West Coast Regional Marine Planning

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“MARINE PLANNING”

Marine planning is a science- and information-based approach to address specific management challenges associated with multiple uses of the ocean, economic and energy development priorities, and conservation objectives.

To develop regional marine plans, representatives from all levels of government work together, publicly and transparently, as a “regional planning body.”
Benefits of Marine Planning

- Reduce conflicts among uses
- Increase predictability and certainty
- Facilitate compatible uses
- Preserve critical ecosystem services/natural capital
National Context

July 2010

Executive Order 13547 – National Ocean Policy

April 2013

National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

July 2013

Marine Planning Handbook
National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

- Released by White House April 2013

- Shared ocean priorities of 27 members of the National Ocean Council (NOC)

- Encourages regions to identify their ocean priorities through voluntary marine planning
Marine Planning Handbook

- Operational guide for regions choosing to establish Regional Planning Bodies (RPB)
- National consistency of marine planning efforts while encouraging regional flexibility
- Presents options for RPB membership with tribal, state and local governments
- Recognizes the trust responsibility of the Federal Government and preserves government-to-government consultation with federally-recognized tribes
West Coast Approach

• A big geography – logistical challenge

• Let issues and priorities drive the approach

• Recognize existing efforts, potential constraints, identify leverage points

• Identify engagement approach through outreach to tribal, state, local partners

• Form RPB with appropriate structure, focus areas, timing and
“Regional Planning Body”

• Base Elements:
  • Three “Co-Leads”: One Federal, One Tribal, One State
  • RPB members made up of appropriate federal, tribal government, state and PFMC representatives
  • Local government represented through state participation or directly with RPB membership
  • Ex-officio and work groups added as needed
• RPB develops a coast-wide and/or subregional marine plan(s) that address regional planning priorities and capacity
• RPB allows for flexibility in responsibility and tasks based on roles of regional partners
West Coast Flexibility

- Coast-wide planning approach a “heavy lift”
- Tap into ongoing efforts – essential
- Priorities defined by sub-region
- Range of West Coast issues:
  - Marine Renewable Energy Siting
  - Climate change / sea-level rise
  - Changing ocean chemistry / hypoxia
  - Marine transportation corridors
  - Others...
- Coast-wide data coordination – valuable
A Sub-Regional Approach?

Subregion A
Subregion B
Subregion C
A Sub-Regional Approach?

- National Ocean Council calls for flexibility based on regional priorities and capacity
- Subregional approach would allow for existing work to be leveraged while building new links
- Coast-wide RPB could oversee coordination and communication
- Subregional focus areas build on existing work, identify new actions, engage
Thank you!

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