Assessment Inventory Status
- Ocean Assessment Next Steps
- Link to West Coast Ocean Data Portal

Lucie Hazen, Stanford Center for (6)
Ocean Solutions

2:30pm

BREAK

2:45pm

RPB Communications & Engagement (C&E) Plan

- RPB C&E: Draft Plan Update
- RPB C&E: RPB Member Discussion

Eric Poncelet & Annie Kilburg (7)

Kearns & West

3:45pm

PUBLIC COMMENT

4:15pm (Approx.)

ADJOURN DAY 1

Day 2 - Thursday October 27

TOPIC

Presenter(s)

Agenda Item #

8:00am

OPTIONAL: RPB Member Caucusing

9:00am	Welcome & Meeting Opening • Agenda Review • RPB Member Comments	RPB Members	(8)
9:15am	RPB Sub-regional Approaches • Sub-regional Framework Review • Washington Pacific Coast Update • Other Sub-regional Updates & Discussion	RPB Staff & RPB Members	(9)
10:15am	PUBLIC COMMENT		
10:30am	BREAK		
10:45am	RPB Looking Ahead: 2017-18 • Regional Context: RPB & West Coast Ocean Partnership • Federal Transition • Open Discussion	RPB Staff & RPB Members	(10)
11:30am	Meeting Review • Revisit RPB Work Plan & Core Functions • Key Post-Meeting Tasks • Public Comment Summary	RPB Staff & RPB Members	(11)
12:15pm	LUNCH BREAK • All attendees: Lunch on own		
1:15pm	Optional Working Sessions • Optional working sessions for RPB members and meeting attendees to meet and discuss any key topics and tasks from meeting. • Sessions will be self-selecting, with topics and logistics decided on site. • All attendees are welcome to attend and participate in working sessions.		
4:00pm (Approx.)	ADJOURN DAY 2		

West Coast Regional Planning Body
Participating Member Entities
(Current as of 10/18/16)

Federal Government

- U.S. Coast Guard (District 11, District 13)
- U.S. Department of Defense (Navy)
- U.S. Dept. of Energy
- U.S. Dept. of Interior (including BIA, BLM, BOEM (DOI lead), BSEE, NPS (DOI alternate), USFWS, USGS)
- U.S. Dept. of Transportation
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Region 9, Region 10)
- U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff (U.S. Third Fleet)
- NOAA (*RPB Federal Co-Lead*)

State Governments

- State of California:
 - CA Resources Agency – Ocean Protection Council
 - CA State Lands Commission* (Pending formal approval Dec 2016)
- State of Oregon:
 - OR Dept. of Land Conservation & Development (*RPB State Co-Lead*)
 - OR Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
- State of Washington:
 - WA Dept. of Ecology
 - WA Dept. of Natural Resources

Tribal Governments

- Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians*

- Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
- Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
- Elk Valley Rancheria
- Intertribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council*
- Makah Tribe
- Quileute Tribe
- Quinault Tribe
- Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation
- Trinidad Rancheria
- Yurok Tribe

U.S. Regional Fishery Management Council

Pacific Fishery Management Council

[* denotes entities that have not yet signed the RPB Charter]

West Coast Regional Planning Body

WORK PLAN FRAMEWORK

Introduction

The following document defines an initial framework for the work of the West Coast Regional Planning Body (RPB) throughout the West Coast region of the U.S. This framework focuses on core functions to be carried out at the regional scale with participation from full RPB membership in order to achieve goals proposed in the RPB's charter. These regional activities will be linked to planning activities being carried out at the sub-regional scale along the West Coast, with regular dialog and engagement with West Coast stakeholders and other partners.

West Coast RPB: Goals¹

Marine planning is a natural and social science-based tool that coastal regions can use to address specific ocean management challenges and advance economic development, conservation and other objectives. Marine planning will support regional and sub-regional actions and decision making, as well as address relevant management priorities based on the needs, interests, and capacity of the region or sub-regions. Marine planning is intended to provide more coordinated and responsive federal engagement with state and tribal government partners, and the opportunity for all coastal and ocean interests in the region and sub-regions to share information and coordinate activities.

