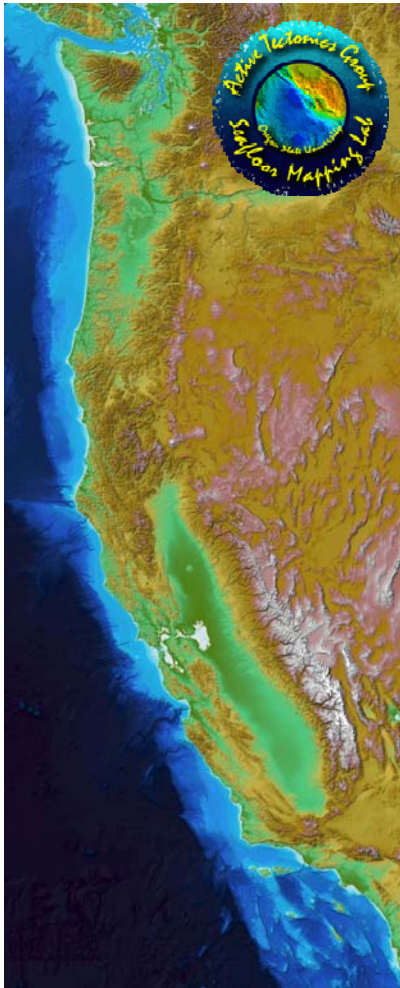


# West Coast Research and Information Plan



## The Project

Sea Grant programs in Washington, Oregon, and California are working together to gather input from a variety of interests for inclusion in a Regional Marine Research and Information Plan for the California Current Large Marine Ecosystem (CCLME).

## Rationale

The recent West Coast Governor's Agreement on Ocean Health, as well as efforts by multiple state, regional, and federal entities emphasize the importance of regional collaboration to achieve ecosystem-based management goals. Our ocean and coastal resources are affected by cumulative

impacts of human activities that span city, county, and state boundaries. These same resources are controlled by the dynamic environmental factors of the larger CCLME.

Sound management of the marine resources that we depend on should reflect the interconnections of the CCLME. Sea Grant has been identified as uniquely qualified to gather public and private stakeholder input and to understand the research and information needs that will enable managers to address issues of the greatest concern throughout the region. Regionally based plans are essential to foster collaboration between a variety of ocean users, managers, and researchers. Additionally, such plans can encourage and focus limited resources for research and information toward projects that are of importance to the entire region.

## Goals and Focus

- Aid in the transition to an ecosystem-based approach for research, management, and communication of information
- Enhance the level of coordination between diverse communities of both place and interest
- Identify and prioritize issues of specific regional concern in a detailed and targeted manner so they are better understood and better supported at the federal level

## Project Themes

The plan is likely to cover a wide range of issues. Specific prioritization will be done in each of seven theme areas. These themes are recurrent in existing state, regional, and federal plans:

- A. Social and Economic Vitality of Coastal Communities**
- B. Coastal Natural Hazards**
- C. Human Health**
- D. Ecosystem Dynamics, Quality, and Connectivity**
- E. Ocean's Role in Climate Variability**
- F. Marine Transportation and Security**
- G. Ocean Education and Environmental Literacy**

## The Plan

The research and information plan that results from the Sea Grant process will assist the research community in focusing its energies on providing the knowledge and tools that coastal and ocean users and managers need most.

**Direct results:** A comprehensive and cohesive regional research and information plan; Web access to the results of the regional stakeholder process; and a targeted funding evaluation tool that meets regional needs.

**Indirect results:** Enhanced collaboration; reduced redundancies; improved economy of scale for broad-scope projects; and a tool for focusing and leveraging federal support for work that stakeholders identify as important.

## Activities and Timeline

Throughout the course of the project, Sea Grant programs in Washington, Oregon, and California will be conducting a variety of activities to engage stakeholders in the regional research and information planning process:

Activity	Summer '07	Fall '07	Winter '07-'08	Spring '08	Summer '08	Fall '08
Workshops	●	●				
Public Meetings	●	●				
Web Survey	●		●			
Review Existing Priorities	●		●	●		
Theme Meetings		●	●			
Release Draft Plan				●		
Public Comment				●	●	
Release Final Plan						●

## Participants

Sea Grant is engaging a variety of participants in the Pacific coastal region, including coastal residents, academics, community groups, marine conservation and research NGOs, state and local governments, marine resource management agencies, tribal resource users and managers, federal agencies working in the region, and others who depend on ocean resources for livelihood or recreation.

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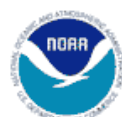
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## Learn More and Participate

Attend a public meeting or provide input through our Web-based survey. Visit our Web site at <http://seagrants.oregonstate.edu/research/RegionalPlanning> for project updates, access to the Web-based survey, a calendar of meetings, and to view public comments or draft reports. Or contact the Sea Grant program near you for more information.



**Sea Grant**

California  
Oregon  
Washington  
University of Southern California

West Coast Regional Research and Information Planning