



The West Coast Ocean Alliance (WCOA) will serve as the regional ocean partnership for the West Coast, building upon the previous efforts of the West Coast Regional Planning Body (RPB) and West Coast Ocean Partnership (WCOP). The WCOA will fill the role of coordinating tribal, state and federal co-managers in the region, pursuing implementation of common goals for ocean management within the Regional Vision developed by WCOA membership:

Ocean conditions are changing, new uses of the sea are emerging, and the authorities for ocean management are complex and overlapping. These West Coast-wide challenges are best evaluated holistically rather than as individual management entities. Our work will support healthy, resilient ocean ecosystems and communities that thrive on ocean resources.

Under the [federal Executive Order on oceans](#) issued on June 19, 2018 by the Trump Administration, federal agencies are encouraged to participate in regional ocean partnerships of this nature based on guidance from state and tribal partners. Tribal governments and the three West Coast states who participated in the RPB and WCOP are strongly supporting the launch of the WCOA, and federal partners look forward to strong continued engagement in the region. Building around the group's broad regional goals, the WCOA will also continue to support sub-regional dialogues focused on smaller scale management and governance in specific geographies along the West Coast.

"As a the Vice Chairman of the Makah Tribe and long-term member of regional efforts on the West Coast that have strengthened relationships between ocean managers, the Makah Tribe strongly supports the launch of the new West Coast Ocean Alliance. With our fellow tribal governments in the region we will continue to prioritize the needs and recognition of tribal rights, traditional knowledge, and ocean management, and look forward to continued partnerships with state and federal agencies on the West Coast to enhance decision-making and the overall health of our oceans and coasts for generations to come."

-- Greig Arnold, Vice Chairman of the Makah Tribal Council

A primary focus of regional efforts on the West Coast will be effective and comprehensive sharing and development of relevant ocean and coastal data. The [West Coast Ocean Data Portal](#) will continue to serve as the primary conduit for data connectivity and sharing for the WCOA. Additionally, federal partners will leverage efforts within the [Marine Cadastre](#) to more effectively share and develop federal data resources based on regional needs, as directed by the new federal Executive Order.

"The State of Oregon, along with our partners in Washington and California, look forward to our continued partnership with tribal and federal government entities in our region through the launch of the West Coast Ocean Alliance. The three West Coast states will continue to prioritize compatible and sustainable ocean uses and comprehensive ocean and coastal data, and along with the West Coast Ocean Data Portal we see the West Coast Ocean Alliance as a key mechanism to continue strengthening these efforts. Along with more efficient and transparent decision making, we hope the Alliance also allows us to more effectively engage with regional stakeholders to reach effective management outcomes that enhance the health and sustainability of our oceans and coastal communities."

-- Patty Snow, Oregon Coastal Program Manager



The WCOA Regional Vision is attached to this email, and in the coming months the WCOA will roll out a regional work plan with specific tasks and deliverables for 2019-2020, as well as opportunities for stakeholder engagement and feedback including an in-person public meeting in mid-2019.

If you would like more information, please contact WCOA Coordinator John Hansen at john@westcoastoceanalliance.org, where you can also request to be added to the WCOA email listserv (Note: All individuals previously on the RPB or WCOP email listservs have been automatically added to our new distribution list).

In addition, we encourage you to forward this announcement to any additional parties who may be interested in the work of the WCOA.

Lastly, the WCOA will be hosting a panel at this week's [9th National Summit on Coastal Estuarine Restoration and Management](#) on **Tuesday December 11th at 8:30am** (Room 201A) and we encourage anyone attending the conference to join us.

We look forward to sharing more information with you on the renewed efforts of the WCOA soon!