The goals listed here are taken from the RPB charter and proposed as foundational elements of the RPB's work, and are consistent with those developed by the U.S. National Ocean Council. The goals will be discussed and refined over time as the RPB undertakes strategic planning and initiates its regional and sub-regional activities for the West Coast:

- Support sustainable, safe, secure, efficient, productive and respectful uses of the ocean and our coasts, including those that contribute to the economy, commerce, culture, recreation, conservation, homeland and national security, human health, safety, and welfare;
- Protect, maintain, and restore regional ocean and coastal resources and ensure resilient ecosystems and their ability to provide sustained delivery of ecosystem services;
- Protect and enhance cultural resources throughout the West Coast Region, and use this partnership to enhance awareness and dialog around important cultural aspects of marine resources in the region;
- Provide for and maintain public access to the ocean and coasts;
- Promote compatibility among uses and reduce user conflicts and environmental impacts;

¹ Taken from West Coast RPB Charter (Feb 2016); available at: www.westcoastmarineplanning.org/rpb-charter

- Improve the rigor, coherence, efficiency, and consistency of decision making and regulatory processes through efforts of member governments;
 - Increase certainty and predictability in planning for and implementing new investments for ocean and coastal uses; and
 - Enhance interagency, intergovernmental, and international communication and collaboration.
-

RPB: Core Functions

To achieve the goals above, the list below defines the core functions of the West Coast RPB as it develops its regional approach for the Pacific Coast of the United States. The membership of the RPB will work region-wide to carry out the functions below with future efforts focused on refining associated goals, objectives and tasks for the RPB based on West Coast-specific needs.

1) Regional Coordination & Communication

The RPB will support **REGION-WIDE COORDINATION AND COMMUNICATION** regarding high-priority West Coast topics related to ocean planning, implementation of the U.S. National Ocean Policy (NOP) and other appropriate issues as determined by its membership and regional stakeholders. Coordination and communication will focus on the following two mechanisms:

- **RPB Members:** The RPB will ensure active and efficient communication and coordination between federally-recognized tribes, the three West Coast states, federal agencies and the Pacific Fishery Management Council regarding ocean planning, the NOP and priority West Coast issues.
- **West Coast Stakeholders:** The RPB members and staff will support outreach and engagement with West Coast stakeholders throughout the region to share updates on the work of the RPB while creating effective dialogs to gain input on priority issues and identify the most beneficial outcomes of RPB activities. The scale of outreach and engagement will depend on resources available, nonetheless this is an essential function of the RPB.

2) Engage & Strengthen Sub-regional Ocean Planning

Due to the scale and wide range of governmental partners on the West Coast, the RPB intends to utilize sub-regional approaches as the means to achieve the most effective outcomes for ocean planning. The RPB's primary role will be to **ENGAGE AND STRENGTHEN EXISTING OR NEW SUB-REGIONAL OCEAN PLANNING** based on guidance from RPB members active in those sub-regions. This support could include enhanced engagement of government partners, data sharing, project notification, or other appropriate tasks.

To achieve this, existing ocean planning already occurring through state and tribal governments will be given highest priority by the RPB, if those governments choose to engage.² Dialog will focus on how

² For any state or tribal governments that chooses not to engage with the RPB regarding their existing ocean planning, the work of the RPB will in no way interfere with those planning efforts nor attempt to have any oversight or interference with the process, goals or outcomes of those respective planning activities.

the RPB apparatus can be leveraged to enhance existing or in-process ocean plans, without disrupting or shifting the focus of planning goals already established through state and/or tribal programs.

Where sub-regional ocean planning is not already underway, the most appropriate role of the RPB will be decided by RPB members based in those areas, with engagement from sub-regional stakeholders. If a new sub-regional ocean planning initiative is identified as a need by RPB members, the RPB will determine a proposed approach, timeline and tasks to support sub-regional ocean planning and associated planning product(s). The RPB will also determine funding and capacity needs to undertake new ocean planning and support a dialog on how to accomplish them.

3) Harmonize West Coast Ocean Planning Products

As ocean planning products are engaged and/or supported by the RPB, the RPB will work to **HARMONIZE PRODUCTS REGION-WIDE TO ENSURE ALIGNMENT OF PLANNING OUTCOMES AND ACHIEVE A COHESIVE OCEAN PLAN FOR THE WEST COAST**. This ‘harmonization’ will be carried out primarily in the two following ways:

- **Alignment of Sub-regional Plans:** As sub-regional planning products are engaged and/or supported directly by the RPB, the RPB will leverage its region-wide perspective to ensure that sub-regional outcomes are effectively aligned for adjacent sub-regions and for the region as a whole.
- **Identify and Plan for Region-Wide Issues:** The RPB may identify issues appropriate for region-wide ocean planning in lieu of or in addition to a sub-regional approach. For these issues, the RPB will gather input from its full membership along with region-wide stakeholders in order to achieve an appropriate planning approach and/or planning product covering the full West Coast.

Per the National Ocean Policy, all planning products at sub-regional and/or regional scales that are approved by the full RPB will be sent to the National Ocean Council for approval. Once approved, federal agencies will be charged with implementing planning products to the maximum extent practicable. State and tribal government RPB members are not required to formally implement any ocean planning products approved by the RPB, but the goal of RPB efforts is to maximize cooperation and coordination of planning approaches that may be carried out through existing authorities of tribal, state and federal governments.

4) Support Effective West Coast Partnerships, Tools and Resources

The RPB will work to **COORDINATE EFFICIENTLY WITH OTHER WEST COAST REGIONAL ENTITIES, WHILE IDENTIFYING NECESSARY TOOLS AND RESOURCES TO SUPPORT THE RPB’S OWN ACTIVITIES**. There are many regionally-focused ocean and coastal governmental and quasi-governmental bodies active on the West Coast, and the RPB will work to establish and define relationships that provide the most benefit to regional ocean users and managers. The primary mechanisms to achieve this may include:

- **Coordination with other West Coast Regional Entities:** The RPB will coordinate its growing efforts with other regional entities actively address ocean and coastal issues on the West Coast, including the Pacific Fishery Management Council, Pacific Coast Collaborative, and West Coast Ocean Partnership.
- **Leverage Existing West Coast Data Coordination:** The RPB has already partnered with the West Coast Ocean Data Portal (WCODP) as its primary conduit to data-sharing and

data-coordination to support its early efforts. The RPB will work to continue to leverage this partnership and the infrastructure already established by the WCODP to efficiently address data-related needs at the regional and sub-regional scale.

- **Identify Appropriate Planning Tools:** As needed, the RPB will work to identify appropriate ocean planning tools based on the needs of its membership and stakeholders at the regional or sub-regional scale. The RPB will facilitate identification of these tools while also working with RPB members to pursue necessary training, funding or tool use to the maximum extent possible.
- **Organize Appropriate Working Groups & Advisory Committees:** As the RPB identifies priority planning topics and associated needs, it will engage RPB members and other relevant parties on the West Coast to establish working groups, advisory committees, or other appropriate structures, according to the NOP guidelines, to enhance the RPB's desired outcomes as much as possible.

**Ocean Assessment Inventory:
A Preliminary Review of Scientific Assessments of West Coast Ocean &
Coastal Ecosystems**

October 2016

The Center for Ocean Solutions (COS) has contributed to the West Coast Regional Planning Body's (RPB) initial efforts towards a baseline ocean assessment to meet its ocean planning needs under the National Ocean Policy and National Ocean Council Marine Planning Handbook. A summary of these efforts is included below.

Beginning in June 2016, COS conducted an initial review of existing scientific assessments of ocean and coastal ecosystems along the West Coast, including the California Current. This compilation of assessments includes a broad spectrum of marine resources and ecosystems, oceanographic studies and data associated with the full range of human activities taking place throughout the region.

To date there are 182 pieces of information in the inventory, of which more than half are clearly assessments (meaning they reflect a body of analytical work) such as fishery stock assessments and more comprehensive efforts such as NOAA's California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (CCIEA). Many others represent a more raw form of scientific information, including datasets, databases, and surveys. Several others are neither assessments nor sources of raw data but instead comprise business ventures or projects that may be important for this RPB process because they highlight areas of potentially significant economic growth and development. For instance there are no assessments of aquaculture facilities because that sector is still emerging on the West Coast, but there is a new research institute (Center for Aquaculture at Moss Landing Marine Laboratories) as well as one newly operational offshore mussel farm facility in southern CA waters (Catalina Sea Ranch). Renewable wind energy is another area where fewer assessments seem to exist, but a number of scoping type projects are represented in the inventory.

A multi-step approach was taken to create this inventory. First, COS staff looked into assessments generated by federal, state and tribal resource management entities, academic institutions, NGOs who work on the U.S. West Coast, as well as partnerships among these entities. Building on the foundation from step one, a literature search was completed which identified several key publications which proved to be useful sources of ecosystem and climate-based ocean assessments. Input from experts (e.g. West Coast Ocean Data Portal and RPB representatives) further expanded the inventory and critically, added information to under-represented categories. For each of these steps, snowball type searching yielded additional assessments to ultimately produce this preliminary review. Finally it is important to note that this inventory includes primarily information that is available online. Assessments that have not been digitized are not currently included, so it's likely that a substantial body of historical information is missing.

In alignment with the RPB's collaboration with the West Coast Ocean Data Portal (WCODP), this inventory is organized based on the WCODP categorization system. Therefore the assessments are grouped first into three high level categories (biological, human and physical

data), then further binned into one or more of the best-fitting 14 subcategories. The biological category, which focuses on *ecosystems and functions* and *species and habitats*, is the most populated, with 125 assessments; the human category currently includes 35 and the physical category contains 24.

This initial inventory provides the first step towards the long-term goal of developing a robust ocean assessment product that will inform effective regional and/or sub-regional marine planning activities supported by the RPB. In the near-term, the RPB will be finalizing an initial work plan for the development of the assessment starting in 2017.

For more information, contact:



Lucie Hazen, Center for Ocean Solutions

ljhazen@stanford.edu / www.centerforoceansolutions.org

John Hansen, West Coast RPB Coordinator

john@westcoastmarineplanning.org / www.westcoastmarineplanning.org

West Coast Regional Planning Body

WASHINGTON PACIFIC COAST SUB-REGIONAL PLANNING TEAM SUB-REGIONAL WORK PLAN OUTLINE

Introduction

The following work plan is meant to help define the potential planning product(s) to be developed by the Washington Pacific Coast Sub-regional Planning Team (SRPT) as a component of the West Coast Regional Planning Body (RPB). This work plan is not binding and is subject to revision based on input and discussion among SRPT members with input and discussion from ex-officio partners, as appropriate.

Background

Per the terms of the West Coast RPB charter, SRPTs may develop planning products based on identified sub-regional priorities around planning, governmental coordination and information sharing, among other topics. Early effort of the SRPT will be to identify priority planning topics, as well as the geographic focus of the sub-region, with engagement and eventual approval from the full RPB.

Once consensus is reached on a planning product(s), the SRPT will develop its own process to achieve those products, which will be shared with the full RPB for approval. Once approved by the RPB, the sub-regional planning product(s) will be sent to the U.S. National Ocean Council (NOC) for approval and federal implementation.

Washington Pacific Coast Sub-regional Work Plan Components

Existing Planning Efforts

Planning activities already underway or completed by tribal and/or state governments within the sub-region will serve to inform this work plan, but not be replicated by it. Completion or implementation of tribal and/or state marine plans will not be formally impacted by the activities described in this work plan, or the activities of this SRPT or RPB at large.

Sub-Regional Priorities

1. Project Notification Process

The SRPT will define a process for early notification for offshore project proposals among state, federal, tribal and local governments. The process will enhance coordination and information-sharing around proposed projects and maximize early efficient notice among all partners and facilitate effective government-to-government consultations, as needed.

2. Critical Data and Information Sharing & Maintenance

Members of the SRPT will define an approach and commit to a process to ensure critical data sets and other information important for effective planning in the sub-region's ocean areas

are curated and maintained for ongoing access and use. Each entity will determine its own approach to sharing data as it deems appropriate.

3. Addressing Data Gaps

The SRPT will identify priority data gaps that hinder effective marine planning for the sub-region's ocean areas. The SRPT will define an intergovernmental forum to formulate a mechanism to address current and future data gaps for marine planning and ocean management.

West Coast Ocean Partnership & West Coast Regional Planning Body

COMPARISON TABLE

	West Coast Ocean Partnership (WCOP)	West Coast Regional Planning Body (RBP)
Potential membership (voluntary)	All tribal governments, state governments and federal agencies located in Washington, Oregon and California.	All federally-recognized tribal governments, state governments, and federal agencies located in Washington, Oregon and California. Federal membership is compulsory.
Focus area(s)	Broad issues impacting regional West Coast ocean health.	Marine planning and other appropriate tools at regional and/or sub-regional scales.
Purpose	“(WCOP) Improves understanding of regional ocean health issues and respect for shared regional priorities; addresses shared regional opportunities by connecting people, information, approaches and resources; builds upon existing efforts; informs policy, planning and management.”	“The RPB provides a voluntary forum for dialog, information-sharing and coordination of marine and coastal planning and management activities at various scales along the Pacific Coast, focusing on enhancing existing marine planning activities and identifying management gaps appropriate for a marine planning approach through clearly defined criteria agreed to by RPB members.”
Timeline	Ongoing.	Work towards production of a regional and/or sub-regional marine plan(s) (recommended 4 year timeframe).
Product(s)	No defined products at its inception, although some may be produced in accordance with its goals.	Regional and/or sub-regional marine plans.

Link to Federal Government	No mandate (federal or otherwise) to form the WCOP. Participation by the federal agencies is voluntary.	U.S. National Ocean Policy calls on federal agencies to engage in RPB, and National Ocean Council approves marine planning products.
Lobbying	State and tribal governments can work separately to lobby federal agencies and/or legislators.	Tribal, state and federal partners work on marine plan(s) without formal lobbying activities.
Prioritization of issues	WCOP members identify shared regional ocean health priorities.	Tribal and state RPB members identify priority issues at regional and/or sub-regional scales, Federal agencies responsive to those priorities.
Coordination Structure	"Co-Chair Committee": comprised of a single federal co-lead, single state co-lead, and tribal co-lead or co-leads who are currently serving as a primary or alternate delegates; committee will make day-to-day operational and administrative decisions to help facilitate the operation of the WCOP with no additional policy or strategic decision-making authority.	"Executive Secretariat": May consist of at least one federal co-lead, one state co-lead, and one tribal co-lead. Any subset of members (federal, state or tribal) may choose to have more than one co-lead to better facilitate operations of the RPB; Secretariat will facilitate region-wide coordination and communication around regional and sub-regional marine planning activities on the West Coast.
Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA)	Not exempt from FACA requirements.	FACA-exempt.
Role of West Coast Ocean Data Portal	West Coast Ocean Data Portal and West Coast Ocean Data Network support both the WCOP and WCRPB through data access, coordination, and synthesis to inform regional ocean health priorities	